



Do coaches recognize and report interpersonal violence in sport?

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So what?

- Look beyond the most obvious forms of violence to recognize signs of psychological violence and neglect, which may leave no visible injury.
- Use concrete cases and safeguarding guidance to question behaviors that may have become normalized in sport.
- Become familiar with consultation and SSI reporting pathways before a concern arises.

1 INTRODUCTION

- Prevalence studies suggest that interpersonal violence affects athletes across all age groups and competitive levels (Tuakli-Wosornu et al., 2024)
- Coaches occupy a central but ambivalent position in this issue: They can both harm athletes and protect them from harm (Vertommen et al., 2017; Jaime et al., 2015).
- To safeguard athletes, coaches need to be able to recognize violence and report violence formally when necessary (Adriaens et al., 2024; Verhelle et al., 2022)

1. To what extent are Swiss coaches able to recognize various forms of interpersonal violence?
2. Does the correct recognition of violent behaviors influence coaches' likelihood of reporting these incidents to Swiss Sport Integrity (SSI)?

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

$N = 145$ BTA/DTA-certified coaches (21% female; $M_{age} = 48.97$; $SD = 11.02$) were presented with four written vignettes of interpersonal violence. After each vignette, they answered two questions:

1. Does this situation constitute interpersonal violence? ("yes" = correct recognition)
2. How likely are you to report this to SSI? (0-100)

Brief descriptions of the four vignettes

Psychological violence
Persistent homophobic bullying; complaint dismissed.

Physical violence
Forced kicking-game target; recurrent bruises.

Sexual violence
Sexualized behavior and secret kisses by her long-term coach.

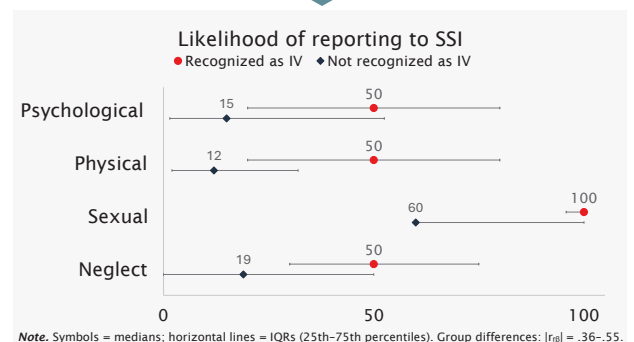
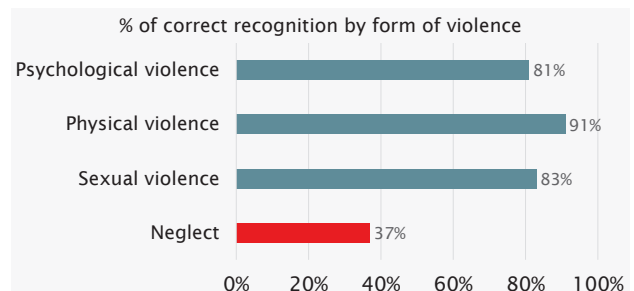
Neglect
Major personal stressors ignored; accommodations refused.



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3 RESULTS



4 CONCLUSION

- Recognition varied by form of violence, with neglect being the most frequently missed.
- Correct recognition was associated with a greater likelihood of reporting, but reporting intentions remained form-specific and were highest for sexual violence.
- Safeguarding efforts should strengthen both the recognition of less visible forms of violence and coaches' readiness to report all forms of violence.

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