INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Participation in sport is an essential activity for children and young people. It provides a wide range of benefits for children and young people and is increasingly recognized as contributing to a number of national government strategies and objectives. Every child and young person has the right to have fun, be safe and free from harm whether training for a local team or club or representing a sport and country at international level. Government guidance makes it clear that safeguarding children and young people is everyone’s responsibility. There are, however, many organizations that have not seen safeguarding young people as a priority. Until relatively recently this was the case for the majority of sports organizations. However, over the last six years there has been growing recognition that only when they are free from harm are children and young people able to achieve through sport. This shift has been informed by examples, albeit relatively limited, when some individuals have used sport to gain access to children and young people.
THE ROLE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION IN SPORT UNIT (CPSU)

The CPSU was jointly established by Sport England and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). It has been responsible for:
- the Action Plan’s promotion and the coordination of its implementation
- the development and delivery of sports-related child protection resources
- provision of advice and support to a wide range of sport and leisure organisations.

The CPSU has already made a significant contribution to advancing the awareness and ability of sport to contribute to safeguarding children and young people. The value and importance of this work has been recognised nationally and internationally by the United Nations. The most recent report on the UK’s response to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (2002) highlighted the progress that has been made:

The committee notes the initiatives taken in the area of child abuse and the establishment of a UK Child Protection in Sport Unit in 2001.

PROGRESS SINCE 2000

Since the publication of the Child Protection in Sport Task Force Action Plan (2000) and the establishment of the CPSU some progress has been achieved in the development of safeguarding practices in sport. An initial study into the funded national governing bodies of sport showed that less than half of those sports had a child protection policy (Towards a Standard for Sport in England, July 2001). Now all funded sports in England and a significant number of other sporting bodies have developed and introduced child protection policies and procedures, many with the support of the CPSU. National Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport developed by the CPSU, endorsed by the Sports Minister and introduced by Sport England as a funding requirement, have made a significant impact on sports organisations. To date 45 National Governing Bodies and 28 County Sport Partnerships have achieved the Preliminary Standard.

PROGRESS SINCE 2000

Several sports organisations and a number of child protection agencies have already recognised the benefits of developing a coherent and coordinated cross-sport approach to child protection. In 1999 a Child Protection in Sport Task Force was established and this group developed and produced an Action Plan for Child Protection in Sport (2000). This plan identified the major strategic objectives to be achieved if sport was to put its own house in order concerning child protection. It led to the establishment of the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU), whose primary role was to coordinate the implementation of the action plan.

CHILD PROTECTION IN SPORT TASK FORCE


The committee notes the initiatives taken in the area of child abuse and the establishment of a UK Child Protection in Sport Unit in 2001.


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Thanks to sports organisations' active commitment over the last six years much has been achieved. However, there remains a great deal to be done and this new Strategic Framework outlines what sport seeks to achieve over the next six years. It sets out both the vision for this work and the practical steps that need to be taken.

This Framework has been developed by the Child Protection in Sport Steering Group and is intended to inform the work and strategic planning of sports organisations in England. It is underpinned by the fundamental belief that all sports organisations have a responsibility to:

1. safeguard the welfare of all children and young people participating in sport; and
2. contribute to the shared responsibility to protect them from abuse.

The Steering Group also recognises the importance of the sports sector working in partnership with other agencies and the positive contribution sport can make. It hopes the Strategic Plan will be adopted by the statutory sector and by Local Safeguarding Children Boards, informing their planning and encouraging the wider involvement of the sport sector in local and national safeguarding developments.

The Strategic Framework identifies the evidence that sports should be able to demonstrate. This framework should inform the child protection in sport implementation or action plans stakeholders should produce. The framework will necessitate the creation of systems and processes capable of capturing and analysing relevant data. During the first year of the framework's implementation, it will also be important to establish baseline information relating to each of the key areas to ensure the accurate monitoring of change and progress.

THE POLICY CONTEXT

The Government has set out an ambitious programme of change to improve the lives of children: protecting them, promoting their wellbeing and supporting all children so that they can achieve their full potential. Five key outcomes for all children and young people have been identified in Every Child Matters: Change for Children (2004):

1. to be healthy
2. to make a positive contribution
3. to stay safe
4. to achieve economic wellbeing
5. to enjoy and achieve

Sport has an important contribution to make to each of these outcomes but only if it ensures that children and young people are free from abuse and harm during their participation in sport. The Government has made it clear that safeguarding the welfare of children cannot be achieved by one agency acting on its own. It has defined safeguarding as follows:

1. protecting children from maltreatment
2. preventing the impairment of children's health and development
3. ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.

This is spelt out in practical terms in the report of the Joint Chief Inspectors Safeguarding Children 2002 as follows:

1. all agencies working with children, young people and their families take reasonable measures to ensure that risks of harm to children are minimised
2. where there are concerns about children and young people's welfare, all agencies take appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to agreed local policies and procedures in partnership with other agencies.

THE WAY FORWARD

This is why safeguarding must be central to the work of all sports organisations and must be the context in which they plan and operate.

The Framework has been developed by the Child Protection in Sport Steering Group within the statutory advisory group established by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport in June 2004. The Steering Group has worked with representatives from a broad cross-section of key sports organisations, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and the statutory and voluntary sectors. It has been assisted by a Technical Advisory Group and has involved discussion with key stakeholders throughout its development.

The Framework is intended to be a living document that will be developed and updated, as necessary, by the Steering Group and its members. It is hoped that it will be adopted by the statutory sector and by Local Safeguarding Children Boards, informing their planning and encouraging the wider involvement of the sport sector in local and national safeguarding developments.
VISION
Play sport, stay safe

MISSION
To safeguard children and young people in and through sport and lead the way in keeping children safe from harm.
Awareness exists at all levels of safeguarding issues in sport.
Robust evidence informs safeguarding policy and practice in sport.
Sport has consistent and comprehensive frameworks for safeguarding children in sport.
Sport has increased capacity and competence to safeguard children and young people achieved through education, training and access to expert advice.
Sport works in partnership to safeguard children and young people, nationally and locally.

OUTCOMES FOR SPORT
- Children and young people enjoy sporting activities.
- Children and young people engage in decision-making in sport.

OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
- Children and young people are safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation in sport.
- Children and young people are safe from bullying.

The strategy focuses on five key areas.

PRINCIPLES
- A commitment to empower children and young people by advising them of their rights and how they should be treated.
- A commitment to work in partnership with parents, guardians and others to increase their knowledge of the theory and practices of safeguarding children.

SPORTS BODIES WILL HAVE:
- A culture and organisation that prioritises the interests of children and young people.
- The knowledge, understanding, values and commitment to promote the rights of all children and young people.
- A commitment to empower children and young people by advising them of their rights and how they should be treated.
- A commitment to work in partnership with parents, guardians and others to increase their knowledge of the theory and practices of safeguarding children.

STRATEGY
The following sets out the strategic outcomes for each key area together with actions that will lead to these outcomes and evidence against which progress will be measured. Each area is defined and then the outcomes, actions and evidence are presented in a table.
An acceptance that abuse does take place within sport is a prerequisite for safeguarding children and young people. It is essential that all stakeholders recognise their responsibility for safeguarding and protecting children and young people if sport is to establish a culture and ethos where the rights of all children are respected and promoted.

Sport needs to ensure all stakeholders are aware of their individual and collective responsibilities for challenging poor practice, preventing abusive behaviour; developing a vigilant and whistle-blowing culture; and promoting safeguarding interventions. This requires that all stakeholders be informed about the nature and extent of abuse in sport.

Sport should promote a zero tolerance approach to harmful or abusive behaviours and ensure that at all levels those involved in sport can, with confidence, report concerns.

**AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION**

Awareness and communication
Awareness at all levels on safeguarding issues in sport.

Throughout sport there will be awareness of the nature and existence of abuse and that it will not be tolerated.

Throughout sport there will be awareness of what actions to take to safeguard children and young people.

The number of key stakeholders signed up to the vision and strategic plan and have a strategic plan in place.

The number of governing bodies and sports partnerships that have achieved the safeguarding standards.

The number of agencies in sport who know what to do if they have safeguarding concerns.

The number of sports that make available information to all stakeholders explaining what they should do if they have a child protection concern.

Collectively develop and distribute a comprehensive range of information and guidance products, (e.g., web-based materials).

Provide clear policy guidance on what actions to take to safeguard a child from abuse.

Develop, and participate in a range of safeguarding events (e.g., conferences).

Maximise the use of the media to promote safeguarding work.

Develop and implement a communication strategy to support the implementation of the strategic framework.
It will remain difficult to persuade all stakeholders that ongoing investment in prevention work is necessary until the extent of abuse in sport can be quantified. Accurate data will help develop more effective targeting of risk management strategies and resources, which in turn will help to improve prevention of abuse, reduce unwarranted fears, and also ensure best value in the use of resources.

The two most pressing research needs are for the prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport to be determined. Prevalence data would assist with the targeting of prevention initiatives and resources and would help to answer some of the most common questions about this subject from politicians and sport administrators. It would also enable international comparisons with previous research studies.

Incident rates are closely related to prevalence information and are needed to chart the number and rate of new cases referred in sport each year. It is important for sport to monitor incidence data in sport, both as a measure of good governance, and in order to assess the nature and extent of different abuse in sport. This would also allow for comparative studies with other sectors.

At the present time only a small number of further and higher education institutions have engaged in research into child abuse and protection in sport. However, given the increasing visibility of this issue there is a growth in interest in the subject in undergraduate and postgraduate studies. It is important for sport and educational institutions to recognise the value and importance of these studies, and that they support and collaborate with research opportunities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY AREA</th>
<th>STRATEGIC OUTCOMES</th>
<th>EVIDENCE ACTIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>Robust evidence to inform safeguarding policy and practice in sport.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There will be robust evidence drawn from research, evaluation, routine data collection and experience, which informs safeguarding policy and practice in sport.</td>
<td>Prevalence study undertaken.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Research into abuse in sport will be stimulated and supported.</td>
<td>Research into prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport will be carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The effectiveness of strategies to prevent abuse will be evaluated.</td>
<td>Research into prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport will be carried out.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child protection will be available as part of relevant sports education courses.</td>
<td>Research into prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport will be carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lessons from research will be disseminated within and outside sport.</td>
<td>Research into prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport will be carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CPSU to secure funding for study.</td>
<td>Research into prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport will be carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGBs, CCPR, coordination by CPSU.</td>
<td>Research into prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport will be carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGBs and CCPR.</td>
<td>Research into prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport will be carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Education Academy Network for Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism.</td>
<td>Research into prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport will be carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGBs.</td>
<td>Research into prevalence and incidence of abuse in sport will be carried out.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LEAD RESPONSIBILITY</td>
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</table>
It is essential that a consistent and comprehensive framework of policies, standards and systems to deal with safeguarding issues is in place in order that children can enjoy their sport free from fear of harm. The National Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport have been established and a large number of sports organisations have set out to achieve them. The Standards are designed to inform and direct the actions of sports organisations and provide a mechanism for recognising progress in implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures. The Standards also provide a benchmark to assist those bodies helping sports organisations make informed decisions. Maintaining and increasing public confidence in sport's ability to safeguard children and young people will require sports bodies to raise the profile of their safeguarding practices and fully implement their child protection procedures. It will complement the benefit to sport's profile derived from its policies concerning doping and ethics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRAMEWORK</th>
<th>KEY AREA</th>
<th>STRATEGIC OUTCOMES</th>
<th>EVIDENCE</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consistent and comprehensive framework for</td>
<td>There will be a consistent and comprehensive framework of policies, standards,</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Implement the National Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>safeguarding children in sport.</td>
<td>systems and support in place to deal with safeguarding issues in sport.</td>
<td>of funded</td>
<td>Children in Sport through a quality mark scheme. Lobby local</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>These will have been adopted and implemented by all those providing sporting</td>
<td>governing</td>
<td>authorities to make The National Safeguarding Standards a requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>opportunities.</td>
<td>bodies</td>
<td>for funding or use of premises by sport. Funding for sport by Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Local authorities adopt safeguarding standards for sport.</td>
<td>and County</td>
<td>England will be linked to the achievement of the Safeguarding Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The relevant templates will exist for all aspects of safeguarding.</td>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>for sport. Templates will be developed to cover all aspects of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>safeguarding policy and procedures, setting consistent parameters</td>
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<td>within which each sport will work.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NGB and County Sports Partnerships. Support from CPSU Assessment</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>from NSPCC.                  Sport England, CSPs, with NSPCC and CPSU</td>
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<td>to lobby.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE**

**KEY AREA**

**STRATEGIC OUTCOMES**

**EVIDENCE ACTIONS LEAD RESPONSIBILITY**

Skills and knowledge

Increased capacity and competence to safeguard children and young people in sport through education and training and access to expert advice

All those who are accountable for safeguarding children in sport have the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfil these responsibilities.

Workforce development plans have been developed and adopted by sports organisations.

Provide, develop, promote and support access to safeguarding training and awareness materials and programmes.

NGBs, CSPs, CCPR and key stakeholders

The process exists for sharing information and these are used by sports bodies.

Resources for sport will be allocated at a national, regional and local level to address the issue of safeguarding.

Establish and implement a robust process for sharing information about people who have been identified as unsafe to work with children in sport.

NGBs, CSPs and Sport England

DCMS

NGBs

CSPs

The provision of learning, education and training opportunities to all those involved in sport with children and young people is central to the development and promotion of safeguarding practice in sport. There is currently a small number of established safeguarding education and training programmes being used by sports organisations. The majority of these are targeted at coaching personnel. A small number of Local Children Safeguarding Boards also provide access for sport and leisure organisations to inter-agency safeguarding training or provide specific training for sports clubs.

Many sports bodies have incorporated child protection into coaching qualifications and the proposed UK Coaching Certificate education programme will include a child protection component. Every Child Matters: Change for Children introduces common core skills and knowledge for all those working with children and young people. It will be essential to ensure that current and new learning opportunities both incorporate those skills and reflect the capacity of sports' workforce to undertake necessary training.
| Number of designated people who have completed relevant training. |
| Number of higher/further education courses including child protection in relevant sport education. |
| Strategy for developing and approving safeguarding training is agreed and takes account of common core of skills and knowledge. |
| Increase in confidence of the sporting community in relation to safeguarding children. |
| Professional advice and support is available to sports and key stakeholders. |

"Consider the application of the common core skills and knowledge outlined in Every Child Matters: Change for Children to sport."
INTEGRATION

Integrate safer sport programmes and practice across the whole of sport, and within partnerships, to ensure that safeguarding children’s welfare is the shared responsibility of sport, and with other key agencies. Where possible, adopt and implement the “Working Together” framework for safeguarding. This framework provides a forum for practitioners from different agencies to share information and work together to ensure that the needs of children are met. Although there has been significant progress in introducing a culture of safeguarding into sport, there are examples at both local and national level where the needs of sport have been overlooked by the statutory agencies and the potential contribution sport can make to safeguarding children and young people has been undervalued. There are some positive examples where, at local level, sport has been recognised and integrated into Local Safeguarding Children Boards and it is to be hoped that this approach can be extended more widely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY AREAS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>EVIDENCE</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>LEAD RESPONSIBILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>Sport works in partnership to safeguard children and young people, nationally and locally. Key agencies recognise and value the contribution of sport to safeguarding children. There will be evidence of collaboration between sports and between sports organisations and other agencies in the cause of safeguarding children. Government guidance on safeguarding includes the role of sport. Local Safeguarding Children Boards have a representative from sport, include sport in their policies and procedures and offer training to sport. Structures are in place to facilitate collaboration between sports and between sport and statutory child protection agencies.</td>
<td>Lobby national government to ensure child protection in sport is specifically addressed in “Working Together” guidance. National stakeholders in sport will contribute to relevant consultations on the development or revision of relevant legislation and national guidance. Lobby LSCBs to include sport. Sports actively share experience and learning with one another. Steering arrangements for implementation of this plan will be put in place which involve all stakeholders. The adoption of safeguarding policies and practices will be promoted internationally.</td>
<td>Sport England, NSPCC, CPSU, DCMS, CCPR LSCBs, NSPCC, DCMS CSPs NGBs and CSPs</td>
<td>Sport England, NSPCC, CPSU, DCMS LSCBs, NSPCC, DCMS CSPs NGBs and CSPs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are many stakeholders within sport that need to play a significant role in the successful delivery of this strategy. At a national level, the commitment of the lead government departments for sport (DCMS) and safeguarding (DfES) will be central in giving direction and financial support. Sport England, in leading the national and regional sport strategy, has a key role in ensuring the safeguarding issue continues to be a priority, which is integral to its programmes. Within sport, national governing bodies and County Sports partnerships will continue to play an important leadership role in implementing safeguarding practices and managing concerns. Sports Coach UK, as the leading provider of coach education, will have a central role in continuing to deliver child protection training programmes. Local government.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards have important roles in promoting and implementing safeguarding practices and building effective working partnerships with local safeguarding agencies. Central Council of Physical Recreation has a role to promote the safeguarding agenda to its extensive membership of sport and recreation organisations. Academic bodies have a role in promoting research in this field and supporting the development of best practices in sport. The success of the strategy will also rely on a commitment from the research community to work with sport in developing an evidence base for the continuance and refinement of this work. This plan is also dependent on the continued commitment of the NSPCC to fund and support this work in partnership with Sport England through the CPSU.
promote the value of sport. The people that participate in sport and also increasing the numbers of people life. They are responsible for sport a part of everyone's interested in helping to make bodies and other partners authorities, sports governing will generally consist of local people to benefit from sport. It quality single system for committed to providing a high is a partnership of agencies County Sports Partnership County Sports partnerships sport and recreation.

**Glossary and Terminology**

**Child Protection in Sport (CPS)**
- **CPSUs**: Child Protection in Sport Units.
- **CPS steering groups**: Groups of agencies and partners involved in leading Child Protection in Sport work.
- **Local Children's Boards**: Key role in overseeing the implementation of Child Protection in Sport Action Plan.
- **NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Action Plan (1999)**: The central plan for Child Protection in Sport and was led by the NSPCC.
- **Prevention of Cruelty to Children Unit (NSPCC)**: Unit established to develop and establish to develop and promote policies and practices that support and services to those interests of sport and physical recreation at all levels. It provides the implementation of the Child Protection in Sport Action Plan (1999) and is made up of representatives from a number of bodies of sport and recreation,

**Media and Sport**
- **DCMS**: Department for Culture, Media and Sport.
- **women's sport**: The DCMS is responsible for the implementation of a coaching system, recognised as a world leader, for all coaches at every level in the UK.
In the five years since its establishment the Child Protection in Sport Unit has led the way in developing and promoting practices that ensure children and young people involved in sport are safe from harm. As knowledge of the issue has grown there has been a move to ensure that child protection should be at the centre of all young people’s sporting activities.

The framework that has been developed and that is set out here provides a clear direction to all involved in sport that will build on the success that has been achieved. We urge all sports bodies to commit to putting into action all the elements of this.

All those responsible for developing and supporting young athletes should ensure that practices reflect sound safeguarding principles. In this way we – policy makers, professionals, parents and children and young people – can all be reassured that every effort has been made to make sport safe.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Meeting the needs of children and creating opportunities for them to be healthy, safe and successful should be central to all our work. It is at the heart of the government’s Change for Children programme. It is at the heart of sport.

Mary Marsh
Director and Chief Executive
NSPCC

Roger Draper
Chief Executive
Sport England
In the five years since its establishment the Child Protection in Sport Unit has led the way in developing and promoting practices that ensure children and young people involved in sport are safe from harm.
ACNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Melissa Bennett
Bedfordshire County Sports Partnership

Mia Heaton
Durham Sport

Mick Skinner
Tug of War Association

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NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit

Steve Farr
Rugby Football Union

Pat Gaywood
British Horse Society

Peter Hicks
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Phil Collier
SkillsActive

Rachael McKiernan Doyle
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Rob Johnson
Greater Manchester Sports Partnership

Ruth Everley
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Greater Warwickshire Sport

Simon Fairhall
Cambs./Peterborough Sports Partnership

Sophie Barratt
Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Steve Farr
Rugby Football Union

Suzanne Genery
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Amateur Athletics Association

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English Volleyball Association

Yvonne Ball
British Wrestling Association