

This note provides guidance to Member Federations (MFs) on when safeguarding matters arising within their jurisdiction may be shared with the Aquatics Integrity Unit (AQIU). Sharing such information can help protect athletes and others involved in aquatics, especially where potential risks may affect more than one federation or country.

A safeguarding concern may arise where an MF believes that an athlete or athlete support personnel (such as coaches, doctors, massage therapists, physiotherapists, administrators, or technical officials) within its jurisdiction may present a risk of harm to individuals involved in aquatics in another country or Member Federation.

For example, an MF may become aware that an individual involved in a safeguarding concern may be planning to:

- relocate to another country;
- take up employment or volunteer work with another Member Federation;
- work with athletes or teams in another jurisdiction.

In such circumstances, sharing this information with the AQIU can help identify and manage potential safeguarding risks across aquatics.

Member Federations may also wish to inform the AQIU of serious safeguarding matters involving individuals operating within aquatics. Serious matters generally refer to safeguarding or disciplinary cases that may result, or have resulted, in a significant restriction on an individual's ability to work or participate in aquatics, such as a suspension or ban from aquatics sport(s).

This may include situations where an individual:

- has had their employment or voluntary role within a Member Federation terminated due to safeguarding concerns;
- resigned from their role while a safeguarding investigation was ongoing;
- is subject to a provisional suspension, investigation, or sanction relating to safeguarding matters;
- has been charged in criminal proceedings for conduct that could constitute harassment or abuse.

For example, these individuals may include:

- someone who has previously been selected or appointed to attend international competitions or act as an official member of a delegation on behalf of the MF, or;
- someone who acts as a coach or athlete support personnel to international-level athlete(s) within the MF's territory, whether or not the individual falls under that MF's jurisdiction.
- This also includes individuals who operate within an MF's jurisdiction, but who may not be members of the MF (e.g. a private coach or medical professional).

In such circumstances, Member Federations are encouraged to contact the AQIU at info@aquaticsintegrity.com, after which they will be provided with a reporting template to complete. Reports submitted by Member Federations are treated as confidential and help the AQIU identify and manage potential safeguarding risks

across aquatics, particularly where individuals may move between countries or federations.

Member Federations may also contact the AQIU to make enquiries about individuals they are considering appointing or working with, for example when recruiting coaches or athlete support personnel from another country. In such cases, the AQIU can check its report database, based on information previously received from other Member Federations.

If a Member Federation wishes to consult the register, they shall contact the AQIU at info@aquaticsintegrity.com.