**Council Working Group
on child online protection**
Twenty-second meeting – From 12 (p.m.) to 13 February 2025

Contribution by the Scort Foundation

CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION IN AND THROUGH SPORTS

Purpose

Sport plays a significant role in raising awareness about child online protection. Through the implementation of sport-based activities and targeted advocacy initiatives, the Scort Foundation highlights the potential of sport to foster a secure environment both online and offline, addressing the risks children and youth face in the digital realm.

The partnership with the International Telecommunication Union led to several impactful initiatives, including an expert webinar held in December 2024 with a cohort of coaches training children in vulnerable communities in Ecuador. This initiative aimed to enhance their understanding and equip them with practical tools to create a safer digital environment for children. The contribution highlights this best practice as an example of effective collaboration in advancing child online protection.

Action required

This document is transmitted to the Council Working Group on child online protection **for information**.

_____

References

Scort Foundation, *COP in Sports*

ANNEX

A PowerPoint presentation is attached for reference.

COP in and through sport

ITU Council Working Group on child online protection

Twenty-second meeting, 12-13 February 2025

Scort

Why COP and Sports?

- The **online world** allows children to play, communicate, learn and socialise, but also exposes them to **potential risks and harm**.

- Sport has the **power to bridge** the gap between the physical and digital worlds, fostering safe spaces for children to thrive in both.

- Sport **fosters trust** between coaches and children, enabling open conversations about sensitive topics like online safety.

Why COP and Sports?

Through sports, coaches and organizations can create a protective ecosystem for children:

- **Raise Awareness:** Educate children and parents about the risks of the digital world, such as online grooming or cyberbullying.

- **Build Positive Interactions:** Foster meaningful connections between children both online and offline, promoting safe and supportive behaviors.

- **Provide Guidance:** Equip children with the skills to respond to online threats and empower them to seek help when needed.

About Scort

- We harness sport and play-based activities as crucial tools to promote **education, development and peace**.

- **Areas of work:**
  - On-site educational projects that use sport and play-based activities for youth to address personal and societal challenges.
  - Advocate for the use of sports in contexts such as crisis, forced displacement, social marginalisation, and the online realm.

- We co-operate with partners to leverage diverse expertise and resources and enhance the impact of our work.

PARTNERSHIP WITH ITU

- **Main goals:**
  - Raise awareness about COP in and through sports.
  - Strengthen capacity within sport-based organisations to promote safe online spaces for children.

- **Joint initiatives:**
  - Workshops, panel discussions, webinars, and trainings.
  - Recommendations for sports organisations to integrate online safeguarding policies in their protection framework.

273 Young Coaches from Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Tanzania, Ukraine, Vietnam attended our Online Module on COP.
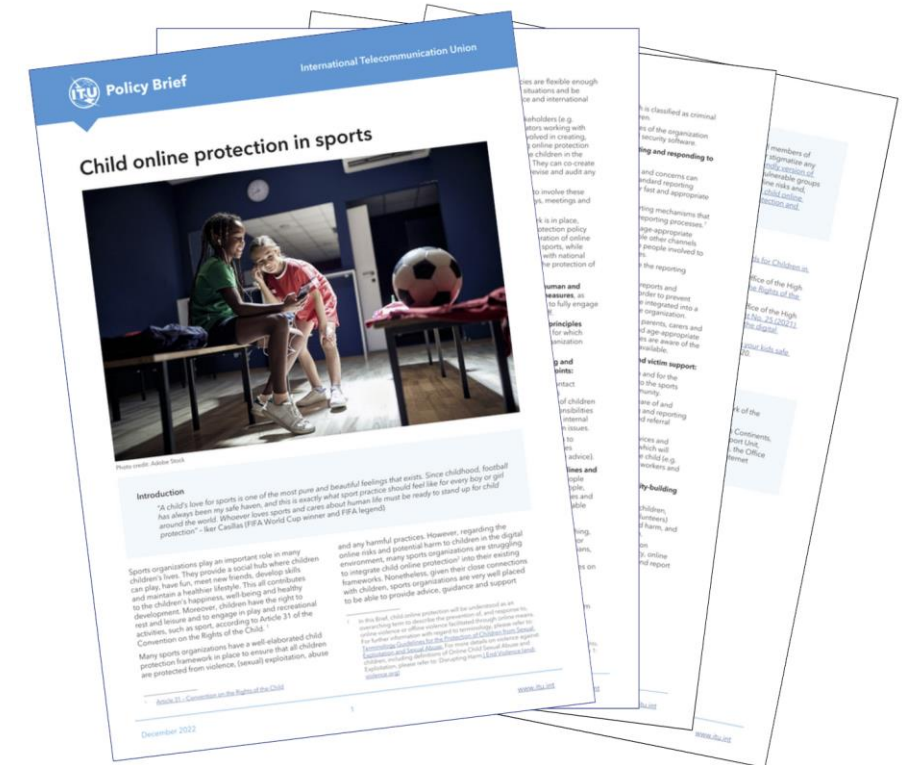
Scan the recommendations

Scort

- **Target audience:** 46 Young Coaches delivering sport and play-based activities for over 1 800 children.

- **The session included:**
  - Opportunities and risks in the online world, including cyberbullying, sexual exploitation and abuse, inappropriate content, and misinformation.
  - Real-life scenarios and reporting mechanisms to prevent and address online harm.
  - Roles, responsibilities, and limitations of educators and coaches in preventing and responding to online harms faced by children.

ITU

Protección de la Infancia en Línea

Creando un ciberespacio seguro y próspero para los niños.

Educadores

Capacitación de capacitadores
Capacitación presencial

Testimonials

"We understand the big **role of the clubs** and **football organisations** that might help children and parents to avoid online abuse, digital harm and cyber bullying. We can also be **role models** for the children and explain them how to behave online." – **Artem, Young Coach from Eastern Europe**

"I think it is very important for children to **learn in a fun way**. This way, they learn how to improve their privacy when using social media. As these topics are not taught in my community, it's time to make a change and **start teaching them** so that many children who are suffering from cyber abuses know how to protect themselves. And we, too, learn more about the topic."– **Ruth, Young Coach from Latin America**

"**Using sports as a vehicle** to deliver the messages like child online protection is best suited. It is the best time for the kids to hear that because it's the only place where they can be educated and have fun together, through educational games."– **Philbert, Young Coach from East Africa**

"Children's digital safety is a **shared responsibility** between parents, educators, tech companies, and society. This includes empowering children, providing guidance, understanding risks, and creating safe environments. It's not about restricting access, but ensuring children can explore, learn, and have fun safely and responsibly." – **Katiuska, Young Coach from Latin America**

Thank you!

Do you want to connect?

E-mail: giulia.russo-waelti@scort.ch