How can human trafficking happen through sport?

Young people and children playing sports in their communities are being targeted by fake sports agents.

These young athletes are promised the opportunity to travel abroad to compete at a sports competition, or to play for a big sports club.

Fake agents often demand large amounts of money from the young athlete to secure the opportunity. To pay these fees, families and communities make huge financial sacrifices, such as investing their life savings or taking out large loans.

As soon as they arrive in the foreign country, the athletes may find themselves abandoned or forced into severe forms of exploitation.

You can help protect athletes from exploitation and prevent trafficking at borders.
BORDER OFFICIALS' CHECKLIST

PROTECT ATHLETES FROM TRAFFICKING THROUGH SPORT

THE ATHLETE

- What can the athlete tell you about their destination and participation in sport?
- Is the athlete appropriately dressed for the season, route or destination?
- Is the athlete travelling with someone who claims to be their parent or guardian, but in fact does not have a relationship with them?
- Can the athlete speak for themselves? Or does someone else control what information is being shared?

THE DOCUMENTS

- What type of visa is the athlete traveling with and is it the appropriate type?
- Is the invitation letter from the sports organisation authentic? And can the letter be verified?
- What other documentation does the athlete have that shows evidence of a sport opportunity?

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT TRAFFICKING THROUGH SPORT

- Follow your organisation’s anti-trafficking procedures, and check the signs of trafficking with your colleagues and supervisors.
- Contact the relevant Sport Federation to check the opportunity is real and confirm the details.
- Inform the police.
- Get in contact with the National Olympic Committee, relevant Sport Federation, and other key stakeholders in your country.

Learn more about how trafficking happens through sport ahead of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and other large sporting events.

PROTECT CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES. JOIN THE TEAM TO #ENDSPORTSTRAFFICKING