



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Athlete Helpline Supports Safety in Sports

Victims of mistreatment in athletics, families needing resources, and survivors seeking support have an empowering tool in the fight against abuses in sports

Preventing abuse in sports takes courage. To build awareness and provide support for those experiencing abuse in sports, [The Foundation for Global Sports Development](#) (GSD) launched the [Courage First Athlete Helpline in October 2022](#).

Developed in partnership with [Childhelp](#) — whose 40-year-old National Child Abuse Hotline is a model for hotlines around the world — the Courage First Athlete Helpline is staffed by counselors specially trained to address the unique needs and vulnerabilities of athletes.

“Athletes can sacrifice a lot along the way to becoming the best,” said GSD President David Ulich. “They can be especially vulnerable to abuse if it becomes normalized in a closed environment. Having an outside sounding board to see if something that doesn’t feel right is cause for concern can be a lifeline. Our hope is that the Courage First Athlete Helpline is a resource for anyone who needs assistance for sports-related abuse questions.”

Courage First offers confidential crisis intervention and counseling resources for anyone in the athletic community concerned about emotional, physical, or sexual abuse.

Whether you’re a parent, coach, friend, or peer, the Courage First Athlete Helpline is available in the U.S. and Canada to anyone needing assistance. Counselors can offer support through translators in over 170 languages at 1-888-279-1026, Monday through Friday, from 12:00PM – 8:00PM PT. Text and online chat options are also available, and all contacts are anonymous. After hours, calls rollover to Childhelp’s 24/7 National Child Abuse Hotline.

Spokesperson for the program, Childhelp Celebrity Ambassador John Stamos, [has a message for anyone seeking help](#), “Your voice is your courage.”

In addition to the Courage First Athlete Helpline, GSD is committed to spreading abuse prevention awareness by collaborating with survivors, universities, and leading organizations to host educational film screenings and discussion panels around the country.

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About The Foundation for Global Sports Development

Established in 1996, The Foundation for Global Sports Development delivers and supports initiatives that promote accessible, fair, and abuse-free sport for youth, through grants, awards, and educational projects. In 2015, it launched its media division, Sidewinder Films, to inspire and educate audiences through films that highlight remarkable, untold stories of sports and life. Learn more at <https://globalsportsdevelopment.org> and <https://www.sidewinderfilms.org>.

About Childhelp

Founded by Sara O'Meara & Yvonne Fedderson in 1959, Childhelp® has brought hope and healing into the lives of more than 11M children as a leading national nonprofit dedicated to helping abused, neglected and at-risk children. Childhelp's programs include residential treatment, children's advocacy centers, therapeutic foster care, group homes and child abuse prevention, education. The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline serves children and adults nationwide 24/7 through phone, text and online chat. For more information, visit www.childhelp.org and follow Childhelp at facebook.com/childhelp, Instagram.com/childhelp and twitter.com/childhelp.

Media Assets:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mq0ut3t8na36uwi/AAAnMgg3qhsrCqP8sexixKQWa?dl=0>

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