

# Annex B: Research

A study of Canadian athletes by Kirby and Greaves in 1996 showed that 21.8% of athletes had had sexual intercourse with persons in positions of authority in sport. 8.6% reported that this was forced sexual intercourse or rape.

A Danish study by Toftegaard found that 25% of sport college students either knew of or had experienced sexual harassment by a coach. In this study the attitudes and behaviours of coaches were analysed. 275 coaches were questioned about harassment and abuse. Six percent of them were unsure if having a relationship with an athlete under the age of 18 was “completely unacceptable” and 20% reported they had had a sexual relationship with one of their athletes over the age of 18. Six of the coaches interviewed reported having had a sexual relationship with an athlete under the age of 16.

Bringer, Brackenridge and Johnston (2002) conducted focus groups with coaches who worked with Swimmers between the ages of 13 and 17 regarding their perceptions of appropriateness of sexual coach-athlete relationships. Sexual relationships with swimmers under the age of 16 were unanimously viewed as inappropriate. However, for athletes over 16, opinions ranged from "totally inappropriate" through to "It is a question of civil liberties". This range of beliefs highlights the need to have clear guidelines on what is and what is not an appropriate coach-athlete relationship.

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