When an Athlete Discloses Abuse, the Coach Must Know the Reporting Route - working notes

One situation. Clear facts. An honest next step.

Listen supportively with minimal questioning, address immediate safety and follow applicable reporting duties promptly. Do not investigate, promise secrecy or assume telling a team leader replaces a report you are required to make.

Hypothetical example: In a staff exercise, an assistant assumes telling the head coach completes every duty. The program checks the actual rules and clarifies the assistant's own reporting responsibilities.

01 Know the duties before the athlete needs your answer

Obtain the current reporting duties for the actual role and jurisdiction.

Role and applicable policy

Official jurisdiction guidance

Immediate help route

02 Receive the disclosure without conducting an interview

Review a supportive response with minimal questions and immediate safety action.

Supportive opening approach

Questioning boundary

Other supervision responsibility

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03 Explain the next step without promising secrecy

Explain reporting without promising secrecy or a particular outcome.

Next-step explanation

Required reporting destinations

Unresolved duty question

04 Keep continuing care separate from a public explanation

Verify the restricted reporting process and continuing support responsibilities.

Restricted record process

Appropriate follow-through role

Preparation gap to correct