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STORY HEADLINE: Raising Awareness: Education and Safeguarding of athletes a primary focus of Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020

LOCATION: Lausanne, Switzerland
DATE: January 17, 2020

LANGUAGE: English

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

STORY SCRIPT:

Athletes have not only come to the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020 to compete. There are also a range of educational activities on offer at the Youth Olympic Villages in Lausanne and St. Moritz, led by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and designed to help young athletes succeed in their sporting and non-sporting careers.

The activities are based in the Athlete365 Awareness Zone, a welcoming and spacious area laid out in the style of a ski chalet, and which is the perfect place for athletes to relax and unwind away from competitions while learning about important topics.

A survey following the last YOG in Buenos Aires 2018 showed that 34% thought that it was likely or very likely that harassment and abuse was happening in their own sport, and the IOC’s Safeguarding Officer Susan Greinig says the response to the activities has been great and she’s been really impressed with the awareness of the issues among the young athletes.

She said: “We are absolutely delighted to see that so many are aware of this problem and that they’ve been educated on this, and they even help me to understand more exactly what’s happening and how to avoid it.”

“Part of the responsibility of being the IOC Safeguarding Officer is to be available should they wish to report any issues and according to the survey we did at the last YOG we learnt that 37% were either uncomfortable to report or did not know where to report, so we are working to improve this.”
The central seating area has a number of tablets, supporting learning in a fun and interactive format, while there are also air hockey and table tennis tables dotted about the space, along with an "unfair" game of table football designed to educate athletes about the importance of fair play.

This is part of the prevention of competition manipulation booth, where athletes can also play a popular "Share/Don't Share" game relating to inside information and what athletes should or shouldn't post on social media.

Do this and they can take away with them an exclusive Athlete365 power bank – super useful for charging low phone batteries in the winter cold.

Across the room, athletes can also learn about the support available to them via the IOC to help further their sporting and non-sporting careers. Here, the Athlete365 Career+ stand allows athletes to build a schedule, learn about time management and match their skills to the job market, while the Olympic Solidarity booth hosts a fun balance-board game and advises athletes and their entourage about the funding, scholarships and training programmes that might be available to them.

Meanwhile, next door there are opportunities to learn about the crucial issue of safeguarding and what it means, supported by a variety of educational tools.

Here, athletes can sign a colouring wall, take a survey to make their voice heard (the results will shape future IOC safeguarding policy at the YOG), and show their support by posting a picture with a photo frame and the hashtag #SafeSport.

On visiting each of these awareness activities, athletes can earn virtual "pin" by correctly answering a question through the popular App Pinquest, which is exclusive to YOG athletes.

Get them all and they can then be exchanged for a real-life pin at the Yodli Cafe, among other prizes. It is fun, interactive activities like these that are allowing athletes to engage with the educational activities in a positive, relaxed environment away from the stress of competition.

**SHOTLIST:**
00:05 General shots of athletes getting involved in the Athlete365 Awareness Zone

**00:27 SOUNDBITE:** Margerie De Lambilly, Member of the athlete engagement team (English Language).

“So the IOC wanted to raise awareness about all the programmes that they offer for athletes, especially at a young age to allow them to discover in a fun way these programmes, so we have Olympic Solidarity (all the funds that they can get), we have competition manipulation and safe sports.”

00:52 General shots of athletes getting involved in the Athlete365 Awareness Zone
01:05 Close up of the anti-doping wall in the Athlete365 Awareness Zone
01:09 General shots of athletes in the Athlete365 Awareness Zone
01:18 Close up athletes taking a questionnaire in the Athlete365 Awareness Zone
01:23 Athletes from the Netherlands walk into the Athlete365 Awareness Zone
01:25 General shots of athletes in the Athlete365 Awareness Zone
01:42 Athletes from Argentina pose for photos in the photo booth

01:47 SOUNDBITE: Susan Greinig, IOC Safeguarding Officer (English Language).
“We did a survey in the last Youth Olympic Games and we found that 34%, thought that it was likely or very likely that harassment and abuse was happening in their own sport.”

02:01 Susan Greinig chats to Canadian athletes

02:07 SOUNDBITE: Susan Greinig, IOC Safeguarding Officer (English Language)
“It’s not a reflection on sport, it’s a reflection on society because harassment and abuse happens in many walks of society.”

02:16 Susan Greinig chats to athletes

02:19 SOUNDBITE: Susan Greinig, IOC Safeguarding Officer (English Language)
“Part of the responsibility of being the IOC Safeguarding Officer is to be available should they wish to report any issues and according to the survey we did at the last YOG we learnt that 37% were either uncomfortable to report or did not know where to report, so we are working to improve this.”

02:40 Close up of athletes taking a questionnaire

02:45 SOUNDBITE Susan Greinig, IOC Safeguarding Officer (English Language)
“So here in the safe sport area we have 4 tablets for the athletes to use and look at our education tools, one of which is specifically designed for this age group and it’s called draw the line. It helps them reflect on the boundaries of when they feel comfortable and when they feel uncomfortable and what to do in those cases when they feel uncomfortable. These are based on real life scenarios so that we find if they reflect on this atmosphere, when they get to the real life atmosphere, if unfortunately that might happen, they feel better equipped and ready to react in a more positive way to find a solution as soon as possible.”

03:28 Athletes play air hockey in the Athlete365 Awareness Zone

03:34 SOUNDBITE Susan Greinig, IOC Safeguarding Officer (English Language).
“We are absolutely delighted to see that so many are aware of this problem and that they’ve been educated on this, and they even help me to understand more exactly what’s happening and how to avoid it.”

03:47 Close up of Latvian athletes playing Ice Hockey

03:49 SOUNDBITE: Canadian athlete (English Language).
“I learned that sometimes it can be tricky to draw the line but it’s important to know when that's necessary.”

03:57 Canadian athlete drawing on the colouring wall
04:00 SOUNDbite: Canadian athlete (English Language).
“I just learned about some of the experiences that other people may have and what to do if I’m ever in those situations and where exactly that line is even though it’s hard to draw at times.”

04:15 Canadian athletes getting involved in the athlete365 Awareness Zone

04:20 SOUNDbite: Brazilian athlete (English Language).
“I learned a lot about respect and about how to treat people, about how I feel when I’m in the snow and I know that there are people looking out for me and I’m doing my sport and there’s no one that’s going to be bad to me and I won’t feel uncomfortable.”

04:40 Brazilian athlete having a picture taken in front of the colouring wall

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