

**Recommendations for Consideration
in the United 2026 Human Rights
Scorecard: Action Plan on Children**



Acknowledgements

This guidance was developed through a collective effort by more than 30 leading child rights and sports experts from around the world.

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This document presents recommendations for consideration in the United 2026 Human Rights Scorecard Action Plan on Children and contains 1) an overview of the risks to children in relation to mega sporting events, and 2) a series of core questions, the answers for which are ‘indicators’ of the extent to which a city and/or municipality is child-friendly. In other words, the level to which it has made a commitment to the protection, safeguarding and the well-being of children in line with internationally recognized child rights.

It is intended to guide a city and/or municipality's efforts as it bids and plans to host a Mega Sporting Event like the 2026 FIFA Men’s World Cup. The indicators – the answers to the questions – can be used to measure progress before, during and after a Mega Sporting Event and are designed to be applicable to any country context and to any sporting event.

Please note for purposes of this document, the following definitions apply:

- **Child/children** mean(s) every human being below the age of 18 in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **Child rights** is the internationally recognized term used to describe how children and young people have the same general human rights as adults and also specific rights that recognize their special needs
- **Competition**, in this case, refers to the 2026 FIFA Men’s World Cup being held in the United States, Canada and Mexico
- **Sport** in this case, is the term used to encompass all forms of organized sport, from grassroots (i.e., recreation) to the competitive level
- **Violations of children’s rights** refers to actions against the human rights of children which are stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child

This set of questions are the core questions that are essential to include in the Scorecard in line with the *Action Plan on Children* (referred to as *Safeguarding Children* in the United 2026 Human Rights Strategy, Section V, sub-section J on pages 57-58).

More than 30 Partners and Stakeholders developed this list and are available to support FIFA as it develops the United 2026 Human Rights Scorecard. The full list of experts and organizations consulted is available as an annex to this document.

Core Questions Recommended for Consideration in the United 2026 Human Rights Scorecard: Action Plan on Children

Note: A separate Guidance Note outlines how to measure responses to the questions below

- 1. Non-discrimination:** Does your city and/or municipality have a policy or written commitment that states ALL children (regardless of gender, disability, race/ethnicity, indigenous communities, immigration status, sexuality/sexual identity, religion, birth status, and political/cultural affiliation) have access to your city's sport, recreation, culture, and educational events and programmes?
- 2. Formal commitment:** Has your city and/or municipality made a formal commitment to the protection, safeguarding and well-being of children?
- 3. Children's advocate:** Does your city and/or municipality have a full-time children's advocate, Ombudsperson or an equivalent professional at the city and/or municipal level, or equivalent professional, to promote and protect children's rights and who has the power to take action to ensure the best interests of children?
- 4. Children as stakeholders:** Does your city and/or municipality consult with children as key stakeholders in community consultations and/or through a children's advisory committee or youth council, on issues related to children's safety and participation in sport and delivery of the competition?
- 5. Reporting and response mechanisms:** Does your city and/or municipality have clear mechanisms in place for receiving and managing reports of abuse of children, in compliance with relevant legislation, that is applicable to sport and which will be in place and communicated during the competition?
- 6. Training and capacity building for staff and volunteers:** Is your city and/or municipality training or partnering with local agency(ies) or organization(s) to train staff, volunteers and local officials who will be involved in the competition (police, law enforcement, educators, social workers, healthcare providers, sport coaches, community leaders, stewards etc.) on how to manage reports of abuse?
- 7. Hotline:** Does your city have a free hotline (e.g. telephone, text messaging, etc.) for reporting concerns and violations of rights to or by children?
- 8. Helpline:** Does your city have a free helpline (e.g. telephone, text messaging, etc.) for children to seek help or advice if they have experienced abuse, exploitation or harms, or have other concerns?
- 9. Child protection:** Are there statutory or government agencies responsible for the protection of children in your city and/or municipality who are also involved with the competition planning and setting up a clear communication channel between the event organisers and existing reporting structures? *If yes, which agency(s) and how are they involved in the planning?*

- 10. Safeguarding:** Has your city and/or municipality made a specific commitment to safeguarding in sport¹ and requires local recreation and sport programmes, clubs and leagues to have safeguarding policies and procedures to receive city and/or municipality funding and/or use of facilities?
- 11. Family reunification:** Does your city and/or municipality have formal procedures in place for family reunification if a child gets lost/separated from their parents or caregiver in or around events related to the competition and in the lead up to the competition will there be training on the reunification procedures?
- 12. Legacy:** Do you have a legacy strategy that includes investing in activities that will improve children’s participation levels in sport and will result in new, free to use, sports and recreation infrastructure that is accessible to all children, regardless of disability, socio-economic factors, gender, ethnicity, etc.?

¹ According to the International Safeguards for Children in Sport, safeguarding is “...the actions we take to ensure all children are safe from harm when involved in our clubs and activities’.” They set out 8 Safeguards covering all areas of safeguarding practice. In some countries there is relevant national legislation like in the United States with the *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017* . For more information on the International Safeguards for Children in Sport click [here](#) or to view the [full report](#).