



NEWSLETTER

Monthly News Digest
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Main Stories: SOPNG trained twenty-three youths to mentor athletes..., & SOPNG introduced its Safeguard Policy

Mentorship training empowers youths to support athletes in SOPNG

Special Olympics Papua New Guinea (SOPNG) successfully completed a mentorship training program designed to empower and equip youths to support athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Held at John Guise Stadium, the event brought together 23 participants who were trained to become mentors within the SOPNG community. The training, which aimed to build strong, supportive relationships between mentors and athletes, focused on key skills and knowledge essential for effective mentorship.

Participants learned about the roles and responsibilities of mentors within the Special Olympics framework, with a particular emphasis on the safeguarding policy that ensures a safe and supportive environment for all athletes.

The program also provided participants with the opportunity to access Special Olympics' electronic learning portal, where they completed three specialized courses: Adult Mentor Training: Being an Adult Mentor, Adult Mentor Training: Adult Mentors in Action, and Your Role as an Adult Mentor: Supporting Athlete Leadership.

These courses equipped the participants with the tools they need to guide and encourage athletes in their personal and athletic growth.

The diverse group of participants included tertiary students, professionals, and unemployed individuals, all brought together by their shared desire to contribute to the Special Olympics community.

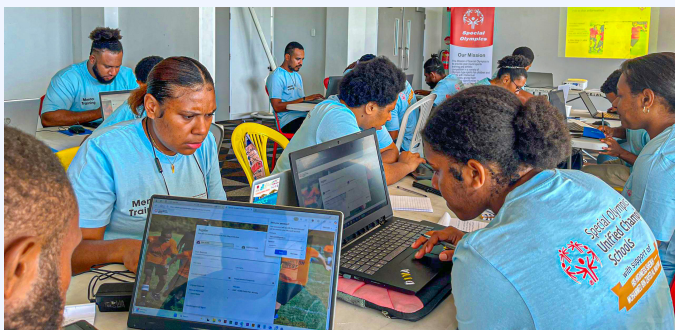
Each participant will now be paired with an athlete leader, forming a mentor-mentee relationship that will provide continuous support and development for the athletes.

The training was made possible through the support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, Special Olympics Asia Pacific, and the PNG Sports Foundation Venue Management Team.

Volunteers Ectopia Ame, Antonette Uuharai, and Eunice Wanjumoe facilitated the program, ensuring its success.

At the conclusion of the event, participants were awarded certificates of completion, marking the beginning of their journey as mentors within the SOPNG program.

This training marks a significant step in empowering young people to contribute meaningfully to the lives of athletes with intellectual disabilities in Papua New Guinea.



Participants taking the three online courses.



Twenty-three participants holding their certificates of completion of the mentorship training.

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SOPNG Conducts First Safeguard Policy Induction Training



Special Olympics Papua New Guinea held its first-ever induction training on the newly developed Safeguard Policy, completed in February 2025.

The Special Olympics Safeguard Policy is a comprehensive framework designed to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all individuals involved in Special Olympics programs.

It sets out clear guidelines and procedures to prevent and respond to any incidents of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or violence.

The policy ensures that all participants—including athletes with and without intellectual disabilities—are treated with dignity and respect, and that their rights are upheld at all times.

The Safeguard Policy is built on the principle that everyone has the right to feel safe and supported. It promotes a culture of awareness and accountability, where all members of the SO PNG community—athletes, volunteers, coaches, staff, and family members—understand their responsibilities in recognizing, responding to, and reporting safeguarding concerns.

This induction was conducted during the mentorship training, which engaged the 23 participants and facilitated by SOPNG volunteers Ectopia Ame, Antonette Auharai and Eunice Wanjumoe.

During the induction, participants were reminded that safeguarding is a shared responsibility. It is vital for everyone involved in SO programs to take appropriate steps to protect the welfare of others and uphold a safe environment across all activities.

SOPNG is proud to lead trainings that prioritize the rights and protection of individuals with and without intellectual disabilities. The Safeguard Policy is accessible to athletes, coaches, family members, and volunteers alike.

For more information, reach out to the SOPNG team via our social media channels or visit our office



Participants engaging in discussions about the safeguarding policy



Participants engaging in individual activities about the safeguarding policy