

# Why an independent inquiry into Sexual Abuse in sport in the Netherlands?

**Play the Game – 26 november 2017**

**Geert Slot**



NEDERLANDSE  
LOTERIJ



*Rabobank*

# Some history

1996: Media coverage Dutch elite judo coach about sexual abuse three female athletes

This case was the catalyst for national level intervention program



NEDERLANDSE  
LOTERIJ



*Rabobank*

# Since 1996

- Since 1996 'SHA policy' from NOC \* NSF and partners
- Development of various instruments, some of them:
  - Confidential advisors
  - Hotline (later accommodated at 'Sport Confidence Center')
  - Strengthen disciplinary law
  - Code of conduct,
  - Communication (federations and club level)
- Cooperation with Police, Public Prosecutor and Department of Justice
- Much (research) data available from 1996-present

# End of 2016

- November - December 2016
  - Publicity from England
  - Publicity in Netherlands women's cycling (De Vries / De Bruin) and other story's
- December 23, announcement NOC \* NSF: wish for inquiry in the Netherlands



NEDERLANDSE  
LOTERIJ



*Rabobank*

# First steps after 23 december 2016

More publicity in the media

- Many parties spontaneously reported willingness to contribute (Rutgers, Victim support the Netherlands, National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, those involved with 'Deetman' and 'Samsom', scientists, and many others)
- Consultation Justice and police (regular)
- Consultation Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS)
- Ask chairperson of the inquiry committee

Insight into do's and don'ts of previous commissions on Sexual Abuse (Church, Child protection)



NEDERLANDSE  
LOTERIJ



*Rabobank*

# The aim of the inquiry

- Because of the research, additional reporting possibilities and enhanced support for victims will be created
- Reinforced insight into the nature and extent of sexual harassment and abuse in sport
- Analysis of policy interventions and current instruments including effectiveness

Focused on improving practice:

Victims feel free to report, be heard and supported.

Offenders are being dealt with.

Prevention is improved.



NEDERLANDSE  
LOTERIJ



*Rabobank*

# Organization

- Client: Board NOC \* NSF
- Establishment fully independent commission
  - Chaired by Klaas de Vries (among others Minister of Social Affairs and Employment from 1998 to 2000 and Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations from 2000 to 2002).
  - Clémence Ross-van Dorp (State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport, 2002-2006, former president of the Netherlands Institute for Sport and Movement and former president of BV De Graafschap)
  - Egbert Myjer (judge at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, 2004-2012)
- Exploration March and April 2017: design and budget
- Start: 15 May - Completion: 12 December 2017
- Co-financing: NOC\*NSF & Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport



NEDERLANDSE  
LOTERIJ



**Rabobank**

**We can show the beauty and social strength of sport in many different ways and can strengthen it.**

**At the same time, it is our duty to make every effort to ensure that the abuse in sport is eliminated as much as possible so that everyone can enjoy sport.**

**We look forward to the results of the independent commission of inquiry, that we expect on December 12, so we can strengthen our efforts with renewed vigor.**



NEDERLANDSE  
LOTERIJ



*Rabobank*