

## THE CHAPERON AND FEMALE ATHLETES' SAFETY DURING COMPETITIONS

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### ABSTRACT

*The study examined the challenges of chaperons in ensuring female athletes' safety during competitions. A total of 40 women who acted as chaperons to female athletes at the 2010 Nigeria University Games (NUGA) held at Benin and 2013 West African Games (WAUG) held at Ilorin were selected using purposive sampling technique. Data were gathered through the use of a self-designed, validated questionnaire, which centered on the scope of the chaperon's responsibilities and their challenges in ensuring athletes' safety during tours. Data were treated using percentage and chi-square. Results showed that the Aggregate score for chaperons' awareness of their duties was 50.9 while the score for not aware was 49.06. Managing non-compliant athletes ( $\chi^2=18.2$   $p < 0.05$ ); chaperon-athletes' ratio ( $\chi^2=29.4$   $p < 0.05$ ); food and water monitoring ( $\chi^2=16.6$   $p < 0.05$ ); controlling sexual misbehaviors ( $\chi^2=43.8$   $p < 0.05$ ); and restricting girls' movements within the competition arena ( $\chi^2=29.4$   $p < 0.05$ ) were challenges militating against chaperons in discharging their roles to ensure the safety of their athletes. Chaperon training, individual counseling, effective tracking system, and centralized feeding system were suggested.*