

# Safety Knowledge and Practice of Members of Team Uniport

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**Abstract:** The study was conducted in university of Port Harcourt. It investigated the safety knowledge and practice of members of Team Uniport. The study employed the descriptive research design and the population was one hundred and thirty (130) which was made up of twenty three officials and one hundred and seventeen (117) athletes. The entire population was used as sample size for the study. The instrument for the study was a self- developed and structured questionnaire. The instrument was pretested and validated. A reliability coefficient of 0.75 was established through the use of Pearson Product – Moment Correlation coefficient. One hundred and thirty (130) copies of the instrument was distributed and the study had a return rate of 96.9% (126) copies out of which 92.3% (120) copies were filled well and used for the analysis. Frequency counts and percentage were used to analyse the data generated while chi-square was used to test the hypotheses at .05 alpha level. The bench-mark for taking decision was 50%. The finding of the study revealed that members of Team Uniport possess high knowledge and practice of safety. Based on the findings, the study recommended among others that the university authority should organised more safety courses for members of Team Uniport and accidents involving members of Team Uniport should be reported and thoroughly investigated.

**Keywords:** Safety, Knowledge, Practice, Members, Team Uniport.

## I.INTRODUCTION

Team Uniport is a nomenclature for a constituted group that represent University of Port Harcourt in various sports events. It is made of staff and students of the university. The staff constitute the team's technical crew while the students are the athletes/players who participate in various sports programmes Team Uniport is the flag bearer of the institution as far as sport is concerned. Team Uniport has consistently won laurels for the university both at National and Continental sports competitions. Team Uniport is the current champion of both Nigerian Universities Game Association (NUGA) and West African Universities Games (WAUG). The positions the team has occupied consistently, Erinle (2022) reported that Uniport has won NUGA competition seven consecutive times and has replicated same feat by winning WAUG four time hence the team is described as a large indomitable force in sports.

The performance of Team Uniport has attracted hosting rights of both national and continental sports competitions and a sport centre to the university which has tremendously enhanced her sporting competence hence the university is acclaimed the undisputable centre for sports excellence (vanguard sports, 2018). The performance of university facilitated the exhibition of the uniqueness of uniport, the unmatched facilities and the competitive spirit of Team Uniport ( Akpondonor, 2018). Team Uniport which is made of thirty officials and hundred athletes (Ilodibia, Odigwe&Anugweje, 2022) is a team to reckon within sports.

Sports as a human activity obviously expose participants to risks and participants knowledge and practice of safety determine the extent of the effect of their exposure. Team, uniport is a group of people whose safety is of paramount importance to both themselves and the university community. It is the members of the team that can make their safety a reality by ensuring that every member of the team is safety conscious. Safety consciousness can only be cultivated through safety knowledge and practice.

## II.CONCEPT OF SAFETY

Safety has been conceptualized variously. Safety which is generally the control of hazards conceptualized as a relative freedom from danger, risk, threat or loss deliberately or by accident (Business Dictionary com, 2017). According to Safety Risk-net (2017), safety is the condition of being protected from danger. Safeopedia (2018) described safety as state protection against highly undescribable risk while ISO/IEC Guide (2018) described safety is freedom from intolerable risks. Nwankwo and Alaubi (2019) stated that safety as freedom from harm through reduction of risks to enhance success. Safety in this paper is the protection of human and material resources from identified hazards in sports to promote performance.

➤ **Safety knowledge:** Safety knowledge according to Nwankwo and Alaubi (2019) is the consciousness of safety issues and the ability to accomplish safety procedures. They further stated that it is the awareness and understanding of skills that reduce risk. Safety knowledge is the change in safety awareness and behaviour which strengthens safety concern (Huang &Yang, 2019). Earlier, Tutor care (2017) described safety knowledge as the understanding of working safe. Safety knowledge in this paper is the understanding of safety concepts, principles and the possession of safety skills.

➤ **Concept of safety practice:** Safety practice is a method of performing tasks with minimum risk to people, equipment, materials, environment and processes (infrastructure Health & Safety Association , 2021). Law Insider (2021) conceptualised safety practice as administrative practices which require workers to perform their specific tasks without exposing people and

property to damage while Nwankwo and Alaubi (2019) described safety practice as the practicality or application of safety knowledge. Leonard (2022) conceptualised safety practice as the improvement of safety standards at work to reduce down-time, workers compensation, claim, morale and enhance productivity. According to him, it is the proper use of safety equipment in safety environment. In this paper, safety practice is referred to as adherence to safety regulations and standards that apply to sports in order to minimise exposure to risks.

### Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the safety knowledge and practice of Team Uniport. Specifically the study sought to;

1. Ascertain the safety knowledge of Team Uniport members
2. Ascertain the safety practice of Team Uniport members

### Research questions

The following questions guided the study;

1. What is the knowledge of safety of Team Uniport members?
2. What is the safety practice of Team Uniport members?

### Hypotheses

The following hypothesis were tested at .05 alpha level

1. There is no significant difference in the knowledge of safety possessed by Team Uniport members based on status.
2. There is no significant difference in the safety practice of Team Uniport members based on status.

## III.METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in University of Port Harcourt. The study adopted descriptive research design. The population of the study was one hundred and thirty (130) which was made up of 23 officials and 107 students. The entire population was used as sample size for the study since the population is small. A self-developed and structured questionnaire was used for data collection. The instrument was pretested and validated. A reliability coefficient of 0.75 was established through the use of Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. One hundred and thirty (130) copies of the instrument was distributed and the study had a return rate of 96.9% (126) out of which 92.3% (120) was properly fill and used for the analysis. Frequency counts and percentage were used to analyse the data generated while chi-square was used to test the hypotheses at .05 alpha level. The bench-mark for taking decision was 50% hence any response that was up to 50% was considered average knowledge.

## IV.RESULT

**Research Question 1:** What is the knowledge of safety possessed by team Uniport members?

**Table 1: Frequency and Percentage on the knowledge of safety possessed by team Uniport member**

S/n	Items	Respondents (n=120)		Remark
		Yes(%)	No(%)	
1.	There is safety unit in uniport	102(85.0)	18(15.0)	Very High
2.	The activities of uniport safety unit are visible	100(83.3)	20(16.7)	Very High
3.	There is danger in every human activity	96(80.0)	24(20.0)	High
4.	Safety is freedom from danger	107(89.2)	13(10.8)	Very High
5.	Everyone should be safety conscious	115(95.8)	5(4.2)	Very High
6.	Safety consciousness ensures safety	116(96.7)	4(3.3)	Very High
7.	I know when I am at risk	98(81.7)	22(18.3)	Very High
8.	I have attended some safety courses	76(83.3)	44(36.7)	Very High
9.	I have safety certificates	66(55.0)	54(45.0)	Average
10.	I know safety regulatory bodies	82(68.3)	38(31.7)	High
11.	I know safety courses organized by safety regulatory bodies	85(70.8)	35(29.2)	High
12.	I need more safety courses	99(82.5)	21(17.5)	Very High
13.	I have not attended any safety course	69(57.5)	51(42.5)	Average
<b>Average Percentage</b>		<b>93(75.5)</b>	<b>27(24.5)</b>	<b>High</b>

\*<20% = Very Low, 21-39% = Low, 40-59% = Average, 60-80% = High, above 80%= Very High

The data on table 1 shows the frequency and percentage on the knowledge of safety possessed by team Uniport members. The overall average percentage of 75.5% response by the respondents to the options of the questionnaire as revealed on the table implied that team Uniport member possess high knowledge of safety. Specifically, the table shows that the respondents have a very high knowledge of the safety unit in uniport, activities of the safety unit, danger in every human activity, safety consciousness and know when they are at risk etc

**Research Question 2:** What is the safety practice of team Uniport members?

**Table 2: Frequency and Percentage on the safety practices by team Uniport member**

S/n	Items	Respondents (n=120)		Remark
		Yes(%)	No(%)	
1.	I have reported accidents for investigation	50(41.7)	70(58.3)	Average
2.	I have been trained on how to report accidents/incidents	53(44.2)	67(55.8)	Average
3.	I have been involved in accident investigation	33(27.5)	87(72.5)	Low
4.	Team uniport has been involved in accidents	26(21.7)	94(78.3)	Low
5.	Accidents that involved team uniport were investigated	45(37.5)	75(62.5)	Low
6.	Team uniport has never been involved in any accident	71(59.2)	49(40.8)	Average
7.	Accidents that involved team uniport were promptly reported	73(60.8)	47(39.2)	High
8.	Team uniport organized safety courses for members	60(50.0)	60(50.0)	Average
9.	Team uniport has at least one safety professional as a member	89(74.2)	31(25.8)	High
10.	Safety tips precede every activity of team uniport	94(78.3)	26(21.7)	High
11.	Safety of the equipment and facilities used by Team uniport is always ensured	107(89.2)	13(10.8)	High
12.	There are adequate safety signals in uniport sports facilities	110(91.7)	10(8.3)	Very High
13.	Uniport safety unit collaborates with Team Uniport in safety matters	101(84.2)	19(15.8)	Very high
14.	There is need to improve the safety standards of Team Uniport	101(84.2)	19(15.8)	Very high
<b>Average Percentage</b>		<b>72(60.0)</b>	<b>48(40.0)</b>	<b>High</b>

\*<20% = Very Low, 21-39% = Low, 40-59% = Average, 60-80% = High, above 80% = Very High

The data in table 2 reveals the frequency and percentage on the safety practice of Team Uniport member. The overall average percentages of 60.0% response by the respondents to the options of the questionnaire as revealed on the table implies that Team Uniport members safety practice is high. The tabular result shows that Team Uniport organize safety courses for members, Team uniport has at least one safety professional as a member, Safety tips precede every activity of Team Uniport, there are adequate safety signals in uniport sports facilities and that Uniport Safety Unit collaborates with Team Uniport in safety matters

### V.TEST OF HYPOTHESES

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant difference in the knowledge of safety possessed by Team Uniport members based on status.

**Table 3: Summary of  $\chi^2$  analysis on difference in the knowledge of safety possessed by Team Uniport members based on status.**

VARIABLE	N	Df	$\chi^2$ cal.	p-value	Level of Sig.	Decision
Official	30	1	0.108	0.743	0.05	Not Significant
Non-official	90					

Table 3 revealed that the  $\chi^2$ cal is 0.108 with df = 1 and  $p > 0.05$ . The obtained  $p$  –value of 0.743 is greater than 0.05, therefore the null hypothesis, that there is no significant in the knowledge of safety possessed by team Uniport member based on status is not rejected. This indicates that there is no significant difference in the knowledge of safety possessed by team Uniport member based on status.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant difference in the safety practice of Team Uniport members based on status.

**Table 4: Summary of  $\chi^2$  analysis on difference in the safety practice of Team Uniport members based on status.**

VARIABLE	N	Df	$\chi^2$ cal.	p-value	Level of Sig.	Decision
Official	30	1	3.323	0.068	0.05	Not Significant
Non-official	90					

Table 4 revealed that the  $\chi^2$ cal is 3.323 with df = 1 and  $p > 0.05$ . The obtained  $p$  –value of 0.068 is greater than 0.05, therefore the null hypothesis, that there is no significant in the safety practice of team Uniport member based on status is not rejected. This indicates that there is no significant difference in the safety practice of team Uniport member based on status.

### Summary of findings

Members of Team Uniport possess high knowledge and practice of safety hence the hypotheses were accepted.

### Discussion of findings

The finding that members of Team Uniport possess high knowledge and practice of safety is surprising since majority of them indicated that they have not reported any accident/incident, they have not been trained to report accidents/incidents, they have not been involved in accident investigation and accidents/incidents involving Team Uniports were not investigated. However, this findings is in agreement with Huang and Yang (2019) described safety knowledge as a change in safety awareness and behaviour which strengthens safety concern. It is also in line with Nwankwo and Alaubi (2019) who stated that safety practice is the awareness and application of skills that minimise risks.

### VI.CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that Team Uniport members have safety knowledge and also practice safety.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion, the study recommended that;

1. The university authority should organize more safety course for members of Team Uniport.
2. Accidents/incidents involving members of Team Uniport should be promptly reported and thoroughly investigated.
3. Adherence to safety rules should be emphasised in all Team Uniport activities.

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