



U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT: MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) is committed to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct.

Authority: Prevention Training and Policies

Federal law authorizes the Center to address the risk of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. See Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017.

Prevention Training

Federal law authorizes the Center to develop training to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete. At a minimum, national governing bodies and paralympic sports organizations must offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse to: (1) adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors and (2) subject to parental consent, to members who are minors.

Prevention Policies

Federal law also authorizes the Center to develop policies and procedures for implementation by national governing bodies or paralympic sports organizations to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete. As a part of these policies and procedures, national governing bodies and paralympic sports organizations must implement reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body or paralympic sports organization without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult, except under emergency circumstances.

Application and Implementation

The U.S. Olympic Committee and national governing bodies (collectively, "Covered Organizations") are required to follow these Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies. At a minimum, these

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policies are also strongly recommended for National Member Organizations and Local Affiliated Organizations, and, at a maximum, the NGBs may require said organizations to follow them. Covered Organizations are responsible for implementing and monitoring compliance with these policies.

The policies and procedures set forth herein are promulgated by the Center to assist Covered Organizations in meeting their obligations under federal law. If, in implementing the required components identified here, these Covered Organizations are nonetheless not in compliance with federal requirements, the Organization shall implement policies and procedures sufficient to meet such requirements.

TERMINOLOGY

Covered Organizations: The U.S. Olympic Committee and a national governing body.

Jurisdiction: Authority or control.

Local Affiliated Organization (LAO): A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with a NGB or that is affiliated with a NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of a NGB. A LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of a NGB.

Minor, child or minor athlete: An amateur athlete under 18 years of age.

National Governing Body (NGB): An amateur sports organization affiliated with a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games, which is also recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501-220529.

National Member Organization: A national organization that is directly affiliated with an NGB, over which the NGB has jurisdiction and is: (a) an Amateur Sports Organization requesting sanction from a NGB; or (b) an Applicable Amateur Sports Organization under the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017.

PART I: EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

A. Adults Required to Complete Mandatory Training

The following adults at a Covered Organization, National Member Organization, and Local Affiliated Organization shall complete training concerning child abuse prevention:

Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors.

An adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor.

Adult staff and board members (with the exception of NMOs and LAOs whose adult staff and board members have no contact with or authority over minor athletes).

To satisfy the training obligations, Covered Organizations shall adhere to parts A.1, A.2, and B, below.

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It is strongly recommended that National Member Organizations and Local Affiliated Organizations also adhere to these sections.

1. Core Center for SafeSport Training

The above-listed adults are required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Core Training before regular contact with a minor athlete begins, or within the first 45 days of initial membership/new role. Training other than the Core Center for SafeSport Training does not satisfy this policy.

2. Refresher Course(s)

A refresher course is required on an annual basis effective the calendar year following the completion of the Core Training.

B. Minor Athletes

Covered Organizations shall, subject to parental consent, annually offer and give training to members who are minors regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse and shall track the details of such training.

C. Exemptions

Exemptions from this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis for victims/survivors by request to the U.S. Center for SafeSport or the relevant NGB. The Center will also work with organizations regarding appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities.

PART II: REQUIRED PREVENTION POLICIES

A. Required Policies

Covered Organizations are required to implement the following athlete prevention policies:

One-on-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions.

Massages and rubdowns/athletic training modalities.

Locker rooms and changing areas.

Social media and electronic communications.

Local travel.

Team travel.

B. Model Policies

The Center provides model policies which include mandatory components and recommended components. If a Covered Organization does not develop its own policy, the mandatory components will become the default policy.

C. Implementation

A Covered Organization may choose to implement a policy that is stricter than the Model Policy, if it

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includes or is stricter than the mandatory component.

1. Approval Process

If a Covered Organization proposes a policy that varies from the policies provided herein, such policies must be submitted to ngbservices@safesport.org for review and approval.

D. Minor Athletes Who Become Adult Athletes

Minor Athletes who reach the age of 18 must adhere to these policies when interacting with minor athletes who are 14 or younger. If they obtain a position of authority (e.g., coach), they must comply with these policies regardless of the age of the minor athletes.

PART III: REQUIRED POLICIES

ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

The majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations. Policies concerning one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for beneficial relationships with trusted adults.

A. Mandatory Components

- a. Application: This policy applies to “Applicable Adults” (adult members, authorized adults, staff, and board members with regular contact or authority over minor athletes).
- b. Observable and Interruptible: One-on-one interactions are permitted only if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult.
- c. Meetings: Meetings require another adult to be present and must be observable and interruptible. If in an office, the door must remain unlocked and open.
- d. Meetings with Healthcare Professionals: Closed-door meetings are permitted for patient privacy provided the door is unlocked, another adult is present at the facility and advised of the meeting, and written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance.
- e. Individual Training Sessions: Permitted if observable and interruptible. Written permission from a legal guardian is required in advance if the session is not observable and interruptible.

B. Recommended Components

- a. Monitoring: Other Applicable Adults should monitor one-on-one interactions, including knowing the duration and randomly dropping in.
- b. Out-of-Program Contacts: One-on-one interactions in settings outside the program are prohibited unless legal guardian consent is provided for each contact. Such arrangements are strongly discouraged.

MASSAGES AND RUBDOWNS/ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES

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A. Mandatory Components

- a. Application: This policy applies to all “Applicable Adults.”
- b. Modality Requirements: Any massage or rubdown must be conducted in an open and interruptible location with at least one other adult present.

B. Recommended Components

- a. Written Consent: Obtain written consent from a legal guardian before each massage or rubdown on a minor athlete. Parents must be allowed to observe.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

A. Mandatory Components

- a. Application: This policy applies to all “Applicable Adults.”
- b. Non-Exclusive Facility: These rules apply even at facilities not fully under the organization’s jurisdiction.
- c. Use of Recording Devices: Prohibited, with limited exceptions for media or celebrations if approved and two or more adults are present.
- d. Undress: Unrelated Applicable Adults shall not intentionally expose breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.
- e. One-on-One Interactions: Unrelated Applicable Adults are not permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room, except in emergencies.
- f. Monitoring: The organization must regularly and randomly monitor locker rooms to ensure compliance.

B. Recommended Components

- a. Discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless necessary, and if so, it should be a same-sex parent.

SOCIAL MEDIA & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

A. Mandatory Components

- a. Application: This policy applies to all “Applicable Adults.”
- b. Content: All electronic communication must be professional in nature.
- c. Open and Transparent: An Applicable Adult must copy another adult or the minor’s legal guardian

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on electronic communications with a minor athlete.

d. Requests to Discontinue: Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor not be contacted electronically.

B. Recommended Components

a. Hours: Communications should generally be sent between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

b. Prohibited Communications: Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with them.

LOCAL TRAVEL

Local travel is travel to training, practice, and competition that occurs locally and does not include an overnight stay.

A. Mandatory Components

a. Application: This policy applies to all “Applicable Adults.”

b. Transportation: An Applicable Adult shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, unless agreed to in writing by the minor’s legal guardian in advance of each trip.

B. Recommended Components

a. Carpools: Parents/guardians are encouraged to pick up their minor athlete first and drop them off last.

TEAM TRAVEL

Team travel is travel to a competition or other team activity that the organization plans and supervises.

A. Mandatory Components

a. Application: This policy applies to all “Applicable Adults.”

b. Travel Permission: If one Applicable Adult and one minor travel, the minor must have written permission from their legal guardian in advance for each competition.

c. Hotel Rooms: Applicable Adults shall not share a hotel room with a minor athlete unless they are related or have advance written consent from a legal guardian.

d. Meetings: Meetings must be observable and interruptible, consistent with the one-on-one interaction policy.

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B. Recommended Components

- a. Travel policies should be signed by all athletes, parents, and Applicable Adults.
- b. Two-deep leadership (two adults) should be maintained during room checks and meetings.
- c. Meetings should not be conducted in a hotel room.

APPENDIX A: TRAINING ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

Access

The U.S. Center for SafeSport makes required prevention training free to individuals to whom the Education & Training Policy applies.

Requirements

In delivering the training, Covered Organizations shall not:

Post the access code or coupon publicly.

Post training content on a public site without written consent.

Make training available to unapproved organizations.

Charge a separate fee for the Center's training.

Advertise the training as free to anyone other than those to whom the policy applies.

Refer to training completion as a "certification" (it is a "completion").

Additional Training

If an organization provides additional training, it shall not use the term "SafeSport" to describe it.

Fees

The Center may impose a fee or revoke access for failing to comply with these requirements.

I agree to follow all policies listed above:

Name:

Signature:

Date: