



# MAAPP REVISIONS

## NOTEWORTHY REVISIONS 2025 MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

The United States Equestrian Federation (the Federation) revised the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) to mirror the U.S. Center for SafeSport's revisions. The revised MAAPP will go into effect on December 1, 2024. Below is an overview of the noteworthy revisions.

1

### CLOSE-IN-AGE EXCEPTION

The revised MAAPP clarifies how to determine the four-year age difference. This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

- the Adult Participant has no authority over the Minor Athlete; and
- the Adult Participant is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete, determined by actual date of birth.

2

### SAFESPORT TRAINING EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions to the online training requirement for reasons other than survivor of abuse and misconduct are limited to cognitive or physical disability or language barrier. Requests for these exemptions must be made by the individual to USEF at [usefsafesport@usef.org](mailto:usefsafesport@usef.org). USEF will determine whether to grant the exemption. If USEF grants the exemption, it will track the exemption to ensure it is applied to the individual's membership status and preserve documentation that the exemption was granted and for what duration.

3

### MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS POLICY

For meetings with licensed mental health care professionals or licensed health care providers, the revised MAAPP includes individuals who are completing a supervised practicum, internship, or field experience within the Policy, which permits them to meet with a minor athlete one-on-one for treatment.

4

### MANUAL THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC AND RECOVERY MODALITIES

The revised MAAPP adds a requirement that the provider must narrate the steps in the modality before taking them, seeking assent of the minor athlete throughout the process.



5

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY:**

The revised MAAPP aligns the policy so that the requirement is the same for direct and team communication.

When an Adult Participant communicates electronically with a minor athlete or with any number of minor athletes they must copy or include the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian(s), another adult family member of the Minor Athlete(s), or another Adult Participant on every communication.

6

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY:**

An age requirement of 8 years old for minors is now added to the revised MAAPP, such that an Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors, who are at least 8 years of age.

7

**LODGING ARRANGEMENTS**

The revised MAAPP expands lodging arrangements to include other common residential environments used within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement. Additional arrangements added to the lodging policy include rentals and long-term residential environments, including lodging at training sites and billeting.

**The following definitions have been added to the MAAPP to further clarify Lodging and Residential Environment policy requirements:**

**Residential Environment:** A place in which participants live or stay temporarily. Residential environments include but are not limited to onsite housing at training facilities, billeting, hotel stays, or rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.).

**Billeting:** A residential environment facilitated by an Adult Participant, USEF or the USOPC, or sanctioned event staff in which a Minor Athlete is temporarily housed in a private home with an adult or family who is not related to or known by the Minor Athlete. This lodging arrangement is in conjunction with an activity related to sport. This may include working student relationships where the working student resides on site.

*Not included in Center's noteworthy revisions, but changed during approval process.*

**Regular contact**

The definition of regular contact expanded to include any amateur athlete who is a minor.

Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor.

