

# 5 THINGS TO KNOW



## ABOUT USEF MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES (MAAPP)

The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) are a collection of proactive prevention and training policies to help create a safer and healthier environment in which minor athletes can thrive. The MAAPP includes Preventative Policies for electronic communications, transportation, lodging, meetings and individual training sessions, manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities, and locker rooms and changing areas.

### 1 THE POLICIES APPLY TO ANY CONTACT BETWEEN ADULT PARTICIPANTS AND MINOR ATHLETES DURING AN ACTIVITY THAT IS RELATED TO PARTICIPATION IN SPORT (“IN-PROGRAM”)

An Adult Participant is any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

- a USEF member
- an employee or Board member of USEF
- within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USEF
- or authorized, approved, or appointed by USEF to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes

### 2 ALL INTERACTIONS MUST BE OBSERVABLE AND INTERRUPTIBLE

All interactions between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible. Observable means the interaction must be easily seen by another person (adult or minor). Interruptible means the interaction must be easily stopped by another person (adult or minor).

### 3 TRANSPORTATION IS A POINT OF EMPHASIS IN THE MAAPP...

As with any interaction, all in-program transportation must be observable and interruptible. This means that all in-program transportation:

- must be easily seen by another individual (adult or minor)
- must be easily stopped by another individual (adult or minor)

Adult Participants cannot drive one-on-one with Minor Athletes unless, advanced, written consent is obtained from the parent/guardian. This consent must be obtained at minimum annually. Minor Athletes or their parent or guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

Adult Participants can drive or transport Minor Athletes if there is another Adult Participant or at least two minors 8 years of age or older in the vehicle.



## 4

**...AS IS LODGING AND RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS**

Many horse shows require overnight accommodations for competition. When overnight trips are required, the following rules are important to follow:

- Adult Participants and Minor Athletes must not share a room, unless an exception exists.
- All In-Program Contact during lodging must be easily seen by another individual (adult or minor).
- All In-Program Contact during lodging must be easily stopped by another individual (adult or minor).
- Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program Lodging at least annually. A Minor Athlete or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

## 5

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT**

All electronic communications between an Adult Participant and Minor Athlete must be open and transparent. To meet this requirement, an Adult Participant should include (copy) one of the following individuals on any electronic communication including Minor Athletes:

- The Minor Athlete's parent or guardian
- Another adult family member
- Another Adult Participant

Should a Minor Athlete contact an Adult Participant first, the response from the Adult Participant must include (copy) one of the above people.

If an Adult Participant contacts an entire barn, one of the following should be copied:

- The Minor Athlete's parent or guardian
- Another adult family member
- Another Adult Participant

US Equestrian requires the following in relation to electronic communication between Adults and Minors:

- Electronic Communications must be professional in nature.
- Use platforms that allow users to see and track communications.
- Abide by any requests received from parents or guardians to discontinue contact with a Minor Athlete.

As a form of best practice, US Equestrian strongly recommends only send communications between 8am and 8pm local time.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

*SafeSport Training* - US Equestrian encourages all parents/guardians and our minor athletes to take the free training courses that are offered by the U.S. Center for SafeSport. These courses are tailored for each group. More information can be found at [usef.org/safesport](https://usef.org/safesport).

*Sample Parent Consent Forms* – US Equestrian has produced an array of sample informed consent forms for our membership to use for lodging, travel, training and more. Learn more about at [usef.org/safe-sport/parents](https://usef.org/safe-sport/parents).