

WHAT USEF AFFILIATES NEED TO KNOW

About Safe Sport & the USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention (MAAP) Policies



01

In February 2018, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 was signed into law. Among the provisions in the law was Congressional authorization for the U.S. Center for SafeSport to ensure athletes could report allegations of abuse to an independent entity for investigation and resolution. The Center works with National Governing Bodies (NGBs), including US Equestrian and other Olympic disciplines, to enforce the SafeSport Code as well as the federal Safe Sport Act, both of which are aimed at protecting athletes from abuse. The Center ensures all NGBs follow the strictest standards for child abuse prevention and detection.

02

SafeSport training is required for USEF members (18 years of age or older) and is essential in creating a safer environment for our competitors. Affiliate staff and board members are required to comply with the SafeSport training requirements. Additionally, affiliate members who are 18 years of age or older must comply with the SafeSport training requirement if they have regular contact with minor athletes or if they are authorized by the affiliate to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes. SafeSport training gives all of us the knowledge to be part of the solution to keep our young people and our sport safe. The online SafeSport course lasts about 90 minutes and only needs to be completed once. Thirty-minute refresher courses must be completed annually thereafter.

03

As an affiliate organization, under federal law you are required to adopt reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one contact between adults and minors. USEF's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention (MAAP) Policies are aimed at creating an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct. Per the policies:

- One-on-one interactions with minors must be observable and interruptible, with exceptions requiring written consent from a legal guardian.*
- Adults must include another adult on all electronic communications with a minor, in connection with USEF-sanctioned activity.
- Adults may travel with a minor in the presence of another adult or two other minors, or with written consent from the minor's legal guardian.*
- Working students under 18 years of age who travel or live with a trainer must also have written consent from the working student's legal guardian to do so.*

USEF strongly encourages affiliates to adopt these policies.

*Sample [consent language](#) is available under [Additional Resources](#)

04

Within 24 hours of learning of suspected or alleged sexual misconduct, USEF members must make a report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, and local authorities if a minor is involved. Reports to the Center can be made electronically through the Center's website at uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern. Individuals should not investigate or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of allegations involving sexual misconduct; the Center's response and resolution processes, as well as its FBI-trained investigators, will investigate.

05

USEF is committed to working with members around these issues and ensuring everyone understands the role they play in creating a safe environment for our competitors. The USEF website features a number of resources to help members maintain a culture that does not tolerate abuse. Our representatives are available to answer questions and clarify misconceptions. Ultimately, we are all on the same team, working to keep our members safe and striving to be part of the solution.