

WHAT USEF HORSE OWNERS 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

If a horse owner has an active USEF competing membership and is over 18 years of age, they are required to take SafeSport training. Horses entered by owners on the SafeSport Ineligibility List are ineligible to compete at licensed competitions. Exhibiting riders and trainers must also be compliant for a horse's points to count. Farm members, unless also a competing member, are not required to take SafeSport training. 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 approximately 90 minutes and only needs to be completed once. Thirty-minute refresher courses must be completed annually thereafter.

03

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.
- An adult 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.*

If you observe or are made aware of any violation of these policies, you should resolve it if possible and report the violation to USEF.

*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.