

USE SAFE SPORT POLICY



Recognizing, Reducing, and Responding to Abuse in Sport

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INTRODUCTION

There are numerous reasons to engage in equestrian sport at any level, from the beginner to the Olympic athlete. Equestrians share a love for the sport and a personal bond with the horse. People often engage in equestrian sport, whether in the role of an athlete, official, staff member, or other participant, because of their love of horses and simply to have fun. In addition, equestrian sport encourages a healthy lifestyle and builds self-confidence.

Unfortunately, sport can also be a high-risk environment for abuse. All forms of abuse are both intolerable and in direct conflict with the United States Equestrian Federation's (USEF) Mission Statement, to provide access to and increase participation in equestrian sports at all levels by ensuring fairness, safety, and enjoyment.

Abuse may damage an athlete's psychological well-being. Participants who have been mistreated may experience social embarrassment, emotional turmoil, psychological scars, loss of self-esteem, and negatively affected relationships with family and friends. Abuse often hurts a competitor's performance and may cause him or her to drop out of sport entirely.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (Center) is recognized by the United States Congress, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and USEF as the official safe sport organization for all Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American, and Para Pan American sports in the United States. The Center promulgated a SafeSport Code (Code) that binds all Participants, defined below, and subjects them to discipline for Code violations. The Code can be found at www.uscenterforsafesport.org.

Participants are responsible for knowing the information outlined herein and in the Code, and by virtue of being a Participant have expressly agreed to this USEF Safe Sport Policy (Policy) and the Code, including the applicable policies and procedures.

In addition to being bound by the Code and this Policy, all Participants in equestrian sport are bound by and must comply with the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017.

All reasonable suspicions of child abuse, including sexual abuse, must be immediately reported to law enforcement. Additionally, reasonable suspicions of sexual misconduct in violation of the Code, whether the victim is a minor or adult, must be reported immediately to the Center at 720-531-0340 or www.uscenterforsafesport.org. Note: Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to require a victim of child abuse or other misconduct to self-report.

For state-by-state reporting information, see <https://member.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/> and click the State Child Abuse Reporting Numbers link. You may also use a search engine to research "Child abuse reporting (state name)."

For reports of misconduct under this Policy that are non-sexual in nature, report to USEF by submitting a USEF Incident Report Form, which can be found at <https://www.usef.org/safe-sport/reporting>, to safesport@usef.org or by contacting one of the members of the Athlete Protection Team:

Sarah Gilbert, sgilbert@usef.org | 859 225 6915

Emily Pratt, epratt@usef.org | 859 225 6956

Sonja S. Keating, General Counsel, skeating@usef.org | 859 225 2045

No one should investigate suspicions or allegations of child abuse or other Prohibited Conduct, or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of allegations as a condition of reporting to the Center or to appropriate authorities. USEF will report allegations of child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the authorities and to the Center.

Any inquiries about this Policy can be directed to safesport@usef.org or one of the members of the Athlete Protection Team above.

I. DEFINITIONS

The definitions below apply to all sections of this Policy. For any definitions not included herein but contained in the Code, the Code definitions are adopted as if they are fully set forth herein:

- a. Athlete** - Any rider, driver, handler, vaulter, or longeur who participates in any USEF Licensed Competition or USEF sanctioned event.
- b. Child, Children, Minor, and Youth**- An individual who is, or is believed by the Respondent to be, under the age of 18. The terms child, children, minor, and youth are used interchangeably throughout this Policy.
- c. Child Abuse** - The term “child abuse” has the meaning set forth in Section 203 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. § 20341) or any applicable state law.
- d. Claimant** - The person who is alleged to have experienced conduct that constitutes a Code violation.
- e. Coach/Trainer** - Any adult who has or shares the responsibility for instructing, teaching, schooling, training, or advising an athlete or horse in the context of equestrian sport. The terms Coach and Trainer are used interchangeably throughout this policy.
- f. Event** - travel, lodging, practice, competition, health or medical treatment, and the meaning set forth in the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. § 20341).
- g. Interaction with athletes** - contact in association with any USEF licensed or sanctioned activity or federally defined Event, e.g. travel, lodging, practice, competition, and health or medical treatment.
- h. Participant** - Any individual who: (a) currently is, or was at the time of a possible Safe Sport violation, within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USEF or who is seeking to be within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USEF (e.g., through application for membership, license holder, employee), (b) is an Athlete or USEF Designee, or (c) a participant or attendee of a USEF Licensed Competition or sanctioned event, including team staff, medical or paramedical personnel, administrator, official, groom, or other athlete support personnel, employee, or volunteer. The term USEF Participant and Participant are used interchangeably throughout this Policy.
- i. Power Imbalance** - a Power Imbalance may exist where, based on the totality of the circumstances, one person has supervisory, evaluative, or other authority over another. Whether there is a Power Imbalance depends on several factors, including but not limited to: the nature and extent of the supervisory, evaluative or other authority over the person; the actual relationship between the parties; the parties’ respective roles; the nature and duration of the relationship; the age of the parties involved; whether there is an aggressor; whether there is a significant disparity in age, size, strength, or mental capacity.
Once a Coach-Athlete relationship is established, a Power Imbalance is presumed to exist throughout the Coach-Athlete relationship (regardless of age) and is presumed to continue for Minor Athletes after the Coach-Athlete relationship terminates until the Athlete reaches 20 years of age.
A Power Imbalance may exist, but is not presumed, where an Intimate Relationship existed before the sport relationship (e.g., a relationship

between two spouses or life partners that preceded the sport relationship).

j. Respondent - a Participant who is alleged to have violated this Policy.

k. Third-Party Reporter - reports brought by individuals other than the Claimant are referred to as “third-party reports” and those bringing them are “third-party reporters.”

l. USEF Designee -USEF staff, USEF Licensed Officials, USEF Board Members, Competition Managers, USEF Team Coaches and Technical Advisors, USEF Team Chefs d’Equipe, USEF Team Veterinarians, USEF Team Selectors, Athletes selected by USEF to represent the USA on a team, or as an individual, in competition, or any other individual that USEF formally authorizes, approves, or appoints to (a) serve in a position of authority over, or (b) have regular contact with any Athlete, including Human Physio Therapists and other medical personnel.

II. JURISDICTION

A. EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION

The Center has the exclusive jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations that a Participant engaged in one or more of the following:

1. Sexual Misconduct, including without limitation child sexual abuse and any misconduct that is reasonably related to an underlying allegation of Sexual Misconduct;
2. Criminal Charges or Dispositions involving Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct;
3. Misconduct Related to Reporting, where the underlying allegation involves Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct;
4. Aiding and Abetting, when it relates to the Center’s process;
5. Misconduct Related to the Center’s Process;
6. Other Inappropriate Conduct, as defined in the Code.

B. DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION

USEF has jurisdiction and the Center has discretionary jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations that a Participant engaged in one or more of the following:

1. Non-sexual Child Abuse;
2. Emotional and physical misconduct, including stalking, bullying behaviors, hazing, and harassment;
3. Criminal Charges or Dispositions not involving Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct; and
4. USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or other similar Proactive Policy violations.

USEF may, at any point before a matter is final, impose temporary measures¹. Generally, temporary measures are implemented based on the severity of the allegations, the evidentiary support for the allegations, and/or the perceived risk to athletes or the sport community. When the allegations involve child sexual abuse, the age of those allegations is not relevant to this determination.

Temporary measures may include, but are not limited to, altering training

¹ For sexual misconduct allegations, USEF may impose temporary measures, including temporary suspensions prior to the Center formally accepting jurisdiction over the reported allegations.

schedules, providing or requiring chaperones, implementing contact limitations, implementing measures prohibiting one-on-one interactions, and suspensions from participation in some or all aspects of sport activity. If measures require monitoring or chaperoning, the Respondent may be required to locate, arrange and/or pay for some or all of those services as a condition of continued participation pending completion of the investigation.

A temporary measure shall be effective immediately upon notice, unless stated otherwise. Temporary measure(s) will remain in effect until expressly removed.

If the Center accepts discretionary jurisdiction over allegations, it will use the resolution procedures set forth in the Code.

III. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

All Participants, as defined above, are bound by and must comply with this Policy and the Code. USEF hereby incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the definitions of Prohibited Conduct from the Code. Participants are responsible for knowing the information outlined herein and in the Code, and by virtue of being a Participant have expressly agreed to this Policy and the Code, including the applicable policies and procedures.

Participation in USEF licensed and sanctioned activities is a privilege not a right and such participation may be limited, conditioned, suspended, terminated, or denied if a Participant's conduct is or was inconsistent with the Code, this Policy, and/or the best interest of sport and those who participate in it.

It is a violation of this Policy for a Participant to engage in or tolerate: (1) Prohibited Conduct; (2) any conduct that would violate any current or previous Center or USEF standards analogous to Prohibited Conduct that existed at the time of the alleged conduct; or (3) any conduct that would violate community standards analogous to Prohibited Conduct that existed at the time of the alleged conduct, including then applicable criminal and/or civil laws.

USEF formally adopts the definitions of Prohibited Conduct contained in the current Code, effective April 1, 2021, and set forth below. Any changes to the Code's categories and definitions of misconduct are immediately adopted by USEF and effective upon the Center's publication of them unless otherwise noted. It should be noted that criminal charges and dispositions may be defined differently for purposes of the background check policy.

Prohibited Conduct include:

- a. Criminal Charge or Disposition
- b. Child Abuse
- c. Sexual Misconduct²
- d. Emotional and Physical Misconduct, including Stalking, Bullying, Hazing, and Harassment
- e. Aiding and Abetting
- f. Misconduct Related to Reporting
- g. Other Inappropriate Conduct
- h. Violation of USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies/Proactive Policies

² For definitions and information regarding sexual misconduct, please reference the Code.

A. CRIMINAL CHARGE OR DISPOSITION

It is a violation of this Policy for a Participant to have a Criminal Charge or Disposition.

Criminal Conduct is relevant to an individual's fitness to participate in sport. The age of a Criminal Charge or Disposition is not relevant to whether a violation of this Policy occurred, but may be considered for sanctioning purposes.

1. Definitions

a. Criminal Disposition

It is a violation of this Policy for a Participant to be or have been subject to any disposition or resolution of a criminal proceeding, other than an adjudication of not guilty, including, but not limited to: an adjudication of guilt or admission to a criminal violation, a plea to the charge or a lesser included offense, a plea of no contest, any plea analogous to an Alford or Kennedy plea, the disposition of the proceeding through a diversionary program, deferred adjudication, deferred prosecution, disposition of supervision, conditional dismissal, juvenile delinquency adjudication, or similar arrangement.

b. Criminal Charge, including Warrant for Arrest

It is a violation of this Policy for a Participant to have any pending criminal charge(s) or warrant(s) for arrest.

When assessing whether conduct constitutes a Criminal Charge or Disposition, USEF may assess and rely upon the original charges, amended charges, or those to which a plea was entered.

2. Sex Offender Registry

A Participant who is currently on any state, federal, territorial, or tribal sex offender registry is ineligible to participate.

B. CHILD ABUSE

It is a violation of this Policy for a Participant to engage in Child Abuse.

C. EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT

It is a violation of this Policy for a Participant to engage in emotional and/or physical misconduct, when that misconduct occurs within a context that is reasonably related to sport, which includes, without limitation:

1. Emotional Misconduct
2. Physical Misconduct
3. Bullying Behaviors
4. Hazing
5. Harassment

1. Emotional Misconduct

Emotional Misconduct includes (a) Verbal Acts, (b) Physical Acts, (c) Acts that Deny Attention or Support, (d) Criminal Conduct, and/or (e) Stalking. Emotional Misconduct is determined by the objective behaviors, not whether harm is intended or results from the behavior.

a. Verbal Acts

Repeatedly and excessively verbally assaulting or attacking someone personally in a manner that serves no productive training or motivational purpose.

b. Physical Acts

Repeated and/or severe physically aggressive behaviors, including but not limited to, throwing sport equipment, water bottles, or chairs at or in the presence of others, punching walls, windows, or other objects.

c. Acts that Deny Attention or Support

Ignoring or isolating a person for extended periods of time, including routinely or arbitrarily excluding a Participant from practice.

d. Criminal Conduct

Emotional Misconduct includes any act or conduct described as emotional abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. child abuse, child neglect).

e. Stalking

Stalking occurs when a person purposefully engages in a course of conduct directed at a specific person, and knows or should know, that the course of conduct would cause a reasonable person to (i) fear for their safety, (ii) fear for the safety of a third person, or (iii) to experience substantial emotional distress.

“Course of conduct” means at least two or more acts, in which a person directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about another person, or interferes with another person’s property.

“Substantial emotional distress” means significant mental suffering or anguish.

Stalking also includes “cyber-stalking,” wherein a person stalks another using electronic media, such as the internet, social networks, blogs, cell phones, texts, or other similar devices or forms of contact.

f. Exclusion

Emotional Misconduct does not include professionally accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline or improved Athlete performance.

Emotional Misconduct also does not include conduct reasonably accepted as part of sport and/or conduct reasonably accepted as part of Participant’s participation.

2. Physical Misconduct

Physical Misconduct is any intentional contact or non-contact behavior that causes, or reasonably threatens to cause, physical harm to another person.

Examples of physical misconduct may include, without limitation:

a. Contact violations

Punching, beating, biting, striking, strangling or slapping another; intentionally hitting another with objects, such as sporting equipment; encouraging or knowingly permitting an Athlete to return to play prematurely following a serious injury (e.g., a concussion) and without the clearance of a medical professional.

b. Non-contact violations

Isolating a person in a confined space, such as locking an Athlete in a small space; forcing an Athlete to assume a painful stance or position for no athletic purpose (e.g., requiring an athlete to kneel on a harmful surface); withholding, recommending against, or denying adequate

hydration, nutrition, medical attention or sleep; providing alcohol to a person under the legal drinking age; providing illegal drugs or non-prescribed medications to another.

c. Criminal Conduct

Physical Misconduct includes any act or conduct described as physical abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g., child abuse, child neglect, assault).

d. Exclusion

Physical Misconduct does not include professionally accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline, or improved Athlete performance. For example, hitting, punching, and kicking are well-regulated forms of contact in combat sports but have no place in swimming. Physical Misconduct also does not include conduct reasonably accepted as part of sport and/or conduct reasonably accepted as part of Participant's participation.

3. Bullying Behavior

Repeated and/or severe behavior(s) that are (a) aggressive, (b) directed at a Minor, and (c) intended or likely to hurt, control, or diminish the Minor emotionally, physically or sexually. Bullying-like behaviors directed at adults are addressed under other forms of misconduct, such as Hazing and/or Harassment.

Examples of bullying behavior may include, without limitation, repeated and/or severe:

a. Physical

Hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, strangling, spitting or slapping, or throwing objects (such as sporting equipment) at another person.

b. Verbal

Ridiculing, taunting, name-calling or intimidating or threatening to cause someone harm.

c. Social Media, including Cyberbullying

Use of rumors or false statements about someone to diminish that person's reputation; using electronic communications, social media or other technology to harass, frighten, intimidate or humiliate someone; socially excluding someone and asking others to do the same.

d. Criminal Conduct

Bullying Behavior includes any conduct described as bullying under federal or state law.

e. Exclusion

Conduct may not rise to the level of Bullying Behavior if it is merely rude (inadvertently saying or doing something hurtful), mean (purposefully saying or doing something hurtful, but not as part of a pattern of behavior), or arising from conflict or struggle between persons who perceive they have incompatible views and/or positions. Bullying does not include professionally accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline, or improved Athlete performance.

4. Hazing

Any conduct that subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse,

humiliate, degrade or intimidate the person as a condition of joining or being socially accepted by a group, team, or organization. Purported Consent by the person subjected to Hazing is not a defense, regardless of the person's perceived willingness to cooperate or participate.

Examples of Hazing include:

a. Contact Acts

Tying, taping, or otherwise physically restraining another person; beating, paddling or other forms of physical assault.

b. Non-Contact Acts

Requiring or forcing the consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs or other substances, including participation in binge drinking and drinking games; personal servitude; requiring social actions (e.g., wearing inappropriate or provocative clothing) or public displays (e.g., public nudity) that are illegal or meant to draw ridicule; excessive training requirements demanded of only particular individuals on a team that serve no reasonable or productive training purpose; sleep deprivation; otherwise unnecessary schedule disruptions; withholding of water and/or food; restrictions on personal hygiene.

c. Criminal Acts

Any act or conduct that constitutes hazing under applicable federal or state law.

d. Exclusion

Conduct may not rise to the level of Hazing if it is merely rude (inadvertently saying or doing something hurtful), mean (purposefully saying or doing something hurtful, but not as part of a pattern of behavior), or arising from conflict or struggle between persons who perceive they have incompatible views and/or positions. Hazing does not include professionally accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline, or improved Athlete performance.

5. Harassment

Repeated and/or severe conduct that (a) causes fear, humiliation or annoyance, (b) offends or degrades, (c) creates a hostile environment (as defined by the Code), or (d) reflects discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority or power over an individual or group based on age, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, national origin, or mental or physical disability; or (e) any act or conduct described as harassment under federal or state law. Whether conduct is harassing depends on the totality of the circumstances, including the nature, frequency, intensity, location, context, and duration of the behavior.

Conduct may not rise to the level of Harassment if it is merely rude (inadvertently saying or doing something hurtful), mean (purposefully saying or doing something hurtful, but not as part of a pattern of behavior), or arising from conflict or struggle between persons who perceive they have incompatible views and/or positions. Harassment does not include professionally accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline, or improved Athlete performance.

D. AIDING AND ABETTING

Aiding and Abetting occurs when one aids, assists, facilitates, promotes, or encourages the commission of Prohibited Conduct by a Participant, including but not limited to, knowingly:

1. Allowing any person who has been identified as suspended or otherwise ineligible by USEF to be in any way associated with or employed by an organization affiliated with or holding itself out as affiliated with USEF, an NGB, LAO, the USOPC or the Olympic & Paralympic Movement;
2. Allowing any person who has been identified as suspended or otherwise ineligible by USEF to coach or instruct Participants;
3. Allowing any person who has been identified as ineligible by USEF to have ownership interest in a facility, an organization, or its related entities, if that facility/organization/related entity is affiliated with or holds itself out as affiliated with an NGB, LAO, USOPC, or the Olympic & Paralympic Movement.
4. Providing any coaching-related advice or service to an Athlete who has been identified as suspended or otherwise ineligible by USEF.
5. Allowing any person to violate the terms of their suspension or any other sanctions imposed by USEF.

In addition, a Participant also violates this Policy if someone acts on behalf of the Participant to engage in Aiding or Abetting, or if the guardian, family member, or Advisor of a Participant, including Minor Participants, engages in Aiding or Abetting.

E. INTENTIONALLY FILING A FALSE ALLEGATION

Any person making a knowingly false allegation in a matter over which USEF has jurisdiction shall be subject to disciplinary action by USEF.

1. An allegation is false if the events reported did not occur, and the person making the report knows the events did not occur.
2. A false allegation is different from an unsubstantiated allegation; an unsubstantiated allegation means there is insufficient supporting evidence to determine whether an allegation is true or false. Absent demonstrable misconduct, an unsubstantiated allegation alone is not grounds for a violation.

F. MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES/PROACTIVE POLICIES

It is a violation of this Policy for a Participant to violate any provision of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies or other proactive policies adopted by USEF. Proactive policies set standards for professional boundaries, minimize the appearance of impropriety, and have the effect of preventing boundary violations and prohibiting grooming tactics.³

G. WILLFUL TOLERANCE

A Participant violates this Policy by willfully tolerating any form of Prohibited Misconduct, when there is a Power Imbalance between that Participant and the individual(s) who are being subjected to the Prohibited Conduct.

³ “Grooming” describes the process whereby a person engages in a series or pattern of behaviors with a goal of engaging in sexual misconduct. Grooming is initiated when a person seeks out a vulnerable minor. Once selected, offenders will then earn the minor’s trust, and potentially the trust of the minor’s family. After the offender has engaged the minor in sexually inappropriate behavior, the offender seeks to maintain control over him/her. Grooming occurs through direct, in-person and/or online contact.

IV. REPORTING

a. Retaliation

Retaliation is any adverse action taken by a Participant against a person participating in USEF proceedings.

Retaliation includes threatening, intimidating, harassing, coercing or any other conduct that would discourage a reasonable person from engaging or participating in USEF's processes and proceedings when the action is reasonably related to the report or engagement with USEF. Retaliation may be present even where there is a finding that no violation occurred.

Retaliation does not include good-faith actions lawfully pursued in response to report of a USEF Policy violation.

b. Reporting Sexual Misconduct – uscenterforsafesport.org

All reports of sexual misconduct must be reported directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at www.uscenterforsafesport.org or 720-531-0340. No statutes of limitation apply to reports of incidents of sexual misconduct.

All reports of sexual misconduct received by USEF will be forwarded to the Center.

Reporting such conduct to the Center does not satisfy an Adult Participant's obligation to report to law enforcement or other appropriate authorities consistent with federal law.

c. Reporting Non-Sexual Misconduct

For reporting any non-sexual misconduct, USEF will take a report in the way that is most comfortable for the person initiating the report including an anonymous, in-person, verbal, or written report. Regardless of the method of reporting, it is helpful to USEF to get the following information: (1) the name of the claimant(s); (2) the type of misconduct alleged; (3) the name(s) of the alleged victim(s); and (4) the name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct.

Individuals may complete a USEF Incident Report Form. Information on this form will include:

1. the name(s) of the claimant(s);
2. the type of misconduct alleged;
3. the name(s) of the alleged victim(s);
4. the name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct;
5. the approximate date(s) and location(s) where the misconduct was committed;
6. the names of other individuals who might have information regarding the alleged misconduct; and
7. a summary statement of the reasons to believe that misconduct has occurred.

Except for mandatory reporting to the authorities and the Center, USEF will withhold the claimant's name upon request, to the extent permitted by law. A copy of the USEF Incident Report Form can be found at <https://www.usef.org/safe-sport/reporting>.

d. Confidentiality and Anonymous Reporting

i. Confidentiality -To the extent permitted by law, and as appropriate, USEF will handle any report it receives confidentially and discretely and will not make public the names of the claimant(s), potential victim(s), or accused person(s); however, USEF may disclose such names on a limited basis when conducting an investigation, or reporting to the Center, or reporting to law enforcement authorities.

ii. Anonymous Reporting - USEF recognizes it can be difficult to report an allegation of misconduct and strives to remove as many barriers to reporting as possible. Anonymous reports may be made without the formality of completing a USEF Incident Report Form:

1. by completing the USEF Incident Report Form without including their name;
2. by expressing concerns of misconduct to USEF; or
3. by expressing concerns verbally to one of the following individuals on the Athlete Protection Team:
 - a. Sarah Gilbert, sgilbert@usef.org | 859 225 6915
 - b. Emily Pratt, epratt@usef.org | 859 225 6956
 - c. Sonja S. Keating, General Counsel, skeating@usef.org | 859 225 2045

Anonymous reporting may make it difficult to investigate or properly address allegations.

e. How Reports Are Handled

i. Suspicions or Allegations of Child Physical or Sexual Abuse Reported to Law Enforcement and/or Child Protective Services - All allegations of child physical or sexual abuse will be reported to law enforcement authorities and the Center. USEF does not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities. As necessary, however, USEF may ask a few clarifying questions of the person making the report to adequately report the suspicion or allegation to law enforcement authorities.

ii. Misconduct and Policy Violations - USEF will address all alleged violations of this Policy.

iii. Notification - Following USEF's receipt of an allegation involving Safe Sport-related prohibited conduct, USEF may consider the circumstances in which it will notify other parents of athletes with whom the accused individual may have had contact. At USEF's discretion, and as appropriate or required by the Center, USEF may notify relevant persons, i.e., competition managers, staff members, contractors, volunteers, parents, and/or athletes of any such allegation that (a) law enforcement authorities are actively investigating; or (b) that the Center is investigating. Advising others of an allegation may lead to additional reports of child physical or sexual abuse and other prohibited conduct.

V. BACKGROUND CHECK

All USEF Designees defined above, 18 years of age and older, shall undergo a background check that complies with the Fair Credit Reporting

Act. Through this background check, USEF will utilize reasonable efforts to ascertain criminal history. The USEF Background Check Policy assists USEF in promoting the safety and welfare of athletes.

The background check must be completed before regular contact with any Minor, as defined in Section II, or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this Policy.

Beginning January 1, 2020, USEF will require background checks in accordance with the USOPC Responsible Member Organization Policy. Background checks must be refreshed every two years.

a. Process

The Background Check Consent and Waiver Release Form must be submitted to USEF's third-party background check vendor and the USEF Designee cleared before he or she may perform services for USEF. Upon submission of the Background Check Consent and Waiver Release Form, USEF will request that its vendor perform the background check. As part of its background check, the vendor will run a full background screen that includes at least the following search components below.

Full Background Check

- Social Security Number validation;⁴
- Name and address history records;
- Two independent Multi-Jurisdictional Criminal Database searches covering 50 states plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico;
- Federal District Courts search for each name used and district where the individual currently lives or has lived during the past seven years, going back the length of time records are available and reportable;
- County Criminal Records for each name used and county where the individual currently lives or has lived during the past seven years, going back the length of time records are available and reportable for each county searched;
- National Sex Offender Registry database search of all available states, plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico;
- Multiple National Watch Lists;
- SafeSport Disciplinary Records;⁵
- Comprehensive International Records search U.S. citizens who have lived outside of the United States for six consecutive months in any one country, during the past seven years;⁶
- Motor Vehicle Records of at least a 3-year history in the state of licensure; (if driving is required for position);

4 Or suitable alternative identification verification process as determined by the background check vendor.

5 Until the process is automated, this component will not be enforced.

6 International record checks vary from country to country. The background check vendor will provide comparable search components depending on the laws of that specific country.

Supplemental Background Checks. A supplemental off-year background check screen will be conducted using at least the following search components:

- Multi-Jurisdictional criminal database covering 50 states plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico
- Sex Offender Registry database searches of all available states, plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico; and
- SafeSport Disciplinary Records.

b. Criminal History

Any background check that results in a report of a disposition or resolution of a criminal proceeding, other than an adjudication of not guilty,⁷ for any of the below criminal offenses will be subject to USEF's policies and procedures to determine the individual's level of access and involvement:

Any felony⁸.

Any misdemeanor involving:

- All sexual crimes, criminal offenses of a sexual nature to include but not limited to; rape, child molestation, sexual battery, lewd conduct, possession and distribution of child pornography, possession and distribution of obscene material, prostitution, indecent exposure, public indecency, and any sex offender registrant;⁹
- Any drug related offenses
- Harm to a minor and vulnerable person, including, but not limited to, offenses such as child abandonment, child endangerment/neglect/abuse, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and DUI with a minor
- Violence against a person (including crimes involving firearms and domestic violence)
- Stalking, harassment, blackmail, violation of a protection order and/or threats;
- Destruction of property, including arson, vandalism, and criminal mischief; and
- Animal abuse or neglect.

c. Full Disclosure

Each USEF Designee and prospective USEF Designee has the affirmative duty to disclose his or her criminal history. Failing to disclose or intention-

⁷ A "disposition or resolution of a criminal proceeding, other than an adjudication of not guilty" shall include, but is not limited to: an adjudication of guilt or admission to a criminal violation, a plea to the charge or a lesser included offense, a plea of no contest, any plea analogous to an Alford or Kennedy plea, the disposition of the proceeding through a diversionary program, deferred adjudication, deferred prosecution, disposition of supervision, conditional dismissal, juvenile delinquency adjudication, or similar arrangement, or the existence of an ongoing criminal investigation, a warrant for arrest, or any pending charges.

⁸ For purposes of these procedures, the term "felony" shall refer to any criminal offense punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

⁹ Any participant that has been convicted of, received an imposition of a deferred sentence for, or any plea of guilty or no contest for any sexual crime, criminal offense of a sexual nature, and/or is a sex offender registrant must be reported

ally misrepresenting an arrest, plea, or conviction is grounds for USEF Designee status revocation or restriction, regardless of when the offense is discovered. USEF Designees have the ongoing duty to disclose criminal history. USEF Designees need not disclose arrests in which charges are not filed, charges are dismissed, or the USEF Designee is acquitted; however, USEF Designees are required to disclose non-convictions involving deferred sentences, deferred adjudications, or other similar dispositions as well as accusations, arrests, indictments, or convictions of a criminal offense set out above or a criminal offense against a child.

- i. If a prospective USEF Designee has been or (1) is accused, (2) arrested, (3) charged, (4) indicted, (5) has an adjudication other than not guilty, or (5) is convicted of any offense identified above during the application process, he is required to disclose such information immediately.
- ii. In the event a USEF Designee has been or is (1) is accused, (2) arrested, (3) charged, (4) indicted, (5) has an adjudication other than not guilty, or (5) is convicted of any offense identified above during the application process, he is required to disclose such information immediately to Sonja S. Keating, USEF General Counsel, at skeating@usef.org or 859-225-2045.
- iii. Any USEF Designee or prospective USEF Designee who has been banned by another national governing body, another sport organization, or the Center has an affirmative duty to disclose such information immediately to Sonja S. Keating, USEF General Counsel, at skeating@usef.org or 859-225-2045.

d. Findings

USEF's criminal background check report will return a red light or green light finding. A green light finding means that the background check vendor located no records that would disqualify the individual. A green light score, however, is not a certification of safety or permission to bypass/ignore other screening efforts. Other disqualifying factors may exist and can be revealed through other means.

A red light finding means the criminal background check revealed criminal records that suggest the individual does not meet the criteria and is not suitable for USEF Designee status.

Individuals who are subject to disqualification under a red light finding may challenge the accuracy of the information reported by the criminal background check vendor.

e. Appeal to Background Check Vendor

Any disqualified individual has the right to dispute the findings of the criminal background check directly with the criminal background check vendor. A disqualified individual may not appeal the automatic disqualification or the results of the findings of the criminal background check vendor to USEF. USEF is required by this Policy to accept the findings of the criminal background check vendor.

Individuals disqualified are excluded from participation in any USEF licensed competition and USEF sanctioned events and/or activities as a USEF Designee unless an exemption is granted in accordance with the exemption request process below.

f. Exemption Request to USEF

Any disqualified individual has the right to seek an exemption from the USEF Exemption Panel. The individual shall demonstrate that the conviction or charge does not violate the spirit of Safe Sport and that he or she poses no risk to the sport.

In order to seek an exemption from disqualification contact Sarah Gilbert, at sgilbert@usef.org or 859-225-6915 or submit an Exemption Request Form to USEF found at safesport.usef.org.

g. Frequency of Background Checks

Criminal background checks for USEF Designees will be refreshed every two years or as otherwise required by law.

h. Other Potentially Disqualifying Factors

Even if an individual passes a criminal background check, USEF may determine that an individual may be disqualified and prohibited from USEF Designee status. Disqualification may occur if the individual has:

- i. Been held liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of a minor;
- ii. Been subject to any court order involving any sexual or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to, domestic order or protection;
- iii. A history with another organization (employment, volunteer, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors;
- iv. Resigned, been terminated, been banned, or been asked to resign from a position- paid or unpaid - due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors;
- v. A history of other behavior that indicates the individual may be a danger to athletes and participants; or
- vi. Failed to disclose background in accordance with this Policy.

i. Review of Disqualifiers

USEF will review its disqualifiers from time to time or as otherwise required or modified by law.

VI. ENFORCEMENT

The enforcement of this Policy falls under the jurisdiction of the USEF Hearing Committee, except i. allegations of sexual misconduct, which falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Center; and ii. allegations of non-sexual misconduct that the Center takes discretionary jurisdiction over.

USEF shall recognize and enforce all penalties imposed by the Center, including lifetime bans. Temporary Suspensions apply to the person only, but not to the person's business or horses they own. Final and non-appealable suspensions and bans apply to the person, the person's horses, any equestrian-related business the suspended or banned person owns. See GR 703 and GR 704 for more information on suspensions and bans.

USEF shall conduct periodic compliance audits.

**APPENDIX A
MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE
PREVENTION POLICIES
(MAAPP)**

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) and United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) are committed to building a sport community where Participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct. Throughout this document the most commonly used terms are defined in the Definition section below.

Authority

The *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017* authorizes the Center to develop training and policies to prevent abuse—including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse—within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(1). Federal law requires that, at a minimum, USEF must offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse: (1) to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors and (2) subject to parental consent, to members who are minors. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2)(E). Federal law requires that these policies contain reasonable procedures to limit unobservable and uninterrupted one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete, who is a minor, and an adult, who is not the minor's legal guardian, at facilities under the jurisdiction of organizations within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2)(C).

What is the MAAPP?

To that end, the Center has developed the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). The MAAPP is a collection of proactive prevention and training policies for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. It has three primary components:

1. An Education & Training Policy that requires training for certain Adult Participants within the sport;
2. Required Prevention Policies, focused on limiting one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes, that USEF and other youth serving sports associations must implement to prevent abuse; and
3. Recommended Prevention Policies.

The Center developed the MAAPP to assist National Governing Bodies (NGBs) like USEF, and other sports organizations to whom these policies apply in meeting their obligations under federal law (note: implementing these policies does not guarantee that an organization or individual fully complies with federal law or all applicable legal obligations). These policies are available to all Participants and parents/guardians of minor athletes.

What is the focus of the MAAPP?

The MAAPP focuses on just two important aspects of a much larger comprehensive abuse prevention strategy. These policies address training requirements and limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and minor athletes. These policies are intended to be enforceable and reasonable, acknowledging, for example, that when a 17-year-old athlete turns 18, they become an adult athlete, and a complete prohibition of one-on-one interactions may not be necessary or practical. Additionally, there may be other instances when one-on-one interactions could occur, and in those cases, these policies provide strategies so parents/guardians can provide informed consent if they choose to allow a permitted interaction.

The Center and USEF recommend that parents first complete training on abuse prevention to be informed about potential boundary violations and concerns before consenting to the interaction.

The MAAPP in no way can guarantee athlete safety in all circumstances, especially when the policies are not fully implemented, followed, or monitored. These policies are not comprehensive of all prevention strategies, nor are they intended to be. These policies should be implemented alongside the SafeSport Code. Additionally, other resources are available that may assist organizations in improving athlete safety.¹

DEFINITIONS

Adult Participant: Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is²:

- a. A USEF Senior Active member;
- b. An employee or board member of USEF;
- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USEF;
- d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USEF or its Recognized Affiliates to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes (e.g. Licensed Officials, USEF Team Chefs d'Equipe, USEF Team Technical Advisors/Coaches, USEF Team Vets).

Amateur Athlete: Any athlete who is actively engaged in equestrian competition.

Authority: When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. Also see the Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code.

Note: USEF Licensed Officials, USEF Team Chefs d'Equipe, and USEF Technical Advisors fall under this definition.

Close-in-Age Exception: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does not have authority over a Minor Athlete and is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., a 19-year-old and a 16-year-old).

Note: This exception only applies within the prevention policies and not regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.

1 Saul, J., & Audage, N.C. (2007). Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-Servicing Organization: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection. (2014). Child Sexual Abuse: It Is Your Business. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

The Australian Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. (2017). Final Report.

2 This also includes the following individuals covered under the USEF Safe Sport Policy, who: (a) currently is, or was at the time of a possible Safe Sport violation, within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USEF or who is seeking to be within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USEF (e.g., through application for membership, license holder, employee), (b) is an Athlete or USEF Designee, or (c) a participant or attendee of a USEF Licensed Competition or sanctioned event, including team staff, medical or paramedical personnel, administrator, official, groom, or other athlete support personnel, employee, or volunteer.

Dual Relationships: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent at least annually authorizing the exception.

In-Program Contact: Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

Examples of In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post competition meals or outings, team travel, review of competition footage, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, competition site visits and course walks.

Minor Athlete: An Amateur Athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USEF.

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by USEF, or any facility that USEF owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition. For clarification, the jurisdiction exists during the time that the practice, training, or competition occurs.

National Governing Body (NGB): A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body, Pan American Sport Organization, or Paralympic Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq., such as USEF. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant: An Adult Participant who assists an athlete requiring help with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication administration, and toileting. Personal Care Assistants are different for every athlete and should be individualized to fit their specific needs. When assisting a Minor Athlete, Adult Participant PCAs must be authorized by the athlete's parent/guardian.

Regular Contact: Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s).

U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC): A federally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States.

PART I

EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

A. Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult Participants

1. Adults Required to Complete Mandatory Training

- a. The following Adult Participants must complete the *SafeSport Trained Core* either through the Center's online training or the Center's approved, in-person training:
 1. Adult Participants who have regular contact with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
 2. Adult Participants who have authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor, e.g. Licensed Officials, USEF Team Technical Advisors; USEF Team Selectors, etc.;
 3. USEF Senior Active Members; and
 4. Adult Participants who are an employee or board member of USEF.
- b. Adult Participants who are medical providers required to take training under Section (a) can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport Trained Core*.
- c. In addition to the above identified Adult Participants, all adult employees and board members of Recognized Affiliates must comply with this Education & Training Policy.

2. Timing of Training

Adult Participants must complete this training:

- a. Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins; and
- b. Within the first 30 days of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy.

3. Refresher Training

The above listed Adult Participants must complete a refresher course on an annual basis, beginning the calendar year after completing the *SafeSport Trained Core*. Every four years, Adult Participants will complete the *SafeSport Trained Core* training. Medical providers can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport Trained Core* and are required to take the refresher courses on an annual basis if they meet the criteria for A (1).

B. Minor Athlete Training Must Be Offered

1. USEF on an annual basis, must offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers youth courses, located at www.athletesafety.org, that meet this requirement.

C. Parent Training Must Be Offered

1. USEF, on an annual basis, must offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers a parent course, located at www.athletesafety.org, that meets this requirement.

D. Optional Training

1. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity, who will not have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes, are urged to take the Center's brief Volunteer Course (or *SafeSport Trained Core*) before engaging or interacting with any Minor Athlete(s).
2. USEF may provide training in addition to the *SafeSport Trained Core*, although they cannot refer to this training as "SafeSport" training. Training other than the *SafeSport Trained Core* or Refresher does not satisfy this policy.
3. Parents of Minor Athletes are provided free online access to the Center's parent course and are encouraged to take the training.

E. Exemptions and Accommodations

1. Exemptions from this Education & Training Policy may be made on a case-by-case basis for victims/survivors. Requests may be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at exemptions@safesport.org.
2. The Center will work with USEF on appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency to satisfy these training requirements. USEF and its Recognized Affiliates must provide reasonable accommodations and track any exemptions for individuals with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency.

PART II

REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

The U.S. Center for SafeSport and USEF recognize that youth-adult relationships can be healthy and valuable for development. Policies on one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships. As child sexual abuse is often perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations, it is critical that organizations limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS POLICY

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

- a. All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except in emergency circumstances.
- b. The exceptions below may apply to specific policies, and if the exceptions apply, they are listed in the policy. These exceptions also apply to all one-on-one In-Program Contact not specifically addressed in other policies:
 - i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
 - ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
 - iii. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:
 - (1.) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and

- (2.) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
- (3.) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USEF Background Check Policy, if applicable; or
- iv. In other circumstances specifically addressed in this policy that allow for certain one-on-one interactions if the Adult Participant receives parent/ guardian consent.

MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS POLICY

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

- a. Adult Participants must follow the one-on-one interaction policy in all meetings and training sessions where Minor Athlete(s) are present.

2. Individual Training Sessions

- a. One-on-one, In-Program, individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible except if:
 - i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
 - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
 - iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:
 - (1.) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - (2.) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
 - (3.) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USEF Background Check Policy, if applicable.
- b. The Adult Participant providing the individual training session must receive advance written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and
- c. Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session.

3. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers³)

If a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider meets one-on-one with a Minor Athlete at a USEF sanctioned event or facility partially or fully under USEF's jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

- a. If the door remains unlocked; and
- b. Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete's identity need not be disclosed; and
- c. The provider obtains consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

³ Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the "Athletic Training Modalities, Massages, and Rubdowns" policy.

B. Recommended Best Practice

Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to have a meeting or training session with an Adult Participant subject to these policies.

Out-of-Program Contacts

USEF recommends that Adult Participants refrain from interacting one-on-one with Minor Athletes in settings that are not observable or interruptible (including, but not limited to, one's home, and individual transportation). If this is not possible, USEF recommends that parent/guardian written consent is provided for such out-of-program contact.

ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES, MASSAGES, AND RUBDOWNS POLICY

A. Mandatory Components

1. Athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown

All In-Program athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns of a Minor Athlete must:

- a. Be observable and interruptible; and
- b. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown; and
- c. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (2) below; and
- d. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
- e. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing.

2. Consent

- a. Providers of athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns or USEF, when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Best Practices

1. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to receive an athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown.

2. The provider should narrate the steps in the massage, rubdown, or athletic training modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.
3. When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.
4. Only licensed providers should administer a massage, rubdown, or athletic training modality.

5. Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, should not massage Minor Athletes.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS POLICY

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all one-on-one In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is observable and interruptible, except if:

- a. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- b. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- c. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
 - i. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - ii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
 - iii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USEF Background Check Policy, if applicable.

2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing.
- b. Adult Participants must not change clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groins, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.
- c. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- d. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. USEF as well as the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.

3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms

USEF may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:

- a. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
- b. USEF approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
- c. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
- d. Everyone is fully clothed.

4. Personal Care Assistants

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they meet the requirements in subsection (A)(1)(c) above.

5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. If changing areas are designated as such or provided, then Competition Management must cause someone to monitor their use to ensure compliance with these policies at USEF sanctioned events or activities.
- b. At team competitions, the Competition Organizer must identify and provide a private or semi-private changing area for Minor Athletes, ensure its privacy, and ensure that when Minor Athletes are changing, access to the changing area is controlled.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS⁴ POLICY

A. Mandatory Components

1. Open and Transparent

- a. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent except:
 - i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
 - ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
 - iii. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
 - (1.) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - (2.) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
 - (3.) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USEF Background Check Policy, if applicable.
- b. Open and Transparent means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant.
 - If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.
- c. Only platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.

2. Team Communication

When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include another Adult Participant or the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians.

3. Content

All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s) must be professional in nature unless an exception in (1)(a) exists.

4. Requests to discontinue

Parents/guardians may request in writing that USEF or an Adult Participant subject to this policy not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. USEF and the Adult

⁴ Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, and social media.

Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

B. Recommended Best Practices

1. Hours

Electronic communications should generally be sent only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time for the location of the Minor Athlete.

2. Social Media Connections

Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age Exception, are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with Minor Athletes and should discontinue existing social media connections with Minor Athletes.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

A. Mandatory Components

1. Transportation

- a. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program travel, except if:
 - i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
 - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
 - iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
 - (1.) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - (2.) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
 - (3.) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USEF Background Check Policy, if applicable; or
 - iv. The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian.
- b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
- c. An Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors.
- d. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation sanctioned USEF at least annually.

B. Recommended Best Practices

1. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

USEF encourages parents/guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

2. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to travel one-on-one with an Adult Participant.

LODGING POLICY

A. Mandatory Components

1. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

- a. All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, and an Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), except if:
 - i. A Dual Relationship Exists, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement;
 - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement; or
 - iii. The Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:
 - (1.) The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete and for the lodging arrangement;
 - (2.) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
 - (3.) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USEF's Background Check Policy, if applicable.
- b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually.

2. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If room checks are performed during In-Program lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

3. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by USEF

- a. Adult Participants traveling with USEF must agree to and sign USEF's lodging policy at least annually.
- b. Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with USEF's Education & Training Policy.

B. Recommended Best Practices

Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for lodging arrangements under this policy.

PART III

RECOMMENDED POLICIES FOR KEEPING YOUNG ATHLETES SAFE

A. Out-of-Program Contact

1. Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not have out-of-program contact with Minor Athlete(s) without parent/guardian consent, even if the out-of-program contact is not one-on-one.

B. Gifting

1. Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not give personal gifts to Minor Athlete(s).
2. Gifts that are equally distributed to all athletes and serve a motivational or education purpose are permitted.

C. Photography/Video

1. Photographs or videos of athletes may only be taken in public view and must observe generally accepted standards of decency.
2. Adult Participants should not publicly share or post photos or videos of Minor Athlete(s) if the Adult Participant has not obtained the parent/guardian and Minor Athlete's consent.

APPENDIX

ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING AND PREVENTION POLICIES

As the National Governing Body for equestrian sport, USEF must implement proactive policies designed to prevent abuse. These organizational requirements are described below.

A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training

1. USEF must track whether Adult Participants under its jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Part I.
2. USEF must, on an annual basis, offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 - a. For training to Minor Athletes, USEF must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to Minor Athletes.
 - b. USEF is not required to track individual course completions of Minor Athletes.
3. USEF must, on an annual basis, offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.

B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation

1. USEF must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies that contain the mandatory components of the Center's model policies in Part II. These model policies cover:
 - a. One-on-one interactions
 - b. Meetings and training sessions
 - c. Athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns
 - d. Locker rooms and changing areas
 - e. Electronic communications
 - f. Transportation
 - g. Lodging
2. The policies must be approved by the Center. The policies may include the recommended components in Parts I, II and III. Given the uniqueness of each sport, however, some recommended com-

ponents or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. USEF may choose to implement stricter standards than the model policies.

3. USEF must also require that its Recognized Affiliates implement these policies within their organizations.
4. USEF must implement these policies for all In-Program Contact.
 - a. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under its jurisdiction, the organization must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
 - b. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside USEF's sanctioned event or facilities, implementing these policies means:
 - i. Communicating the policies to individuals under its jurisdiction;
 - ii. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies;
 - iii. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.
5. USEF must have a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating USEF's minor athlete abuse prevention policies. USEF must appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report. This requirement is in addition to requirements to report abuse under the SafeSport Code.

C. Policy Approval and Submission Process

1. USEF may adopt the MAAPP as-is or adapt it to fit their needs. Regardless, each Organization must submit their policies to the Center at compliance@safesport.org for review and approval by January 31, 2021. The Center will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the policies. If the Center denies the proposed policy, the mandatory components of Part III become the default policy until the Center approves the policy.
2. USEF has no Local Affiliated Associations (LAO) but if it does in the future, USEF must require their LAOs to incorporate the mandatory components of Part II. NGBs may require that their LAOs implement the NGB's policies, which may be more stringent than the policies in Part II.
3. USEF may, in its discretion, require its Recognized Affiliate to implement these policies.
 - USEF may choose to require its Recognized Affiliates to implement the Education & Training Policy but must obtain advanced, written approval from the Center to expand the training access to additional persons. Requests must be submitted to ngbservices@safesport.org.
4. The mandatory components of Part II will serve as the default policy for any organization that fails to develop its own policy as required by this section.



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