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.

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.

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.

USEF strongly encourages affiliates to adopt these policies. Sample consent language is available under Additional Resources.