

# MAAPP

Minor Athlete Abuse  
Prevention Policies

EFFECTIVE  
12/1/2024



Recognizing, Reducing, and Responding to Abuse in Sport

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## 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)(3). 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 sports within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. It has four primary components:

1. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training and Prevention Policies;
2. An Education & Training Policy that requires training for certain Adult Participants within sport;
3. 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
4. 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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## DEFINITIONS

**Adult Participant:** Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is<sup>2</sup>:

- b. A USEF Senior Active member;
- c. An employee or board member of USEF;
- d. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USEF;
- e. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USEF or its Recognized Affiliates to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes e.g. volunteers, medical staff, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel such as Chefs d'Equipe/Technical Advisors or Team Vets, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members.

**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.*

**Billeting:** A residential environment facilitated by an Adult Participant, USEF, or the USOPC, or sanctioned event staff in which a Minor Athlete is temporarily housed in a private home with an adult or family who is not related to or known by the Minor Athlete. This lodging arrangement is in conjunction with an activity related to sport. This may include working student relationships where the working student resides on site.

**Exception for Close-in-Age:** The purpose of this exception is to allow for continued relationships among athletes on the same team. This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between and Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if: (i) the Adult Participant has **no** authority over the Minor Athlete; and (ii) the Adult Participant is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete, determined by actual date of birth.

*Note: This exception is different than the close-in-age exception in the SafeSport Code pertaining to. misconduct.*

**Exception for Dual Relationships:** This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact when the Adult Participant has

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

a relationship with a Minor Athlete that is outside of the sport program. This exception requires written consent of the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian, at least annually. The consent must identify which required prevention policies the parent/guardian is allowing the one-on-one In-Program Contact. Parents are urged to take training on child abuse prevention before providing consent to this exception. Free training for parents can be found at [safesporttrained.org](https://safesporttrained.org).

**Exception for Emergency:** This exception applies for to all required prevention policies where an Adult Participant must violate a MAAPP requirement(s) due to an emergency. Adult Participants must carefully consider whether specific circumstances meet the threshold of “emergency.” Adult Participants must document emergency situations.

**Exception for Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants Working with a Minor Athlete:** This exception is for Adult Participants who also assist a Parasport athlete with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation. This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if the following requirements are met: (i) the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian has provided written consent to USEF 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 USEF’s background check policy. Parents are urged to take training on child abuse prevention before providing consent to this exception. Free training for parents can be found at [safesporttrained.org](https://safesporttrained.org).

**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.<sup>3</sup>

**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.

**Residential Environment:** A place in which participants live or stay temporarily. Residential environments include, but are not limited to, onsite housing at training facilities, billeting, hotel stays, or rentals (i.e. Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.). See also Billeting.

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

**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 Course through the Center's online 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

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<sup>3</sup> This term shall also include any minor who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, a non-athlete role partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USEF.

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; or
- b. Within the first 7 days of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy, whichever comes first.

## **3. Refresher Training**

The above listed Adult Participants must complete a refresher course every 12 months, beginning the calendar year after completing the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course*. Every four years, Adult Participants will complete the *SafeSport Trained® Core Course* training. Medical providers can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course* 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, every 12 months, 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.safesporttrained.org](http://www.safesporttrained.org), that meet this requirement.

## **C. Parent Training Must Be Offered**

1. USEF, every 12 months, must offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers a parent course, located at [www.safesporttrained.org](http://www.safesporttrained.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 Course*) before engaging or interacting with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor.



2. USEF may provide training in addition to the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course*, although they cannot refer to this training as “SafeSport” training. **Training other than the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course* 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**

The Center’s online training courses contain information about various forms of abuse. The courses do not include graphic descriptions of abuse or show violent images or video. The content may be uncomfortable or trigger trauma for some participants.

1. Exemptions to the online training requirement may be requested by survivors of abuse and misconduct. Survivors of abuse can request an exemption by contacting USEF at [safesport@usef.org](mailto:safesport@usef.org) or can choose to contact the Center directly to request an exemption at [exemptions@safesport.org](mailto:exemptions@safesport.org). All exemptions granted by the Center or USEF in this category are considered indefinite and do not need to be re-requested every year.
2. Exemptions to the online training requirement for reasons other than survivor of abuse and misconduct are limited to cognitive or physical disability or language barrier. Requests for these exemptions must be made by the individual to USEF at [usefsafesport@usef.org](mailto:usefsafesport@usef.org). USEF will determine whether to grant the exemption. If USEF grants the exemption, it will track the exemption to ensure it is applied to the individual’s membership status. USEF must preserve documentation that the exemption was granted and for what duration.
3. The Center has several options available to assist individuals in completing the online training courses, including screen reader-compatible versions and course availability in several languages, including English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Russian, German, and Japanese. If none of the available options will fit the individual’s needs, USEF may determine whether to grant an exemption.

## **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.

All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult participant and a Minor Athlete must be *observable and interruptible*, unless one of the following exceptions applies.

- i. Exception for Emergency; or
- ii. Exception for Dual Relationship; or
- iii. Exception for Close-in-Age; or
- iv. Exception for 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.

## **MEETINGS AND INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SESSIONS POLICY**

Sexual abuse often happens when minor athletes are alone with their abusers. Some abusers will single out athletes for special one-on-one instruction. This kind of isolation provides opportunities for abuse to occur. This section establishes rules for individual training sessions to protect youth athletes from uncomfortable or unsafe situations.

### **A. Mandatory Components**

#### **1. Observable and Interruptible**

- a. Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program meetings and individual training sessions with Minor Athletes be observable and interruptible, unless one of the following exceptions applies:
  - i. Exception for Emergency; or
  - ii. Exception for Dual Relationship; or
  - iii. Exception for Close-in-Age; or
  - iv. Exception for 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.

## **2. Individual Training Sessions**

- a. 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
- b. 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 trainers<sup>4</sup>)**

If a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider, or a student under the supervision of 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. USEF is notified that the professional or provider will be meeting with the Minor Athlete; and
- d. The professional or provider obtains consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/ guardian consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which consent can be withdrawn at any time.

## **B. Recommended Best Practice**

### **1. Monitoring**

If a permitted meeting or training session takes place between an Adult participant and a Minor Athlete, another Adult Participant will monitor each meeting and training session. Monitoring includes reviewing the parent/guardian consent form, knowing that the meeting or training session is occurring, knowing the approximate planned duration of the meeting or training session, and dropping in on the meeting or training session.

### **2. 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.

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<sup>4</sup> Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the "Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities" policy.

## Out-of-Program Contacts

USEF recommends that where interactions are not related to participation in sport, 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.

## **MANUAL THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC AND RECOVERY MODALITIES**

Many athletes require therapies to prevent or treat injuries. However, these treatment sessions can place children in vulnerable positions, especially if they involve physical contact with adults. This section establishes standards for therapeutic and recovery modalities and manual therapy to reduce the risk of inappropriate contact between youth and adults.<sup>5</sup>

### **A. Mandatory Components**

#### **1. Manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities**

All In-Program contact during manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities of a Minor Athlete, unless the Emergency Exception applies, must:

- a. Be observable and interruptible; and
- b. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the modality or manual therapy; 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.
- f. the provider must narrate the steps in the modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.

#### **2. Consent**

Providers of manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities or USEF, when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes'

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<sup>5</sup> Manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities can be different for each sport. They can include, but are not limited to: first aid, massage, taping, cupping, stretching, cryotherapy, neuromuscular stimulations, electrical stimulation, or other modalities within the scope of a Healthcare Provider's credentials.

parents/guardians before providing any manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities. 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 manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.

2. When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.
3. Only licensed providers should administer manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.
4. 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, unless one of the following exceptions applies:

- a. Exception for Emergency; or
- b. Exception for Dual Relationship; or
- c. Exception for Close-in-Age; or
- d. Exception for 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 remove their 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 Exception for Close-in-Age; 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)(d) 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 COMMUNICATIONS<sup>6</sup> 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

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<sup>6</sup> Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, social media, and any other electronic medium.

Open and Transparent unless one of the following exceptions applies:

- i. Exception for Emergency; or
- ii. Exception for Dual Relationship; or
- iii. Exception for Close-in-Age; or
- iv. Exception for 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 on every communication.
  - 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 the Minor Athletes' parent/guardians, another adult family member of the Minor Athletes, or another Adult Participant.

## **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 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 Exception for Close-in-Age, 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 must ensure that all In-Program contact during transportation is observable and interruptible. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program travel, unless one of the following exceptions applies:
  - i. Exception for Emergency; or
  - ii. Exception for Dual Relationship; or
  - iii. Exception for Close-in-Age; or
  - iv. Exception for 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
  - v. 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. An Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors, who are at least 8 years of age.
- c. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation authorized or funded by USEF at least annually.
- d. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.



## **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 AND RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS POLICY**

### **A. Mandatory Components**

#### **1. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements**

- a. All In-Program Contact at a hotel, rental (i.e. Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo etc.), and long-term residential environments, including lodging at training sites and billeting 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), unless one of the following exceptions applies:
  - i. Exception for Emergency; or
  - ii. Exception for Dual Relationship, and the Minor Athlete's parent/ guardian has provided advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement;
  - iii. Exception for Close-in-Age, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement; or
  - iv. Exception for 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.
- c. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

## **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, unless the Adult Participant meets the Exception for Close-In-Age.

## **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 Exception for Close-in-Age 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 Exception for Close-in-Age 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, every 12 months, 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, every 12 months, offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse. For training to parents, USEF must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to parents. USEF is not required to track individual course completions of parents.

#### **B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation**

1. USEF must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies to limit one-on-one interactions between a Minor Athlete and an Adult Participant. These policies must contain the mandatory components of the Center's model policies in Part III. These model policies cover:
  - a. Meetings
  - b. Individual training sessions
  - c. Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities
  - d. Locker rooms and changing areas
  - e. Electronic communications
  - f. Transportation
  - g. Lodging and Residential Environments
2. The policies must be approved by the Center. The policies may include the recommended components in Parts III and IV. Given the uniqueness of each sport, however, some recommended components or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. Such concerns should be addressed with the Center during the Policy Approval and Submission Process discussed below. 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 mandatory minimum requirements of 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](mailto:compliance@safesport.org) for review and approval by April 1, 2024. 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.

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. Any changes made to an USEF's MAAPP after the policy is approved must be submitted to the Center for approval. The previously approved MAAPP will remain in effect until written approval is provided to the NGB or USOPC from the Center.



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