



U.S. CENTER FOR
SAFESPORT
CHAMPION RESPECT. END ABUSE.

U.S. Center for SafeSport (The Center)'s Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Purpose/Rationale

Why did the Center create new policies for Education and Training as well as limiting one-on-one interactions?

Why is the Center requiring training once a year?

Both the U.S. Center for SafeSport and the USOC have policies addressing athlete safety. Why are there multiple policies regarding athlete safety?

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PURPOSE

1. Why did the Center create new policies for Education and Training as well as limiting one-on-one interactions?

The Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, authorizes the Center to develop training to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete. Federal law also authorizes the Center to develop policies and procedures (including policies to limit one-on-one interactions) for implementation by national governing bodies or paralympic sports organizations to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete.

2. Why is the Center requiring training once a year?

Research shows that in order for prevention to be effective, it must be administered in multiple sessions, including booster sessions¹. Refresher courses will be short reviews of the core training, and will be approximately 30 minutes or less.

3. Both the U.S. Center for SafeSport and the USOC have policies addressing athlete safety. Why are there multiple policies regarding athlete safety?

The U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies are designed to set training requirements, and limit one-on-one interactions between adult members who have regular contact with minor athletes, as required by federal law.

¹ DeGue, S. (2014). A Systematic review of primary prevention strategies for sexual violence perpetration. In *Key FINDINGS From “A Systematic Review of Primary Prevention Strategies for Sexual Violence Perpetration”*. Harrisburg, PA: National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Retrieved from http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_guide_key-findings-systematic-review-primary-prevention-strategies.pdf.

Nation, M., Crusto, C., Wandersman, A., Kumpfer, K. L., Seybolt, D., Morrissey-Kane, E., & Davino, K. (2003). What Works in Prevention: Principles of Effective Prevention Programs [Electronic version]. *American Psychologist*, 58(6/7), 449-456.

The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), a separate organization, also has policies regarding athlete safety. Any questions regarding the USOC's policies should be addressed to the USOC.

REQUIREMENTS

4. Who is required to take the training?

Training is required to be completed by certain adults; and, subject to parental consent, is required to be offered and given to minor athlete members. The policy details the specific adults who are required to take the Center's training. Other individuals who are not required to take the Center's training are nonetheless encouraged to take the Center's training because they, at a minimum, need to comply with federal law and complete training concerning child abuse prevention. Reference Appendix A: Training Access Requirements.

5. Does an NGB have to use the Center's policies for limiting one-on-one interactions?

Yes. NGBs are required to implement the following athlete prevention policies: One-on-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions; Massages and rubdowns/athletic training modalities; Locker rooms and changing areas; Social media and electronic communications; Local travel; and Team travel.

If a NGB proposes a policy that varies from the model policies provided by the Center, such policies must be submitted to ngbservices@safesport.org for review and approval. Policies will be approved, approved with modification or denied by the Center. If the proposed policy is denied by the Center, the mandatory components of the model policy will continue to serve as the default unless and until the Center approves any future proposed policy.

6. Why are LAOs not required to follow the Center's policies on limiting one-on-one interactions?

Most LAOs will be considered Amateur Sports Organizations (ASO) under the federal law and may be subject to the federal legal requirement to limit one-on-one interactions between adult members who have regular contact with minor athletes. These groups are required under law to implement training and policies. However, for this edition of the policies, we want to ensure that NGBs could shape their policies in a way that works for their organization prior to requiring that all LAOs comply with a specific policy vs. having "a" policy. However, a NGB can require all LAOs to follow the Center's policies.

7. Do National Member Organizations (NMOs) have to complete the Core SafeSport Training Course or can they take another course?

At this time, NMOs are required to provide training to their members, consistent with federal legal requirements. However, under this policy it is not required that it be the Center's Core Training (however, the Center's Core Training does satisfy the federal legal requirements).

8. What if we want our policies to be stricter?

The U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies are set to be minimum requirements. NGBs that wish to create stricter rules (e.g., requiring that all adults complete training) are welcome to do so within their policies, as long as it meets the Center’s minimum requirements.

9. What if I want to add sport-specific language to the policies?

Organizations can add sport-specific language to the policies, as long as it still meets the minimum requirements. For example, one sport may add language defining “undress” within the locker rooms and changing areas policy to include languages such as, “If an Applicable Adult (e.g., a coach) must change in the locker area with his/her team, then the coach should always have a base layer of clothing on while changing.”

10. What if I am not sure if our policy complies prior to the Center’s Review?

Prior to submitting your policy, please consult with your legal counsel to determine whether or not certain aspects of your policy meet the minimum requirements.

11. How is a Covered Organization supposed to monitor compliance with limiting one-on-one interaction policies?

Each organization is responsible for determining appropriate monitoring practices. The Center’s compliance team will be responsible for creating implementation guidance in order to provide expectations for monitoring.

TRAINING ACCESS

12. Can we post the training link on our site?

Yes, you can post the link to the training on your site, as long as the actual training is not publicly available on your site. You cannot make the private NGB-specific access code available to the public. For NGBs that use access codes, we advise that you put this access code in a members-only area on the NGB website, include it in your member newsletter, or send it out via email to those who need to complete the training.

IMPLEMENTATION

13. Will we receive guidance on implementing these policies?

Yes. The Center will provide training and distribute an implementation guide to NGBs to assist with policy implementation.

14. What does it mean to ‘offer’ training to minor athletes?

Federal law mandates that each NGB must *offer and give consistent training...subject to parental consent, to members who are minors*. The Center is currently developing **age-appropriate** training for minor athletes that can be given to minor athletes if parental/legal guardian consent is obtained in advance. Minor athlete training will be available and distributed for pre-school age athletes through high school age athletes.

15. Do you have templates of parental consent and waivers?

The Center does not have sample parental consent or waivers. It is advised that you work with your legal counsel to ensure that your organization has proper documentation.

16. What responsibility do covered organizations have in keeping written parental consent?

Covered Organizations and Applicable Adults should maintain records of written parental consent when appropriate. The Covered Organization and Applicable Adults should discuss appropriate forms of written consent (including text or email consent in writing) as well as record retention with legal counsel.

17. What is the definition of ‘regular’?

This language comes directly from the federal law. However, the federal law does not provide a definition of regular and neither will the Center. Please consult with legal counsel to determine how your organization defines regular contact.

18. What if I still have questions after reading this FAQ?

Please contact ngbservices@safesport.org to discuss your questions.