



## AT-A-GLANCE

### 2025 MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES



In 2024, The U.S. Center for SafeSport (Center) released updated requirements to the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) with mandatory components that the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and National Governing Bodies (NGB) were required to adopt. NGBs and the USOPC must implement these policies as well as require all Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO) (e.g., member clubs, regional associations, state associations) to implement. NGBs, LAOs, and USOPC are collectively referred to as Organizations.

This resource highlights the mandatory minimum requirements that each of these Organizations must adopt, and all Adult Participants must follow. Each Organization can choose to implement stricter requirements for their sport, and many have done so. It is the responsibility of the Organizations to communicate all policy requirements to their Adult Participants.

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The policy in its entirety can be found at the following link:

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# REPORTING MISCONDUCT

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Each Organization must have a policy for reporting alleged violations of sexual, emotional, and physical abuse and misconduct as well as violations of its MAAPP. Every Adult Participant is a Mandatory Reporter and must immediately report any potential violations of sexual, emotional, and physical misconduct and violations of the MAAPP to the appropriate parties. Please use the guidelines below to report suspected abuse or misconduct.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND ABUSE

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Any reports of potential sexual misconduct must immediately be reported to the Center. Reports can be made by visiting the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Report Form](#) or by calling 833-5US-SAFE (587-7233).

Additionally, any reports involving child abuse, including child sexual abuse, must also be reported to law enforcement as well as any other agencies as required by state and federal laws.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL MISCONDUCT AND ABUSE

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Any reports of potential violations of physical and emotional misconduct and abuse must be immediately reported to your Organization. Reports can be made at:

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF THE MAAPP

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Any reports of potential violations of the MAAPP must be immediately reported to your Organization.

Reports can be made at:



# IMPORTANT TERMS

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

- a. A member or license holder of an NGB, LAO, or USOPC;
- b. An employee or board member of an NGB, LAO, or USOPC;
- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of an NGB, LAO, or USOPC;
- d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by an NGB, LAO, or USOPC to have Regular Contact with or Authority over minor athletes.

**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.

**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 an NGB, LAO, or USOPC.

**Observable & Interruptible:** The interaction must be easily seen and easily stopped if necessary by another person (adult or minor).

**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. Each Organization can further define this meaning.

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

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Any Adult Participant who has Regular Contact with or Authority over a minor athlete, or is an employee or board member of an NGB, LAO, or USOPC must complete the SafeSport® Trained Core and subsequent refreshers.

Training must occur before Regular Contact with a minor athlete begins and within the first 45 days of initial membership or a role subjecting the adult to this policy, **whichever comes first**.

Training must occur **every 12 months** to maintain compliance.

# REQUIRED PREVENTION POLICIES

The Required Prevention Policies must be followed by all Adult Participants during all In-Program Contact regardless of if that Adult Participant has Regular Contact with or Authority over minor athletes.

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



The table below depicts some common activities that could be related to participation in sport. Each Organization may have additional activities not included below:

TEAM ACTIVITIES	EVENT TRAVEL	OTHER IN-PROGRAM CONTACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Practice</li> <li>• Fundraisers</li> <li>• Tournaments and games</li> <li>• Film review and strategy meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel to and from events, tournaments, and other activities</li> <li>• Lodging, hotel stays</li> <li>• Pre-event participant meetings</li> <li>• Check-in and registration</li> <li>• Team meals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrations and awards</li> <li>• Pre-event parties and gatherings organized by event hosts</li> <li>• Team photo shoots</li> <li>• Volunteer and community service</li> <li>• Camps</li> <li>• Clinics</li> </ul>

## EXCEPTIONS TO THE REQUIRED PREVENTION POLICIES:

The following exceptions apply **only** to the Required Prevention Policies and **not** Education and Training Requirements and apply to all Required Prevention Policies unless noted otherwise.

### 1 | EMERGENCY

This exception exists for situations where an Adult Participant cannot meet the Required Prevention Policies due to an emergency. Adult Participants must carefully consider whether specific circumstances meet the threshold of “emergency.” Adult Participants should document emergencies in accordance with their Organization’s protocols and requirements.

### 2 | CLOSE-IN-AGE EXCEPTION

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if the Adult Participant has no authority over the Minor Athlete; and the Adult Participant is no more than four years older than the Minor Athlete. The four years should be determined by date of birth.

### 3 | DUAL RELATIONSHIP

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact when the Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete that is outside of the sport program. The exception requires written consent from the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian at least annually. The consent must identify for which Required Prevention Policies the parent/guardian is allowing the one-on-one In-Program Contact.

### 4 | PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT EXCEPTION

This exception exists for Adult Participants who 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:

- a. the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Organization; and
- b. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
- c. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Organization’s screening policy.



## **POLICY: MEETINGS**

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- All In-Program meetings must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.
- Meetings with a licensed mental health care professional and health care provider, or a student under the supervision of a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider, at a sanctioned event or a facility which is partially or fully under the Organization's jurisdiction must be observable and interruptible unless the following requirements are met:
  - » Door remains unlocked; and
  - » Another adult is present at the facility and notified the meeting is occurring. Minor Athlete identity does not need to be disclosed; and
  - » Organization is notified of the meeting; and
  - » Provider obtains consent as required by law and ethical standards.

## **POLICY: INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SESSIONS**

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- All In-Program individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.
- Written consent must be obtained by the Adult Participant or Organization before any individual training session and then collected annually, this consent can be withdrawn at any time.
- Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe.

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

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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 stimulations, etc.

- All In-Program manual, therapeutic, and recovery modalities must be observable and interruptible. Only the emergency exception applies within this policy.
- Adult Participants providing the manual, therapeutic, and recovery modalities must meet the following requirements:
  - » Have another Adult Participant physically present for the modality or manual therapy; and
  - » Documented consent is obtained at least annually from parents/legal guardians to the providers or the Organization, when applicable. This consent can be withdrawn at any time; and
  - » Manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities must be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, and groin or genitals are always covered; and

- » Adult Participants must narrate the steps in the modality or manual therapy modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process; and
- » Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer unless competition or training venues limit credentialing

## **POLICY: LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS**

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- All In-Program Contact within a locker room, changing areas, or similar space must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.
- No use of photographic or recording capabilities of any device is permitted.
- Adult Participants must not remove their clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breast, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.
- Adult Participants cannot shower with Minor Athletes unless they meet the Close-in-Age exception or the shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete not change or shower with Adult Participants and that request must be abided by.
- Organizations may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:
  - » Parent/guardian consent is obtained; and
  - » Organization approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
  - » Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
  - » Everyone is fully clothed.
- Organizations must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes to change or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under the Organization's jurisdiction.
- Organizations must monitor the use of the locker rooms, changing areas, and similar sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under the Organization's jurisdiction.

## **POLICY: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

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Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: email, phone calls, video conferencing, video coaching, texting, social media, or through any other electronic medium.

- All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be open and transparent unless an exception exists.
- Adult Participants must copy the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member, or another Adult Participant to make communication open and transparent.

- » If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow the policy when responding.
- Only platforms that allow for open and transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.
- When communicating with a team, Adult Participants must copy or include the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians, another adult family member of the Minor Athletes, or another Adult Participant.
- All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant must be professional in nature unless an exception exists.
- Parents/guardians may request in writing that an Organization or an Adult Participant not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. This request must be followed, absent emergency circumstances.

## **POLICY: TRANSPORTATION**

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- All In-Program Contact during transportation must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists, or the Adult Participant has advance written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian. This consent can be withdrawn at any time.
- In-Program transportation requirements are met if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors who are 8 years of age or older.
- Written parent/guardian consent is required annually for all transportation authorized or funded by an NGB, LAO, or USOPC. This consent can be withdrawn at any time.

## **POLICY: LODGING**

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- Lodging arrangements covered under this policy include, but are not limited to, hotel stays, rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.), and long-term residential environments, including lodging at training sites and billeting.
- All In-Program Contact during lodging must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.
- Adult Participants cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete, unless an exception exists, **and** advance written consent is provided to the Organization or Adult Participant for each **specific** lodging arrangement.
- Written consent must be obtained annually by the Organization or the Adult Participant for all In-Program lodging. This consent can be withdrawn at any time.
- Two Adult Participants must be present for any room checks.
- Adult Participants, not including athletes that meet the Close-in-Age exception, traveling overnight with Minor Athletes are assumed to have Authority and must comply with the Center's Education and Training Policy.