

# MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES FOR USA DIVING

## INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) and USA Diving are committed to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct.

### **Authority: prevention training and policies**

Federal law authorizes the Center to address the risk of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. *See Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017.*

#### Prevention Training

Federal law authorizes the Center to develop training to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete. At a minimum, national governing bodies and paralympic sports organizations *must offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse to: (1) adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors and (2) subject to parental consent, to members who are minors.*

#### Prevention Policies

Federal law also authorizes the Center to develop policies and procedures for implementation by national governing bodies or paralympic sports organizations to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete. As a part of these policies and procedures, national governing bodies and paralympic sports organizations *must implement reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body or paralympic sports organization without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult, except under emergency circumstances.*

### **Application and implementation**

The policies and procedures set forth herein are promulgated by USA Diving in compliance with the Center's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies and federal law.

## TERMINOLOGY

**Covered Organizations:** The U.S. Olympic Committee and a national governing body.

**Jurisdiction:** Authority or control.

**Local Affiliated Organization (LAO):** A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with a NGB or that is affiliated with a NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of a NGB. A LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of a NGB.

**Minor, child or minor athlete:** An amateur athlete under 18 years of age.

**National Governing Body (NGB):** An amateur sports organization affiliated with a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games, which is also recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501-220529. This definition shall also apply to the USOC, or other sports entity approved by the USOC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management and/or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

**National Member Organization:** A national organization that is directly affiliated with an NGB, over which the NGB has jurisdiction (without respect to whether the NGB has disciplinary authority over individual members of that national organization), and is: (a) an Amateur Sports Organization requesting sanction from a NGB; or (b) an Applicable Amateur Sports Organization under the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017.

## PART I

### USA DIVING EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

The first step in addressing abuse of minor athletes is to ensure awareness of what abuse is, how it's likely to occur, signs it is occurring, prevention, etc. Per the requirements of the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, the U.S. Center for SafeSport has established the following requirements.

#### A. Adults Required to Complete Mandatory Training

The following adults at a Covered Organization, National Member Organization, and Local Affiliated Organization shall complete training concerning child abuse prevention:

- Adult members at a Covered Organization, National Member Organization, or a Local Affiliated Organization who have regular contact with amateur divers who are minors
- An adult authorized by a Covered Organization, National Member Organization, or a Local Affiliated Organization to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur diver who is a minor
- Adult staff and board members of a Covered Organization, National Member Organization, or a Local Affiliated Organization (with the exception of NMOs and LAOs whose adult staff and board members have no contact with or authority over minor divers).

To satisfy the training obligations, USA Diving Members/"Applicable Adults" shall adhere to parts A.1, A.2, and B, below, of this Education & Training Policy.

The Center's "Core Center for SafeSport Training" provides the required child abuse prevention training mandated by federal law.

#### 1. Core Center for SafeSport Training

The above listed adults are required to complete training concerning child abuse prevention. No later than March 23, 2019, the above listed adults within USA Diving who are not currently in good standing due to failure to complete required training must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training (i.e., the Center's online training or the Center's approved in-person training; USA Diving access to the Center's Core training is detailed in Appendix A):

- Before regular contact with an amateur diver who is a minor begins; or
- Within the first 45 days of initial membership, or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy.

Training other than the Core Center for SafeSport Training does not satisfy this policy, though USA Diving may provide training in addition to the Core Center for SafeSport Training.

#### 2. Refresher Course(s)

A refresher course is required on an annual basis (e.g., membership year or another annual cycle, as determined by USA Diving) effective the calendar year following the completion of the Core Center for SafeSport Training for each of the above listed adults (USA Diving access to the refresher course

is detailed in Appendix A). Policies, procedures and/or communications to said adults concerning refresher course requirements must be updated by September 1, 2019.

## **B. Minor Athletes**

USA Diving shall, subject to parental consent, annually offer and give training to members who are minors regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse. USA Diving shall track:

- A description of the training(s);
- The date the training(s) was offered and given; and
- A description of how the training(s) was offered and given.

## **C. Exemptions**

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, [ngbservices@safesport.org](mailto:ngbservices@safesport.org), or to USA Diving at [CONTACT INFORMATION]..

The Center will work with USA Diving regarding appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities to satisfy the training requirements herein.

## **D. [additional measures USA Diving may way to implement per SafeSport best practices “Education and Training Guidelines” one-pager]:**

- Require adult members to complete refresher courses before membership can be renewed. This can help ensure the annual refresher course requirement is being met in a timely fashion.
- Contact 17-year-old athletes when they renew or begin a new membership cycle and have them complete the Core training with legal guardian consent no later than their 18th birthday.
- Perform random audits to check for compliance with training requirements.
- For NGBs with smaller, local organizations, have both the NGB and local organization track training to help ensure any noncompliance is identified earlier, and addressed by the organization, prior to an audit by the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
- Send emails on a regular basis (at minimum, once a year) to minor athletes and/or their legal guardians regarding minor athlete training and track the communication. The U.S. Center for SafeSport developed age appropriate minor athlete training which is available at [athletesafety.org](http://athletesafety.org). USOC/NGBs can use this training to fulfill the minor athlete training requirements for NGBs but can also offer other training. USOC/NGBs are not required to track completion of training by minor athletes. NGBs should consult their respective legal counsels about the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act when providing such training.