

**United States Badminton**  
**Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy**

# TERMINOLOGY

**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 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](#).

**USBA:** United States Badminton Association

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## PART I EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

### A. Adults Required to Complete Mandatory Training

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

- Adult members at USAB, National Member Organization, or a Local Affiliated Organization who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors.
- An adult authorized by USAB, National Member Organization, or a Local Affiliated Organization to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor.
- Adult staff and board members of USAB, 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 athletes).
- All adult athletes under USAB membership who have regular contact with and/or authority over minor athletes, regardless of minor athletes' age.

#### 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 at USAB who are not currently in good standing with USAB 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). Training must be completed before regular contact with an amateur athlete 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.

#### 2. Refresher Course(s)

A refresher course is required on an annual basis effective the calendar year following the completion of the Core Center for SafeSport Training for each of the above listed adults. Refresher details can be found on the individual's USAB SimplyCompete profile under SafeSport Education. Click [HERE](#) to access SimplyCompete.

## **B. Minor Athletes**

USAB will, subject to parental consent, annually offer and give training to members who are minors regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse. USAB will 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.

For details on Parent and Minor Athlete SafeSport Resources, please visit [HERE](#).

## **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 Katherine Tor at [Katherine.Tor@usabadminton.org](mailto:Katherine.Tor@usabadminton.org).

USAB will work with individuals with disabilities to satisfy the training requirements herein.

## **D. USAB Adult Athletes**

All adult athletes under USAB who have regular contact with and/or authority over minor athletes are required to abide by the SafeSport policy and training requirements policies set forth regardless of the age of the minor athletes with whom they interact.

## **PART II**

### **POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS**

The majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations. By reducing such interactions between children and adults, programs reduce the risk of child sexual abuse. However, one-on-one time with trusted adults is also healthy and valuable for a child. Policies concerning one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships.

#### **ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS**

##### **a. Application (Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy.)**

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under USAB jurisdiction;
- 2) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 3) Any adult authorized by USAB to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 4) Adult staff and board members of USAB.

##### **b. Observable and interruptible**

- One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under USAB jurisdiction are permitted if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult.
- One-on-one interactions between minor athletes and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under USAB jurisdiction are prohibited, except in the circumstances described in subpart d of this section and under emergency circumstances.

##### **c. Meetings**

- Meetings between Applicable Adults and minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under USAB jurisdiction may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult.

- If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office at a facility partially or fully under USAB jurisdiction, the door to the office must remain unlocked and open. If available, it will occur in an office that has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.

**d. Meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers:**

If a mental health care professional and/or health care provider meets with minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under USAB jurisdiction, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy provided that:

- (1) the door remains unlocked;
- (2) another adult is present at the facility;
- (3) the other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring; and
- (4) written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance by the mental health care professional and/or health care provider, with a copy provided to USAB.

**e. Individual training sessions:**

Individual training sessions between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted at a facility partially or fully under USAB jurisdiction if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. It is the responsibility of the Applicable Adult to obtain the written permission of the minor's legal guardian in advance of the individual training session if the individual training session is not observable and interruptible by another adult. Permission for individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.

## **MASSAGES AND RUBDOWNS/ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES**

### **a. Application (Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy.)**

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under USAB jurisdiction;
- 2) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 3) Any adult authorized by USAB to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 4) Adult staff and board members of USAB.

### **b. Massage or rubdown/athletic training modality**

Any massage or rubdown/athletic training modality performed at a facility or a training or competition venue must be conducted in an open and interruptible location. Any massage of a minor athlete must be done with at least one other adult present and must never be done with only the minor athlete and the person performing the massage or rubdown/athletic training modality in the room.

## **LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS**

### **a. Application (Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy.)**

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under USAB jurisdiction;
- 2) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 3) Any adult authorized by USAB to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 4) Adult staff and board members of USAB.

### **b. Non-exclusive facility**

If USAB organization uses a facility not fully under USAB jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple



constituents, Applicable Adults in categories 1 through 4 are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth herein.

**c. Use of recording devices**

Use of any device's (including a cell phone's) recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras in locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a facility under USAB's jurisdiction is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by USAB or the LAO and two or more Applicable Adults are present.

**d. Undress**

Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Applicable Adult at a facility under USAB's jurisdiction intentionally expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.

**e. One-on-one interactions**

- Except for athletes on the same team, at no time are unrelated Applicable Adults permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area when at a facility under USAB's partial or full jurisdiction, except under emergency circumstances.
- If USAB is using a facility that only has a single locker room or changing area, we will designate separate times for use by Applicable Adults, if any.

**f. Monitoring**

USAB regularly and randomly monitors the use of locker rooms and changing areas at facilities under USAB jurisdiction to ensure compliance with these policies.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

### **a. Application (Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy.)**

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 2) Any adult authorized by USAB to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 3) Adult staff and board members at USAB.

### **b. Content**

All electronic communication originating from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

### **c. Open and transparent**

- Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), another Applicable Adult or the minor’s legal guardian will be copied.
- If a minor athlete communicates to the Applicable Adult (with authority over the minor athlete) privately first, said Applicable Adult should respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another Applicable Adult or the minor’s legal guardian.
- When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to the entire team, said Applicable Adult will copy another adult.
- Minor athletes may “friend” the organization’s official page.

### **d. Requests to discontinue**

Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by USAB or by the Applicable Adults subject to this policy. USAB will abide by any such request that their minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

## LOCAL TRAVEL

Local travel consists of travel to training, practice, and competition that occurs locally and does not include coordinated overnight stay(s).

### a. **Application** (Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy).

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 2) Any adult authorized by USAB to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 3) Adult staff and board members at USAB.

### b. **Transportation**

Applicable Adults who are not also acting as a legal guardian, shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and must have at least two minor athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor athlete’s parent/legal guardian in advance of each local travel.

## TEAM TRAVEL

Team travel is travel to a competition or other team activity that USAB plans and supervises. Team travel may include travel to training, practice, and competition that occurs locally or internationally and can include overnight stay(s).

### a. **Application** (Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy).

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 2) Any adult authorized by USAB to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 3) Adult staff and board members at USAB.

**b. Team/competition travel**

When only one Applicable Adult and one minor athlete travel to a competition, the minor athlete must have his/her legal guardian's written permission in advance and for each competition to travel alone with said Applicable Adult.

**c. Hotel rooms**

Applicable Adults shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor athlete (unless the Applicable Adult is the legal guardian, sibling, or is otherwise related to the minor athlete). However, a parent/legal guardian may consent to such an arrangement in advance and in writing. Furthermore, a parent/legal guardian may consent in advance and in writing to the minor athlete sharing a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an adult athlete.

**d. Meetings**

Meetings shall be conducted consistent with the organization's policy for one-on-one interactions (i.e., any such meeting shall be observable and interruptible).