



In January 2014, under the guidance and mandate of the United States Olympic Committee, USA Table Tennis (USATT) implemented a new SafeSport program for the purpose of ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for our entire community. More information about USATT's SafeSport policy, procedures, and enforcement can be found here: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Table-Tennis/USATT/SafeSport>

We are implementing a policy of background checks and Safe Sport training for all in leadership nationally, at the club and tournament level, for all USATT coaches, and for those who interact with minors at sanctioned events. After meeting earlier this month with our insurance carrier, we have been informed that we must now take a more active approach in ensuring the standard of care outlined in our SafeSport Policy by enforcing the requirements of the program. While certainly the continued insurance coverage to our organization and our clubs was an impetus to this letter, simply put *this is the right thing to do* and the time is now.

With the approval of USATT's Board of Directors, we are implementing the following policy effectively immediately:

- (1) USATT Committee Members: On or before April 30, 2017 all USATT Standing Committee Members and Advisory Committee Members must pass a background check and the USOC's online SafeSport tutorial. Failure to comply will result in immediate removal from participation in committee and USATT activities.
- (2) Tournament Directors, event Organizers, Referees, Umpires, and Officials: On or before May 30, 2017, all Referees, Umpires, Coaches, Tournament Directors, and event Organizers, must pass a background check and the USOC's online SafeSport tutorial. Failure to comply will result in immediate termination of the right to organize, host, officiate, or otherwise participate in a USATT sanctioned tournament.
- (3) Club Owners and Coaches working in USATT Affiliated Clubs: On or before June 30, 2017 all club owners and coaches working within USATT Affiliated Clubs must pass a background check and the USOC's online SafeSport tutorial. Coaches not in compliance may not work or participate in Affiliated Club activities until such time as the background check and SafeSport training are complete. Failure to comply will result in immediate termination of the Club's Affiliation and all associated benefits and privileges (including insurance coverage).
- (4) On or before June 30, 2017 anyone else who has access to minors within USATT sanctioned competition or club activity must pass a background check and the USOC's online SafeSport tutorial.



Volunteers who have incidental contact with athletes are encouraged, but not required, to pass a background check and the SafeSport training.

In order to better facilitate compliance with our existing SafeSport policy, USATT has created a “Contributor” membership which is intended specifically for those required to be in compliance with the SafeSport mandate who are not currently USATT members. The \$45 annual fee includes a bi-annual background check and access to the SafeSport Online Training class from the USOC (and refresher courses). Please note that background checks valid for two (2) years.

Current USATT members that fall into one of the categories above will have a background check included in their annual membership, including access to the online SafeSport training.

Over the course of the next month, we will be communicating specific instructions for membership registration, background check registration, and access to SafeSport tutorials. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me ([Gordon.Kaye@usatt.org](mailto:Gordon.Kaye@usatt.org) or 267-216-7903) if you have any questions.