



ATHLETE SAFETY POLICY HANDBOOK

Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

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I. Introduction: US Sailing Athlete Safety Handbook

US Sailing is committed to providing a healthy and positive environment free from abuse for all our members and the sailing community in the United States. US Sailing's Athlete Safety program is a partnership with the U.S. Center for SafeSport (hereinafter referred to as the U.S. Center for SafeSport or "the Center") and incorporates the Center's comprehensive program of abuse prevention, including participant training and education, required prevention policies and best practice guidelines, and mandatory reporting requirements for adults. These measures are informed by experts in the field of child safety and are among the strongest safeguards found in youth-serving organizations.

What is the U.S. Center for SafeSport?

Established in 2017, the Center is the independent and exclusive authority directed by Congress to prevent and respond to all forms of abuse and misconduct within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. The Center is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization headquartered in Denver, Colorado.

The Center receives, investigates, and responds to reports of abuse and misconduct from individuals affiliated with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and its National Governing Bodies (NGBs). The Center ensures that the USOPC and NGBs properly apply policies and procedures to govern abuse prevention and maintains a database of individuals sanctioned from participation in their sport.

Throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, the Center trains athletes, parents, coaches, volunteers, and organizations at all levels on best practices and principles for preventing abuse in sport settings. In doing so, the Center advances its mission of making athlete well-being the center of our nation's sports culture through abuse prevention, education, and accountability.

What is the SafeSport Code?

The [SafeSport Code](#) ("The Code") establishes consistent standards of response and resolution to abuse and misconduct claims across the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. The USOPC, NGBs, and LAOs must comply, in all respects, with these policies and procedures as defined by the Code. All participants of these organizations are responsible for adhering to and

understanding the Code.

What is the MAAPP?

The Center's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies ("MAAPP") is a collection of proactive prevention and training policies for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. It has four primary components:

1. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training and Prevention Policies;
2. An Education & Training Policy that requires training for certain Adult Participants within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement;
3. Required Prevention Policies, focused on limiting one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes that Organizations within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement must implement to prevent abuse;
4. Recommended Prevention Policies.

The Center developed the MAAPP to assist National Governing Bodies, Local Affiliated Organizations, the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and other individuals to whom these policies apply in meeting their obligations under federal law.

Reporting Abuse and Misconduct.

The Center accepts all reports of sexual abuse and child abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. [Report here](#) if you have reasonable suspicion of sexual misconduct or harassment, child abuse (including child sexual abuse), or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power.

The Center may also accept reports of emotional and physical misconduct (including but not limited to bullying, hazing, stalking, and harassment) within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. Reports of emotional and physical misconduct can also be reported directly to your sport's national governing body (NGB).

Please review Section VIII of this Handbook closely for further direction on reporting known or suspected abuse and misconduct.

US Sailing Athlete Safety Guiding Principles

1. US Sailing believes in an environment free from misconduct and abuse.
2. US Sailing believes that all members share a collective responsibility to protect our sailors.
3. US Sailing provides SafeSport training for all members and Adult Participants to increase awareness and understanding of abuse prevention best practices.
4. US Sailing implements the Center's MAAPP and procedures to prevent misconduct and abuse in our sport.
5. US Sailing provides a process for members to recognize, respond to and report any

SafeSport issues that arise.

6. US Sailing will treat all allegations of abuse or concerns regarding athlete safety seriously and will respond as prescribed by US Sailing policies, Bylaws and Regulations, and standards and requirements of the Center.

II. Terminology

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

- a. A member or license holder of US Sailing or a LAO;
- b. An employee or board member of US Sailing or a LAO;
- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of US Sailing or a LAO;
- d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by US Sailing or a LAO to have regular contact with or authority over amateur athletes who are minors.¹

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant: An Adult Participant who assists a parasport athlete requiring help with activities of daily living (ADL) and preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication administration, and toileting. Personal Care Assistants are different for every athlete and should be individualized to fit their specific needs. When assisting a Minor Athlete, Adult Participant PCAs must be authorized by the athlete's parent/guardian.

Amateur Athlete: An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by the National Governing Body or paralympic sports organization for the sport in which the athlete competes.

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. Also see the [Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code](#). *NOTE: US Sailing has provided a complete list of individuals in the sailing community who have "Regular Contact" and/or "Authority" over Minor Athletes. Please see US Sailing's "Regular Contact" and "Authority" chart under Section III(F).*

The Center: The U.S. Center for SafeSport, the independent national organization authorized by the United States Congress with exclusive oversight of abuse prevention and investigation within the Olympic sport movement in the United States.

Close-in-Age Exception: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does not have authority over a Minor Athlete *and* is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., a 19-year-old and a 16-year-old). Note: this exception *only* applies within the prevention policies and *not* regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.

¹ This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

Dual Relationships: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete outside of the sport program and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent at least annually authorizing the exception.

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

Examples of In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

LAO (“Local Affiliated Organization”): A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with US Sailing or that is affiliated with US Sailing by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of US Sailing. US Sailing's LAOs are its Accredited Community Sailing Centers.

MAAPP: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

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, US Sailing or a LAO.

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by US Sailing or a LAO, or any facility that US Sailing or a LAO owns, leases, or rents for practice, training or competition.

National Governing Body (NGB): A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body, Pan American Sport Organization, or Paralympic Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

Permanent Ineligibility: Permanent Ineligibility, or Ineligibility, is a restriction prohibiting participation, in any capacity, in any event, program, activity, or competition authorized by, organized by, or under the auspices of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (“the USOPC”), NGBs recognized by the USOPC, Local Affiliated Organizations as defined by the Code, or at a facility under the Jurisdiction of the same. An Ineligibility sanction includes the removal of a US Sailing membership.

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 athletes who are minors. *NOTE: US Sailing has provided a list of categories of Adult Participants in the sailing community who have*

“Regular Contact” and/or “Authority” over Minor Athletes. Please see US Sailing’s “Regular Contact” and “Authority” chart under Section III(F).

Residential Environment: A place in which participants live or stay temporarily. Residential environments include, but are not limited to, onsite housing at training facilities, billeting, hotel stays, or rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.).

Billeting: A residential environment facilitated by an Adult Participant, US Sailing, a LAO, the USOPC, or sanctioned event staff in which a Minor Athlete is temporarily housed in a private home with an adult or family who is not related to or known by the Minor Athlete. This lodging arrangement is in conjunction with an activity related to sport.

SafeSport Trained Core Course (“SafeSport Trained Core”): The Center’s comprehensive abuse prevention training course. The SafeSport Trained Core is available free of charge for all Adult Participants under the MAAPP.

Suspension: A suspended Participant may not, in any capacity, participate in any program, activity, Event, or competition sponsored by, organized by, or under the auspices of the USOPC, any NGB, or any Local Affiliated Organization, or at a facility under the Jurisdiction of the same, for a specified period of time. A Suspension sanction also includes the suspension of a US Sailing membership for a specified period of time.

U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC): A federally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States.

III. Education and Training Policy

A. Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult Participants

1. Adult Participants Required to Complete Training

- a. The following Adult Participants must complete the *SafeSport Trained Core* through the Center’s online training:
 - i. Adult Participants who have **regular contact** with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor (see table under subsection F);
 - ii. Adult Participants who have **authority** over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor (see table under subsection F);
 - iii. Adult Participants who are an employee or board member of US Sailing or a LAO.
- b. Adult Participants who are medical providers required to take training under Section (a) can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport Trained Core* Course.

PLEASE SEE SUBSECTION F BELOW FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE SAFESPORT TRAINED CORE.

2. Timing of Training. Adult Participants must complete this training before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins or within the first 45 days of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy, whichever comes first.
3. Refresher Training. The above listed Adult Participants must complete a refresher course every 12 months, beginning the calendar year after completing the *SafeSport Trained Core*. Every four years, Adult Participants will complete the *SafeSport Trained Core* training. Medical providers can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport Trained Core* and are required to take the refresher courses on an annual basis if they meet the criteria for A(1).

B. Minor Athlete Training Must Be Offered

1. US Sailing and LAOs, every 12 months, must offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers youth courses, located at safesporttrained.org that meet this requirement.

C. Parent Training Must Be Offered

1. US Sailing and LAOs, every 12 months, must offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers a parent course, located at safesporttrained.org, that meets this requirement.

D. Optional Training

1. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity, who will not have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes, should take the Center's brief Volunteer Course (or *SafeSport Trained Core*) before engaging or interacting with any Minor Athlete(s).
2. US Sailing and LAOs may provide training *in addition to* the *SafeSport Trained Core*, although they cannot refer to this training as "SafeSport" training. **Training other than the *SafeSport Trained Core* or Refresher does not satisfy this policy.**
3. Parents of Minor Athletes are provided free online access to the Center's parent course and are encouraged to take the training.

E. Exemptions and Accommodations

The Center's online training courses contain information about various forms of abuse. The courses do not include graphic descriptions of abuse or show violent images or video. The content may be uncomfortable or trigger trauma for some participants.

1. Exemptions to the online training requirement may be requested by survivors of abuse and misconduct. Survivors of abuse can request an exemption by contacting US Sailing's SafeSport Compliance Officer at compliance@ussailing.org or can choose to contact the Center directly to request an exemption at exemptions@safesport.org. All exemptions granted by the Center or US Sailing in this category are considered indefinite and do not need to be re-requested every year.
2. Exemptions to the online training requirement for reasons other than survivor of abuse and misconduct are limited to cognitive or physical disability or language barrier. Requests for these exemptions must be made by the individual to US Sailing. US Sailing will determine whether to grant the exemption. If US Sailing grants the exemption, it must track the exemption to ensure it is appropriately applied to the individual's membership status. US Sailing must preserve documentation that the exemption was granted and for what duration.
3. The Center has several options available to assist individuals in completing the online training courses, including screen reader-compatible versions and course availability in several languages, including English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Russian, German, and Japanese. If none of the available options will fit the individual's needs, US Sailing may determine whether to grant an exemption.

F. TO ASSIST LAOs IN IDENTIFYING ADULT PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE “REGULAR CONTACT” WITH OR “AUTHORITY” OVER MINOR ATHLETES, PLEASE REFER TO THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

Adult Participants	Regular Contact	Authority
US Sailing Staff, Interns, and Board of Directors		X
US Sailing Contract Coaches	X	X
US Sailing Certified Instructors, Coaches, and Sailing Counselors	X	X
US Sailing Certified Race Officials	X	X
Athletes - Olympic Games Team - Pan American Games Team - Youth Olympic Games Team - US Sailing Team - Youth Worlds Team - Olympic Development Program Team Members	X	
US Sailing Championship Committee Chairs		X
LAO Staff and Board Members		X
LAO Junior Sailing Committee Members	X	X
LAO Junior Regatta Event Chairs		X
LAO Sailing Program Directors	X	X
LAO Waterfront Directors	X	X
All LAO adult sailing instructors/coaches who would potentially instruct/coach minors	X	X
All Principal Race Officers and Judges for regattas with minor participants		X
Volunteer medical professionals at US Sailing or LAO events		X
Any members, staff, and volunteers that US Sailing or an LAO considers to have “regular contact” with or “authority” over minor sailors	X	X
Adult athletes (18 years of age or older) who have “regular contact” with or “authority” over minor athletes.	X	X

IV. Required Policies for One-On-One Interactions

The U.S. Center for SafeSport recognizes that youth-adult relationships can be healthy and valuable for development. Policies on one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships. As child sexual abuse is often perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations, it is critical that organizations limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be *observable and interruptible*, except in emergency circumstances or with a documented exception.

1. EXCEPTIONS

There are certain relationships and situations in which one-on-one interactions may be allowed or necessary. This section identifies policy exceptions for close-in-age relationships, Personal Care Assistants, dual relationships, and emergencies.

The following exceptions are applicable within all Required Prevention Policies unless otherwise noted.

A. Mandatory Components

1. A Close-in-Age Exception

The purpose of this exception is to allow for continued relationships among athletes on the same team.

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

- a. The Adult Participant has **no** authority over the Minor Athlete; and
- b. The Adult Participant is not more than 4 years older (determined by birth date) than the Minor Athlete.

Note: This exception is different than the close-in-age exception in the [SafeSport Code](#) pertaining to misconduct.

2. Exceptions for Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants Working with a Minor Athlete

This exception exists for Adult Participants who also 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:

- (i) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to US Sailing or an LAO (as applicable) for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
- (ii) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
- (iii) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with US Sailing's or an LAO's screening policy.

3. Exceptions for Dual Relationships

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 of 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. Emergency Exception

This exception applies to all Required Prevention Policies for situations where an Adult Participant must violate requirement(s) of the MAAPP due to an emergency. Adult Participants must carefully consider whether specific circumstances meet the threshold of "emergency." Adult Participants should document emergency situations in accordance with applicable US Sailing² or LAO protocols.

The Center recommends parents take training on child abuse prevention before providing consent to the above exceptions. The Center offers a free Parent Course at safesporttrained.org.

² An emergency may include dangerous or unexpected weather, injuries, unexpected events and last-minute changes, or threat to personal safety or reporting a concern.

Emergency Exceptions should be documented (e.g., Word document) and stored electronically. Documentation should include the following information (as relevant):

- Times, locations, and activities impacted by the emergency, and individual(s) involved
- Cause of emergency (e.g., weather, injury, etc.)
- What steps were taken to address the emergency
- Steps taken in an attempt to comply with relevant policies (where possible).
 - o For example: "narrated steps taken to Minor Athlete", "called Parent/Guardian", "kept Parent/Guardian on the phone"
- Outcome and steps taken following the emergency

2. MEETINGS

Sexual abuse often happens when children are alone with their abusers. This section provides policies for meetings to limit one-on-one interactions between children and adults, including mental health care professionals and licensed health care providers.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible. Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program meetings with Minor Athletes are observable and interruptible, unless an exception exists.
2. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers³)

If a licensed mental health care professional, licensed health care provider, or a student under the supervision of a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider, meets one-on-one with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event or a facility which is partially or fully under US Sailing's or an LAO's jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

- a. If the door remains unlocked; and
- b. Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete's identity needs not be disclosed; and
- c. US Sailing or an LAO (as applicable) is notified that the professional or provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and,
- d. The professional or provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

B. Recommended Components

Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to have a meeting or training session with an Adult Participant subject to these policies.

³ Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the “**Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities**” policy.

3. INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SESSIONS

Some abusers will single out athletes for special one-on-one instruction. This kind of isolation provides opportunities for abuse to occur. This section establishes rules for individual training sessions to protect youth athletes from uncomfortable or unsafe situations.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program individual training sessions with a Minor Athlete be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.

2. Consent

The Adult Participant providing the individual training session must receive advance, written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and

3. Parent Observation

Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session.

B. Recommended Components

1. Monitoring

If a permitted meeting or training session takes place between an Adult Participant(s) and a Minor Athlete(s) at a facility partially or fully under US Sailing's or an LAO's jurisdiction, another Adult Participant will monitor each meeting or training session. Monitoring includes reviewing the parent/guardian consent form, knowing that the meeting or training session is occurring, knowing the approximate planned duration of the meeting or training session, and dropping in on the meeting or training session.

2. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to have a meeting or training session with an Adult Participant subject to these policies.

4. MANUAL THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC AND RECOVERY MODALITIES⁴

Many athletes require therapies to prevent or treat injuries. However, these treatment sessions can place children in vulnerable positions, especially if they involve physical contact with adults. This section establishes standards for therapeutic and recovery modalities and manual therapy to reduce the risk of inappropriate contact between youth and adults.

A. Mandatory Components

Note: Only the emergency exception applies within this policy.

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during manual therapy and therapeutic modalities and recovery modalities with Minor Athletes must be observable and interruptible.

2. Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities Requirements

Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities meet the following requirements:

- a. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the modality or manual therapy; and
- b. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (3) below; and
- c. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
- d. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing; and
- e. The provider must narrate the steps in the modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.

3. Consent

- a. Providers of manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities for US Sailing or an LAO, when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.
- b. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Parent Training

⁴ 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 stimulation, or other modalities within the scope of a Healthcare Provider's credentials.

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to receive a manual therapy, therapeutic modality, or recovery modality.

2. When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.
3. Only licensed providers should administer manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.
4. Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, should not massage Minor Athletes.

5. LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

Young athletes may be especially vulnerable to abuse in changing areas where they are undressing and possibly showering. Appropriate monitoring is necessary in these areas to prevent abuse and other inappropriate conduct. This section outlines policies for locker rooms and changing areas to ensure privacy and safety.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is observable and interruptible, unless an exception exists.

2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing.
- b. Adult Participants must not remove their clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete in a locker room or changing area.
- c. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
 - i. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
 - ii. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- d. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. US Sailing, LAOs, and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.

3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms

US Sailing and LAOs may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:

- a. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
- b. US Sailing or an LAO approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
- c. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
- d. Everyone is fully clothed.

4. Personal Care Assistants

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they meet the requirements detailed on page 11.

5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. US Sailing and LAOs must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under US Sailing's or an LAO's jurisdiction.
- b. US Sailing and LAOs must monitor the use of locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under US Sailing's or an LAO's jurisdiction.

6. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS⁵

Technology has made it easier for teams to communicate and share information. Unfortunately, it also makes it easier for abusers to contact children without supervision or share inappropriate images and video. This section sets standards for appropriate electronic communications between youth and adults.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Open and Transparent

- a. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent, unless an exception exists.
- b. “Open and Transparent” means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant on every communication.
 - If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.
- c. Only platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.

2. Team Communication

When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include the Minor Athletes’ parents/guardians, another adult family member of the Minor Athletes, or another Adult Participant.

3. Content

All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s) must be professional in nature unless an exception exists.

4. Requests to Discontinue

Parents/guardians may request in writing that US Sailing, an LAO, or an Adult Participant not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. US Sailing and the LAO (as applicable) and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

B. Recommended Components

⁵ Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: email, phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, social media, or through any other electronic medium.

1. Hours

Electronic communications should generally be sent only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time for the location of the Minor Athlete.

2. Social Media Connections

Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age Exception, are not permitted to have private social media connections with Minor Athletes and should discontinue existing social media connections with Minor Athletes.

7. TRANSPORTATION

Athletes are often carpooling or traveling without the supervision of their parent/guardian to practices and competitions. This can place them in vulnerable positions where they are susceptible to abuse. This section establishes policies for adults transporting children to or from sport activities.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during transportation is observable and interruptible unless an exception exists or:

- a. The Adult Participant has advanced, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one, obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
- b. The Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors who are at least 8 years of age.

2. Additional Requirements for Transportation Authorized or Funded by US Sailing or an LAO

- a. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation authorized or funded by US Sailing or an LAO at least annually.
- b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

US Sailing and LAOs encourage parents/guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

2. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to travel one-on-one with an Adult Participant.

8. LODGING AND RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS

Youth athletes traveling overnight face greater risk of sexual abuse if they are traveling without their parent/guardian. Abusers can take advantage of the situation by trying to have unsupervised time alone with children. This section sets rules for sleeping arrangements and room monitoring to protect athletes during overnight travel.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

All In-Program Contact during lodging must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists. 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.

2. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

- a. An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), unless an exception exists **and** the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided US Sailing or an LAO, and the Adult Participant, with advance, written consent for each specific lodging arrangement.
- b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually.
- c. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

3. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If US Sailing or an LAO performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

4. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by US Sailing and LAOs

Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Education and Training policy outlined in Part II, unless the Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age exception.

B. Recommended Components

Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for lodging arrangements under this policy.

9. Categories of Individuals Who Are Subject to the Required Prevention Policies.

- a. US Sailing and LAO staff, contractors, and interns
 - b. US Sailing and LAO board members
 - c. US Sailing and LAO coaches and instructors
 - d. Race officials and race committee members
 - e. Adult athletes competing or training at a US Sailing or LAO event
 - f. US Sailing and LAO volunteers
 - g. US Sailing and LAO vendors
-

V. Organizational Requirements for Education and Training and Prevention Policies

US SAILING MUST IMPLEMENT PROACTIVE POLICIES DESIGNED TO PREVENT ABUSE. THESE ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS ARE DESCRIBED BELOW

All NGBs, LAOs, and the USOPC (the “Organization”) must implement proactive policies designed to prevent abuse. These organizational requirements are described below.

A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training

1. US Sailing and the USOPC must track whether Adult Participants under its jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Section III.
2. The Organization must, every 12 months, offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 - a. For training to Minor Athletes, the Organization must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to Minor Athletes.
 - b. The Organization is not required to track individual course completions of Minor Athletes.
3. US Sailing and LAOs must, every 12 months, offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.

B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation

1. US Sailing and the USOPC must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies to limit one on-one interactions between a Minor Athlete and an Adult Participant. These policies must contain the mandatory components of the Center’s model policies in Part III. These model policies cover:
 - a. Meetings
 - b. Individual training sessions
 - c. Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities and Manual Therapy
 - d. Locker rooms and changing areas
 - e. Electronic communications
 - f. Transportation
 - g. Lodging and Residential Environments
2. The policies must be approved by the Center as described in subsection (C) below. The policies may include the recommended components in Part III and the recommended

policies in Part IV. Given the uniqueness of each sport, however, some recommended components or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. Such concerns should be addressed with the Center during the Policy Approval and Submission Process discussed below. NGBs and the USOPC may choose to implement stricter standards than the model policies.

3. US Sailing and the USOPC must also require that its LAOs implement these policies within each LAO.
4. The Organization must implement these policies for all In-Program Contact.
 - a. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under its jurisdiction, US Sailing and LAOs must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
 - b. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside US Sailing or a LAO's sanctioned event or facilities, implementing these policies means:
 - a. Communicating the policies to individuals under its jurisdiction;
 - b. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies;
 - c. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.
5. The Organization must have a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating the Organization's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies. The Organization must appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report. This requirement is in addition to requirements to report abuse under the SafeSport Code.

C. Policy Approval and Submission Process

1. US Sailing and the USOPC may adopt the mandatory minimum requirements of the MAAPP as-is or adapt it to fit their needs. Regardless, each organization must submit their policies to the Center at compliance@safesport.org for review and approval by April 1, 2024. The Center will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the policies. If the Center denies the proposed policy, the mandatory components of Part III of the Center's Model MAAPP become the default policy until the Center approves the policy.
2. US Sailing must require its LAOs to incorporate the mandatory components of Section IV. US Sailing may require its LAOs implement US Sailing policies, which may be more stringent than the policies in Section IV.
3. The mandatory components of Section IV will serve as the default policy for any LAO that fails to develop its own policy as required by this section.

VI. Recommended Policies for Keeping Young Athletes Safe

A. Out-of-Program Contact

Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not have out-of-program contact with Minor Athlete(s) without legal/parent guardian consent, even if the out-of-program contact is not one-on-one.

B. Gifting

1. Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not give personal gifts to Minor Athlete(s).
2. Gifts that are equally distributed to all athletes and serve a motivational or education purpose are permitted.

C. Photography/Video

1. Photographs or videos of athletes may only be taken in public view and must observe generally accepted standards of decency.
2. Adult Participants should not publicly share or post photos or videos of Minor Athlete(s) if the Adult Participant has not obtained the Parent/Guardian and Minor Athlete's consent.

VII. Accessing and Completing Abuse Prevention Training

A. How to Create a SafeSport Training Account.

1. All US Sailing members and Participants can access the U.S. Center for SafeSport's abuse prevention training courses through the link provided on [US Sailing's Athlete Safety homepage](#). The SafeSport Training courses are free to all US Sailing members and Participants.
2. US Sailing members and Participants who have not previously created an account must click the "**New User Registration**" link to set up a new SafeSport Training account. Please review all registration instructions closely before clicking the link.
3. US Sailing members and Participants who already have a SafeSport account can access their account login page by clicking the "**Existing User Login**" link. Please review all instructions closely before clicking the link.

B. What SafeSport Training Courses Must I Complete?

1. The mandatory SafeSport training courses include the following four courses:
 - a. **SafeSport Trained – NGB1**
 - b. **Refresher 1: Recognizing and Reporting Misconduct – NGB1**
 - c. **Refresher 2: Preventing Misconduct – NGB1**
 - d. **Refresher 3: Creating a Positive Sport Environment – NGB1**
2. Users are required to complete one SafeSport training course per year. Maintaining up to date SafeSport records requires users to first complete the full (90 minute) **SafeSport Trained – NGB1** course. Users must thereafter complete one shorter Refresher course per year – starting with Refresher 1 – in each of the three subsequent years following completion of SafeSport Trained – NGB1. Once a user has completed a four-year cycle of courses the user must begin the cycle again by retaking SafeSport Trained – NGB1.
3. All SafeSport Training courses can be found in the course **Catalog** on your SafeSporttrained.org training dashboard.
4. Please note that the course Catalog also includes numerous optional SafeSport courses that users may choose to complete.

VIII. Reporting Abuse and Misconduct

A. Exclusive Jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Pursuant to the terms of the SafeSport Code, The U.S. Center for SafeSport has the exclusive jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations that a Participant engaged in one or more of the following:

1. Sexual Misconduct, including without limitation child sexual abuse and any misconduct that is reasonably related to an underlying allegation of Sexual Misconduct;
2. Criminal Charges or Dispositions involving Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct;
3. Misconduct Related to Reporting, where the underlying allegation involves Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct;
4. Misconduct Related to Aiding and Abetting, Abuse of Process, or Retaliation, when it relates to the Center's process;
5. Other Inappropriate Conduct, as defined in the SafeSport Code.

B. United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee Jurisdiction. US Sailing is required to abide by all applicable policies and procedures regarding athlete safety as set forth by the USOPC.

1. US Sailing must notify the USOPC's Office of Athlete Safety as soon as possible and in any case within 24 hours of learning of an allegation of Prohibited Conduct, as defined in the Code, that occurred at an Olympic & Paralympic Training Center ("OPTC"), at an Olympic and Paralympic Trials, and any other event or competition organized, operated, sanctioned, or formally authorized by the USOPC ("USOPC Sponsored Event"), or at any third party-sponsored event in which the USOPC sends a delegation (a "Delegation Event").
2. Any temporary measure(s) imposed by US Sailing and/or the Center in response to the allegation must be included in the required notification (as described in the following section).
3. US Sailing must notify the USOPC's Office of Athlete Safety as soon as possible and in any case within 24 hours of imposing its own or being notified of Center-imposed sanction(s) and/or temporary measure(s) affecting Participants who US Sailing knows, or reasonably expects, to:
 - a. Be nominated for or selected as a Participant to a Delegation Event,
 - b. Be a participant at a USOPC Sponsored Event
 - c. Have access to an OPTC, and/or
 - d. Receive a benefit and/or service from the USOPC as outlined in the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.
4. US Sailing must notify the USOPC Office of Athlete Safety in the event of any change or removal of any such sanction and/or temporary measure(s) within 24 hours of such change by US Sailing or being notified of a change or removal by the Center.

C. Mandatory Reporting

1. The following adults are considered mandatory reporters under federal law:
 - a. A member or license holder of US Sailing or a LAO;
 - b. An employee or board member of US Sailing or a LAO;

- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of US Sailing or a LAO;
 - d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by US Sailing or a LAO to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.
2. Any adult who falls within these categories must report misconduct as provided under Section C herein.

D. What To Report.

1. Child Abuse, including Child Sexual and Physical Abuse.

- a. To Law Enforcement. Federal law⁶ requires all adults who (1) are authorized by a national governing body, member of a national governing, or an amateur sports organization to interact with minor athletes and (2) learn of facts that give reason to suspect that a child has suffered an incident of child abuse, including sexual abuse, to report such abuse to law enforcement and/or [your state's designated agency](#).
- b. To the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Federal Law requires an Adult Participant (as defined under the SafeSport Code and herein) who learns of information or reasonably suspects that a child has suffered an incident of child abuse, including sexual abuse, must immediately make a report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
- c. Adult Participants must also comply with any other applicable reporting requirements under state law. Information about state reporting requirements is available at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/reporting>

2. Sexual Misconduct.

- a. An Adult Participant (as defined herein) who learns of information or reasonably suspects that an incident(s) of sexual misconduct has occurred, must immediately report the incident(s) directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
- b. In addition to any reporting requirements per federal or state law, Adult Participants must report to the Center in accordance with Section X.A. of the SafeSport Code any allegations of Child Abuse, including sexual and physical abuse, and Sexual Misconduct, involving a person reasonably believed to be a Participant in the Movement even if the Adult Participant learned of the allegations prior to becoming an Adult Participant. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to require a victim of Child Abuse or other misconduct to self-report.
- c. This reporting requirement applies regardless of whether the suspected victim is an adult or minor.
- d. If the sexual misconduct involves a Minor, it must be reported as child abuse pursuant to section VIII.C above.

3. Emotional and Physical Misconduct. An Adult Participant who learns of information or reasonably suspects that an incident(s) of emotional or physical

⁶ [Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990; 34 USC 203;](#)

misconduct (including bullying, stalking, hazing, and harassment) prohibited under the SafeSport Code has occurred must report it to the organization (USOPC, NGB, or LAO) with which the Participant is affiliated.

4. **Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies.** An Adult Participant who learns of information or reasonably suspects a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies or other proactive policies must report it to the organization (USOPC, NGB, or LAO) with which the Participant is affiliated.
5. **Other Misconduct.**
 - a. Criminal Charge(s) or Disposition(s) involving sexual misconduct or misconduct involving Minors must be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
 - b. Misconduct related to the Center's process, including suspected incident(s) of (a) Aiding and Abetting and (b) Abuse of Process must be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

E. How To Report.

1. All Reports to the U.S. Center for SafeSport must be made through the [Center's reporting portal](#). Reports can be made electronically or over the phone.
2. State level child abuse reporting agencies can be found [here](#).
3. All Reports to US Sailing can be made [here](#).

F. What Happens When a Report Is Filed?

1. Reports to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. All reports of child abuse and/or sexual misconduct filed with the U.S. Center for SafeSport will go through the Center's standard intake and resolution procedures. To learn more about the Center's intake and resolution procedures please see Section XI of the [SafeSport Code](#).
2. Reports to US Sailing. All reports of misconduct made to US Sailing will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine proper jurisdiction. US Sailing may take the following actions with respect to a report it receives:
 - a. Any reports falling within the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport will be forwarded to the U.S. Center for SafeSport as required under the SafeSport Code
 - b. Reports of misconduct that do not fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. US Sailing reserves the right to investigate and resolve the matter pursuant to its relevant policies and procedures or forward the report to the relevant local sailing organization(s) for resolution.
3. Confidentiality and Anonymity.

- a. To the extent permitted by law, and as appropriate, US Sailing will treat any report it receives as confidential and will not make public the name of the claimant(s), reporting party, or respondent(s) without the consent of the reporting party. However, US Sailing may disclose such names on a limited basis when reporting to the U.S. Center for SafeSport or to law enforcement authorities.
- b. US Sailing strongly encourages all reporting parties to provide their contact details where possible. Anonymous reporting may make it difficult to investigate or properly address allegations.

IX. Response and Resolution Policy

A. Reporting Mechanism.

1. Located on the US Sailing Athlete Safety webpage are two links for reporting misconduct. One link directs users to the Center's abuse reporting form. The Second link is to be used for reports directly to US Sailing.
2. Reporting has no associated costs or fees and can be submitted anonymously.
3. Refer to Section VIII above to determine how and what to report.

B. Referral of Reports to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

Any report received by US Sailing or its affiliates that include misconduct that falls within the Center's exclusive jurisdiction will be forwarded to the Center within 24 hours of receiving the report.

C. Jurisdiction Notification.

US Sailing will promptly notify an identified reporting party of it plans on forwarding the report to the Center, if it plans on addressing the report itself, or if the report will be handled by an LAO or local sailing organization.

D. Anti-Retaliation.

Retaliation or attempt to do the same by a Participant, someone acting on behalf of a Participant, US Sailing, an LAO, or any organization under the Center's jurisdiction is prohibited before, during, and after the process of resolving an abuse or misconduct allegation. Retaliation is any adverse action or threat to take any adverse action against any person related to allegations of Prohibited Conduct, as defined under Section IX of the SafeSport Code. US Sailing's [Whistleblower and Anti-Retaliation Policy can be found here](#).

E. Response and Resolution of Reports.

1. Intake.

- a. Upon receipt of a report, US Sailing's SafeSport Compliance Officer will input the report information to US Sailing's report tracking mechanism which is a confidential internal excel spreadsheet. The tracking mechanism includes high level information from the report and also reflects how allegations have been addressed and their respective outcomes.
- b. US Sailing will review all reports to determine if allegations:
 1. Mandate reporting to law enforcement or child protective services;
 2. Mandate reporting to the Center;
 3. Are governed by the Code or US Sailing's Athlete Safety Handbook (including the MAAPP); or
 4. Require imposition of temporary measures;
- c. US Sailing will determine in its discretion the appropriate next steps to address the report based on several factors including:
 1. The age of the Claimant;
 2. The age of the Respondent;
 3. The nature, scope and extent of the allegations; and
 4. The number of reports against the Respondent

2. Jurisdiction.

US Sailing will assess the report and determine jurisdiction, promptly notifying the Claimant or reporting party of the determination.

- a. US Sailing and its LAOs shall immediately (within 24 hours) refer to the Center reports of misconduct that it receives that fall within the Center's exclusive jurisdiction.
 - b. For any other reports of misconduct that it receives, such as alleged bullying, hazing, emotional or physical misconduct, or MAAPP violations, US Sailing will assess whether the alleged misconduct implicates the SafeSport Code or the Athlete Safety Handbook and the proper jurisdiction for resolving such violation.
 - c. US Sailing may accept jurisdiction of a report or, where it deems appropriate, US Sailing reserves the right to refer reports to local sailing organizations for resolution. If a local sailing organization receives a report from US Sailing, it shall resolve the report according to its policies and procedures, and will provide US Sailing with an update once resolved.
3. Inquiry. Where the Center has not accepted jurisdiction of a report, US Sailing's inquiry process may consist of:
- a. Initial contact with the reporting party, Claimant, and/or witnesses.
 - b. Preliminary information gathering.
 - c. If the reporting party and/or Claimant declines to participate, US Sailing may, in its discretion, choose not to proceed or may respond to the report in limited and general ways.
 - d. Following the inquiry, US Sailing will determine, in its discretion, whether the matter is appropriate for investigation, resolution by dismissal, administrative closure, informal resolution, or referral to an LAO or local sailing organization for resolution.
4. Investigation. For a report where it has accepted jurisdiction, US Sailing may, depending on the circumstances, take steps including one or more of the following:
- a. Notice of allegations, including a summary of the alleged misconduct, provided to the Respondent;
 - b. Notification of reported misconduct sent to staff members, contractors, volunteers, parents, and/or athletes of any allegation of child physical or sexual abuse or other criminal behavior that (1) law enforcement authorities are actively investigating; or (2) that US Sailing is investigating internally. Advising others of an allegation may lead to additional reports of child physical or sexual abuse and other misconduct;
 - c. Collection of additional information from the Claimant, Respondent, reporting party, and/or witnesses;
 - d. Other steps to investigate the allegations and to provide the Respondent an opportunity to respond to the allegations;
 - e. Retention of legal counsel or an investigator to determine and/or make a recommendation as to whether a violation of the relevant policy has occurred and/or a recommendation as to the appropriate sanction;
 - f. Temporary measures (including Suspension of the accused individual) imposed pending final resolution of the report to eliminate any danger to an athlete, sport participant, or other individual;
 - g. Informal resolution;
 - h. Formal investigation;

- i. Referral to the Review Board for a hearing under Regulation 15;
 - j. US Sailing may give notice of resolution and terms to each Claimant, witness, reporting party, and Respondent.
- 5. Temporary Measures. US Sailing may impose temporary measures on a Respondent, pending investigation and/or final resolution of a complaint, intended to ensure the safety and well-being of the sailing community.
 - a. US Sailing may impose temporary measures at any time, and the measures will be effective immediately upon notice to Respondent, unless stated otherwise.
 - b. LAOs are responsible for enforcing temporary measures at their organizations.
 - c. In the event of a temporary Suspension, US Sailing will notify the Center.
- 6. Resolution Process. US Sailing may resolve a misconduct matter by:
 - a. Dismissal: where reported conduct is found to not be governed by the Policy or the Code.
 - b. Administrative Closure: where reported conduct is governed by the Policy or the Code but there is insufficient information to determine that a violation occurred.
 - c. Admonishment Letter.
 - d. Informal Resolution: where the Respondent acknowledges the misconduct and agrees to sanctions deemed appropriate by US Sailing.
 - e. Formal Resolution: where the matter is referred to the Review Board pursuant to Regulation 15.
- 7. Sanctions. Disciplinary actions for misconduct will be reasonable under the circumstances. US Sailing (or a Review Board hearing panel where a hearing is held under Regulation 15) may issue the following sanctions:
 - a. Inform the Respondent's direct-line supervisor and, in the case of a minor, the minor's parent or guardian;
 - b. Educational requirements;
 - c. Issue a verbal warning;
 - d. Issue a written warning;
 - e. Require participation in mediation to resolve disputes surrounding the allegations;
 - f. No contact directive;
 - g. Restrictive or safety measures;
 - h. Suspension;
 - i. Termination of US Sailing Membership;
 - j. Permanent Ineligibility; and/or
 - k. Any other terms agreed to by US Sailing and the Respondent.
- 8. Reporting and Recording. A record of all reports received by US Sailing or an LAO, including reports that are forwarded to the Center as required herein, shall be kept by US Sailing and an LAO in a format that captures the following:
 - a. How US Sailing or an LAO responded to the report of misconduct, and
 - b. The final outcome or resolution of the matter.

9. US Sailing Designated Representative. US Sailing's SafeSport Compliance Officer shall ensure this Response and Resolution Policy is followed at all times.
- F. No Interference.** US Sailing and US Sailing LAOs will not attempt to interfere in or attempt to influence the outcome of any Center investigations.
- G. Responsiveness to Requests from the Center.** US Sailing's SafeSport Compliance Officer will respond to requests from the Center within 72 hours for:
1. the eligibility status of any Participants, and
 2. The existence of any US Sailing imposed temporary measures or safety plans.
- H. Policy to Enforce Sanctions, Temporary Measures, and Jurisdictional Holds issued by the Center or US Sailing**
1. US Sailing and its LAOs are responsible for enforcing sanctions from the Center.
 2. US Sailing will notify LAOs of any applicable sanctions, temporary measures, or Jurisdictional Holds.
 3. US Sailing and its LAOs are responsible for enforcing the sanctions and temporary measures at their events and programs by following the Athlete Safety Event and Program Policy in section X.
 4. Suspected incidents of an individual violating a sanction or Temporary Measure will be reported to the Center.
- I. Policy to Submit Data to Center.**
1. US Sailing must annually submit to the Center data regarding:
 - a. Reports of emotional or physical misconduct made to its LAOs.
 1. Total reported incidents of alleged emotional misconduct
 2. Total reported incidents of alleged physical misconduct
 3. Total number of investigations of alleged emotional misconduct
 4. Total number of investigations of alleged physical misconduct
 5. Total number of violations for emotional misconduct adjudicated by LAOs, separated by cases adjudicated by NGB and cases adjudicated by its LAOs
 6. Total number of violations for physical misconduct adjudicated by NGB and cases adjudicated by LAOs
 - b. Reports to LAOs that a participant violated the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP)
 1. Total reported incidents of alleged violations of the MAAPP, by policy type
 2. Total number of investigations of alleged violations of the MAAPP
 3. Total number of violations of the MAAPP, separated by cases adjudicated by NGB and cases adjudicated by its LAO
 - c. Reports to LAOs that a participant engaged in retaliation
 1. Total reported incidents of alleged retaliation
 2. Total number of investigations of alleged retaliation
 3. Total number of violations of retaliation policy separated by

cases adjudicated by NGB and cases adjudicated by its LAO

2. Communication to LAOs and Collection of Data.

- a. US Sailing will annually communicate to its LAOs as follows:
 - 1. The requirement for LAOs to track how they respond to reports of misconduct and the respective resolutions of each case, and
 - 2. The requirement for LAOs to send to US Sailing information regarding how it responded to reports and the respective resolution of each case.
- b. US Sailing will annually collect from LAOs the data required under Section I.1. US Sailing will provide each LAO with a fillable form suitable for collecting and organizing the requested data.

X. US Sailing Athlete Safety Event and Program Policy

A. This Athlete Safety Event and Program Policy is a written policy required by the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the “Center”) to ensure athlete safety requirements are met and implemented in applicable areas of US Sailing. This policy includes the following components:

1. Adherence to the MAAPP: all policies and procedures contained in the Center’s MAAPP will be followed at any event, program, activity, and/or competition under the oversight of US Sailing and/or LAOs if minors are participating.
2. Training and Education Requirement: All Adult Participants, including day-of Participants, who are required to complete SafeSport training have completed this training within the previous 12 months. If training is not current, the Adult Participant must be prevented from participating or participate in a role that does not include regular contact with or authority over amateur athletes who are minors in any event, program, activity, and/or competition under the oversight of the USOPC, US Sailing, and/or LAOs.
3. OEL Verification: any individual on the Organizational Exclusion List (OEL) is prohibited from participating in any events, programs, activities, and/or competitions under the oversight of the USOPC, US Sailing, and/or LAOs.
4. Implementation Guide: the implementation guide herein outlines the procedures that must be followed at US Sailing Events in order to meet the policy requirements.

B. Definitions

1. **Competitor(s)**: An individual who is registered to compete in an Event.
2. **Event**: Any events where athletes will be competing or training, including, but not limited to, US Sailing Championships, US Sailing Championship qualifiers, and US Sailing Team, Olympic Development Program, or Youth National Team training camps or clinics.
3. **Event Participant**: All coaches, medical staff, race officials, organizers, vendors, media members, and volunteers who are working or volunteering at an Event.
4. **Event Chair**: The lead organizer for an Event. For US Sailing training camps and clinics this is typically a US Sailing staff member, for US Sailing Championships and Championship Qualifiers this is the lead volunteer from the local member organization hosting the event.
5. **Organization Exclusion List**: A database of individuals whose status (Ineligible, Suspended, or jurisdictional hold) has been formally communicated to US Sailing by the Center, as well as any individuals deemed Ineligible or Suspended through US Sailing’s own judicial process. This list includes those with Temporary Measures.
6. **SafeSport Training**: The SafeSport Trained Core course and any applicable Refresher courses.

C. Implementation Guide

1. Adherence to the MAAPP

- a. **Rule:** The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) are required to be followed at all Events.
 - b. **Implementation:**
 1. Event Chair will complete a risk assessment prior to the Event to assess areas of risk and create a plan to mitigate and/or eliminate applicable risks.
 2. Event Chair will meet with the appropriate Event Participants to review the MAAPP requirements in place ahead of the Event.
 3. MAAPP signage will be posted to the Event notice board or applicable areas (meeting rooms and locker rooms/changing areas)
 4. Event Chair will continually monitor the Event to ensure compliance with the MAAPP, including, if necessary, periodic sweeps of any changing areas or meeting rooms.
2. Training and Education Requirement
- a. **Rule:** All adult Event Participants and adult Competitors who have (a) regular contact with or (b) authority over minor Competitors at an Event must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's mandatory SafeSport Training prior to the start of competition at an Event. This list shall include the following:
 1. Event Chairs,
 2. Coaches,
 3. Race Officials (PROs, Judges, and Umpires),
 4. Adult Competitors sailing in a boat with a minor Competitor,
 5. Volunteer medical staff,
 6. Other event officials or volunteers who are determined by US Sailing to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.
 - b. **Implementation:**
 1. Identification: Prior to the Event, US Sailing Compliance Manager and Event Chair will identify all adult Event Participants and adult Competitors who are required to complete SafeSport Training.
 2. Verification: Event Chair will communicate training requirement to applicable Event Participants and Competitors and verify the SafeSport Training is complete and valid through the end of the Event by checking the Participant and Competitor's member profile in my.ussailing.org or by receiving a copy of the Certificate of Completion from the Event Participant/Competitor.
 3. Event Check In: All Event Participants and Competitors will be required to check in for the Event in person, at which point the Event Chair, or designee, will verify if the mandatory training requirement has been fulfilled. If not, they will not be able to participate at the Event in a role where they would have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes, until they complete the training.

4. Day of Participant: If an Event permits adult Competitors and adult Event Participants to register the day of the Event, Event Chair must identify whether that individual has regular contact or authority over minor athlete (i.e., has one of the roles listed in X.C.1.a), thus needing to complete SafeSport training and, if so, verify that the training is complete. If not, they will not be able to participate at the Event in a role where they would have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes, until they complete the training.
3. Organizational Exclusion List Verification
 - a. **Rule:** Individuals on US Sailing's Organizational Exclusion List (OEL) may not compete in or participate at any Events. Event Chairs must ensure that no Competitors or Event Participants are on the OEL.
 - b. **Implementation:**
 1. Membership Requirement for Competitors: Competitors and athletes sailing at US Sailing Events are required to be US Sailing members. Any individual on US Sailing's OEL will have an inactive US Sailing membership and, as such, will not be eligible to compete. If the Event uses a registration platform that has a built in US Sailing membership verification process (ClubSpot, Regatta Network, Yacht Scoring), this can be used to ensure that Competitors are not on the OEL. If the Event uses a registration platform that does not check for membership, Event Chair must manually cross reference the Competitor list with the OEL.
 2. Event Participants: Event Chairs will share a full list of Event Participants with US Sailing Compliance Manager who will cross reference this list of individuals with the OEL.
 3. Day of Participants: If an Event permits Competitors and Event Participants to register the day of the Event, the registration/check-in team must cross reference the day of participant names with the OEL, which will be shared by US Sailing Compliance Manager.
 4. Inability to Participate: anyone identified as being on the OEL must not be allowed to participate in any capacity in the Event.
 5. Notification of Attempt to Participate: Event Chair must notify US Sailing's Compliance Manager if an individual on the OEL attempts to participate in an Event.
 4. Communication of Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies
 - a. **Rule:** Prior to the Event, all Competitors and Event Participants must receive a copy of the Center's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) and protocol for reporting known, suspected, or alleged violations of the MAAPP or SafeSport Code. The communication shall include the following:
 1. The required one-on-one Abuse Prevention Policies,
 2. Information on mandatory reporting, and

3. Information on how to report allegations of suspected sexual misconduct, physical misconduct, emotional misconduct, and violations of the MAAPP.

b. Implementation:

1. Required Communication Copy: US Sailing Compliance Manager will provide Event Chair with a sample copy that meets the communication requirement.
2. NOR Appendix: Event Chair will include the required communication as an Appendix to the Event NOR, if applicable. Required communication copy will also be posted to the Event Notice Board on site, if applicable.
3. Direct Communication: Prior to the Event, but with 3 months of the Event dates, Event Chair will send a direct communication of this required information to all Competitors and Event Participants in the following manner:
 - i. Via email
 - ii. Via automated message set up within the Event registration system (note: this is typically for Competitors only, and the communication will need to be sent to other Event Participants via email)
4. Day of Participant: If an Event permits Competitors and Event Participants to register the day of the Event, a printed out copy of the required communication copy will be available at the check in/registration desk and the day of participant must be required to read and acknowledge the document during registration. Acknowledgement should be given in writing via a mechanism such as initialing a sign off sheet.

5. Quality Control:

- a. US Sailing Compliance Manager will share the Athlete Safety Event and Program Policy annually with Event Chairs and LAOs. Compliance Manager is available to provide additional support, as needed, to Event Chairs and LAOs to help them meet these requirements. Any questions can be emailed to compliance@ussailing.org.
- b. US Sailing Compliance Manager will provide a shared document with Event Chairs to populate with a list of all Competitors and Event Participants. This document will be used to track the Training and Education Requirement and the OEL verification.
- c. US Sailing Compliance Manager and/or other applicable US Sailing staff are to be included in communications of the MAAPP to Event Participants and Competitors. If the communication is done via automated messages from the registration platform, Event Chair is to confirm this with Compliance Manager and, if asked, show a copy of the communication.
- d. Event Chairs and LAOs sign an attestation annually to confirm understanding of these requirements.
- e. US Sailing Compliance Manager may conduct a random audit of an Event to assess compliance with this policy.

Publication Type	Approved Date	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Initial Publication		September 22, 2020	N/A
Policy and procedure revision	March 25, 2026	March 25, 2026	Updated to meet Corrective Action requirements from 2025 SafeSport Audit including: clarifications to the applicability of X. QCS, mandatory reporting requirements in IX Response and Resolution.
Procedure Revision	July 9, 2026	July 9, 2026	Updated to meet 2026 SafeSport Audit Standards including: - IX Response and Resolution: more detailed procedure added - X Quality Control System renamed Athlete Safety Event and Program Policy and re-organized for clarity - Implementation Guide added to X - Updated VIII to include requirements per the USOPC 's NGB Athlete Safety Policy