

3/1/2018 Update:
Preventing Abuse in
Youth Sports and
What Your Club
Needs to Know.



On February 15th, 2018, the President signed a Sexual Assault Bill aimed at protecting amateur athletes from sexual abuse.

What exactly does the Bill state?

The Bill has a three-pronged approach:

- 1) Any adult interacting with amateur athletes in the program have a duty to report abuse and or suspected abuse within a 24 hour period. **EVERY** adult is a mandatory reporter.
- 2) The statute of limitations is extended for up to 10 years after a victim realizes he or she was abused.
- 3) Limits an athlete under the age of 18 from being alone with an adult who is not their parent.

**What is an amateur athlete? Any child or minor under the age of 18.*

Legislation is available for download [HERE](#)

What else is important to know about this Bill? How might my club be impacted?

There are additional and more specific requirements for several categories of youth sports providers listed as ‘Applicable Entity’ within the Bill. Those listed under this category include:

- 1) National Governing Body (NGB) – United States Soccer Federation
- 2) Amateur Sports Organization (sanctioned by NGB) – TSSA and Member Affiliates (clubs)
- 3) Amateur Sports Organizations (NOT sanctioned by NGB) – YMCA, Church Leagues, Municipal Leagues, Independent Recreation Leagues, Camps, all others

U.S. Center for SafeSport fact sheet [HERE](#)

What are the requirements for NGB's and NGB-Affiliated?

- 1) **Reporting** – a mechanism that allows a complaint to be easily reported for a reasonable suspicion of Sexual or Physical abuse/neglect, within a 24 hour period of awareness. Federal regulations state that reports should be made to a) local law enforcement and b) local child protective services, c) US Soccer, and d) the US Center for SafeSport. **EVERYONE is a MANDATORY REPORTER.**

- 2) **Mechanism for Reporting** – (Everyone listed below MUST be contacted when physical or sexual abuse is suspected)
 - 1) Local Law Enforcement Number (posted on club website and given to athletes and parents)
 - 2) Local Child Protective Services Number (posted on club website and given to athletes and parents)
 - 3) Club Risk Manager Contact Information (every club should have a point person for reporting)
 - 4) State Risk Manager – Don Eubank or Hans Hobson
 - Don Eubank – EVP@tnsoccer.org
 - Hans Hobson – hhobson@tnsoccer.org or (615) 590-2200
 - 5) National Governing Body
 - US Soccer Integrity Hotline Number – (312) 528- 7004
 - US Soccer – <https://www.ussoccer.com/integrity-hotline>
 - US Center for SafeSport – <https://www.safesport.org/report-a-concern>

What are the requirements for NGB's and NGB-Affiliated?

3) **Mechanism for Reporting** – *Other forms of misconduct* such as emotional abuse, bullying, hazing, or harassment.

- 1) Club Risk Manager Contact Information (every club should have a point person for reporting)
- 2) Club or BOD Review/Hearing – There should be a process in policy to document and address this other misconduct. The decision of the Club or BOD should be sent to the State Risk Manager and Executive Director.
- 3) State Risk Manager – Don Eubank or Hans Hobson
Don Eubank – EVP@tnsoccer.org
Hans Hobson – hhobson@tnsoccer.org or (615) 590-2200

4) **Reasonable Procedures** – Policies and procedures aimed at PREVENTING one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult.

- 1) Implement *TSSA Policy 3 'Code of Conduct'* into your club policy [HERE](#).

What are the requirements for NGB's and NGB-Affiliated?

5) Prevention Training – Offer and provide consistent training to adult members who are in contact with amateur athletes who are minors. There is not currently a mandate or recommended training provider. The programs below are the 2 options for **tools/resources** that TSSA is currently aware of. Until there is a mandate or law you may use whatever you deem will meet this requirement.

1) Ministry Safe/Abuse Prevention [HERE](#)

Coupon Code through 2018: **USYS2017**

2) US Center for SafeSport [HERE](#)

6) Prohibit Retaliation – Include in your club policy that there can be no retaliation from the club toward those who are reporting.

Questions?

Hans Hobson

615-590-2200

hhobson@tnsoccer.org

