

# Safe Sport Act Information

On February 14, 2018 the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” was signed into law and became effective immediately. This new federal law aims to prevent sexual abuse in youth sports creates standards for all youth sport organizations, including programs offered by local leagues, churches, schools, camps, and non-profits. The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 includes requirements for prevention training, prevention policies, and mandatory reporting. This law is broad and does not make specific accommodations for different sports or special needs.



Each state has a reporting statute related to child abuse and neglect. Some states require every adult to report suspicions of abuse and neglect while other states list categories of individuals or circumstances triggering a mandatory report. It is imperative that each youth sport organization understands the new federal obligations, as well as the respective state-specific obligations.

The American Special Hockey Association provides our members with liability insurance. Our carrier, Philadelphia Insurance Company, requires compliance with this Federal Law.

Here is a brief overview of the new requirements that all youth sports organizations must take.

1. **Mandatory Reporting Changes:** The Act expands the list of individuals required to report child sexual abuse. The list of mandatory reporters now includes any adult who is authorized to interact with a minor or amateur athlete at an amateur sports organization facility or event. For some organizations, the Act also requires all adults to immediately report suspicions of abuse to the US Center for Safe Sport and the appropriate law enforcement agencies, as determined by state and federal law.
2. **Prevention Training Requirements:** All amateur sports organizations are now required to provide consistent training on prevention and reporting of child abuse to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors/or at risk adults.
3. **Prevention Policies Requirements:** All amateur sports organizations are now required to establish prevention policies that include reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult.

Due to these regulations and compliance with our Insurance Company, ASHA will be requiring that member programs adopt and enforce the most recent policies and requirements to help protect and prevent abuse and misconduct (e.g. physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing).

Below are some guidelines to consider to help protect your athletes and organizations. A sample policy and risk management program is attached for your use. *This is not an official ASHA policy*, each team must adopt their own policy to ensure compliance with their state specific obligations. A copy of your organization’s policy is requested by ASHA prior to the issuance of your insurance certificate.

ASHA Continues to work with the Center for SafeSport to advocate for accommodations specific to special hockey.

**Each Member Team MUST ADOPT their own policy which adheres to their local regulations**