

SAHOF 2023 Organization Meeting - SafeSport Updates

SafeSport Certification (Online Training Modules)

- It is important that **ALL** USA Hockey registered coaches, referees, managers and volunteers continue to ensure they are current with their SafeSport Certification completion. Coaches, referees, managers and volunteers should not be performing any duties as it relates to Youth Hockey until their SafeSport training has been completed.
- SafeSport Modules **MUST** be completed or renewed every year.
 - o Refresher 1, 2 & 3 – one available each year
 - o Training is required on a 12-month basis and not according to USA Hockey season
- For SAHOF in 2022-23 season:
 - o We had 1035 coaches registered and we had 1005 who completed their SafeSport certification = 97% (We were at 94% during 2021-22 season)
 - o We had 819 managers/volunteers registered and we had 803 who completed their SafeSport certification = 98% (We were at 94% during 2021-22 season)

Background Screens

- All Coaches (travel and Rec house) should **NOT** be on the ice or on a bench until they have completed and received an approved background screen through SAHOF
- All background screens will continue to be completed through USA Hockey (NCSI).
- USA Hockey has a background screening committee for each District that will continue to conduct initial reviews for all background screens that are flagged.

Facility Directors, Managers & Board Members

All Facility Directors, Managers, and Board Members who have direct access to youth participants **MUST** be properly registered as a USA Hockey member (volunteer) and **MUST** complete SafeSport training.

Handling and Reporting Potential SafeSport Incidents

If any SAHOF organization receives a SafeSport complaint or suspected violation, there are 4 particularly important things that the organization **MUST** do:

1. Organization **MUST** contact (notify) SAHOF SafeSport Coordinator and SAHOF Executive Director immediately after receiving a SafeSport complaint, if not already received from Affiliate
2. The organization **MUST** follow up on report by completing investigation into alleged violations.
3. Organization **MUST** contact (notify) SAHOF SafeSport Coordinator and SAHOF Executive Director immediately after completing investigation to inform us of the determination or action taken.

Monthly SafeSport Report Logs

- Every month SAHOF is required to submit a report log of any SafeSport incidents that are reported for the month to USA Hockey. To ensure all organizations are reporting any potential SafeSport violations each month, SAHOF will continue to require that the local organizations submit a monthly log report to the SAHOF SafeSport Coordinator by the 5th of each month (for the previous month's reports). ***You must email the SafeSport Coordinator monthly, regardless, if you did or did not have any reported SafeSport violations.**
- These reports for SAHOF will then be pulled together and put into one report, so all suspected or report incidents can be properly reported to USA Hockey.
- UPDATE: USA Hockey is currently in the process of working with a 3rd party vendor to create a case management system that will be easier for all Affiliates to utilize to report and track all Safe Sport reports.

National Center for SafeSport

- Local organizations need to continue to submit anything you SUSPECT to be Sexual Abuse or a Sexual Misconduct violation to the Center for SafeSport. If you are not sure if something is considered Sexual Abuse and/or Sexual Misconduct, then the organizations and local SafeSport Coordinators should reach out to the SAHOF SafeSport Coordinator and the SAHOF Executive Director for guidance. SAHOF requests that local organizations always error on the side of reporting something, even if you are not sure if it is considered Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct and then the Center can inform you if it falls under their guidelines or not.
- All Sexual Abuse or Sexual Misconduct violations should also continue to be immediately reported to the Center for SafeSport, as well as the SAHOF SafeSport Coordinator and the SAHOF Executive Director, without getting involved at the local level. *** Please keep in mind that once you get involved at the local level, then the Center for SafeSport will not assist with the complaint and the local organization will be responsible for handling.**
- UPDATE: The Center for SafeSport has started to accept other Safe Sport violation reports pertaining to bullying and harassment. This is currently in a pilot test process.

SafeSport Reporting – what is and what is not a SafeSport report?

- Please note that every season we continue to receive multiple reports of SafeSport violations, which are not actually SafeSport violations (such as playing time or being released from a program). And often, many of the player, parent, and coach violations can be rectified through utilizing the Coaches, Players, and Parents Code of Conduct policies and guidelines.
- Overall, USA Hockey is experiencing an increase in reports where individuals are attempting to utilize SafeSport reporting as a weapon against parents, players, coaches, organizations, and facilities.

Locker Room Rules and Monitors

- Local organizations must continue to do their absolute best to ensure locker rooms are a safe environment for all players and coaches. To help ensure the locker rooms are safe, all organizations need to make sure they have locker room monitors, either outside the door or 2 adults (with one being certified) inside the locker room. *** Ultimately, the head coaches will be responsible for anything that happens in the locker room during their practice and game times, so it is encouraged the coaches put the proper measures in place to help prevent SafeSport incidents from occurring under their watch.**
- All Locker room volunteers / monitors must register with USA hockey as a volunteer and must also complete the SAHOF background screen and SafeSport online module. We recommend that if you have monitors in the room, that you always have 2 adults in the locker room, whether that is a head coach and an assistant coach; one coach and one locker room monitor; or two locker room monitors.

As I mention Each Year....at the End of Each Day, We Just Need to Always Be Aware and React Quickly

- Everyone just needs to please keep in mind that SafeSport incidents can happen anywhere and anytime.
- It is CRITICAL to be aware of anything suspicious and to always act quickly because you just never know!