



Safe Sport

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Educating Coaches, Volunteers, and
Parents on Safety and Integrity



WHAT IS SAFESPORT?

- The USA Hockey Safe Sport Program is designed to protect all participants from abuse and misconduct. (Started in 2014)
- SafeSport's mission is to create a safe and positive environment free from abuse and to respond to any concerns swiftly and effectively.
- The U.S. Center for SafeSport was established in 2017, mandated by the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act. This federal legislation requires all national governing bodies, including USA Hockey to adhere to strict standards for preventing abuse in sports.
- The Center for SafeSport provides resources, education, and a platform for reporting misconduct.

KEY AREAS OF SAFESPORT

Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse – these cases must reported to the US Center for SafeSport

Physical Misconduct – Contact violations such as hitting, biting, punching, kicking, strangling, etc, this also includes prematurely returning a player following a serious injury without medical clearance and locker room boxing.

Non-contact violations –Providing alcohol or drugs to anyone under legal age.

Emotional Misconduct – Verbal acts, physical acts, repeated and severe behavior.

Criminal Conduct – child abuse and child neglect.

While a single Verbal Act or Physical Act may be inappropriate and justify a review and/or disciplinary action by USA Hockey or any of its Member Programs, such single incidents would typically not constitute Emotional Misconduct. Emotional Misconduct also does not include conduct between opponents during or in connection with a game that is covered by the USA Hockey Playing Rules. Such conduct should be addressed under the Playing Rules.

Bullying-repeated and severe behavior. Conduct may not rise to the level of Bullying behavior if it is merely rude (inadvertently saying or doing something hurtful), mean (purposefully saying or doing something hurtful, but not as part of a pattern of behavior). While other team members are often the perpetrators of Bullying, it is a violation of this Policy if an Adult Participant knows or should know of the bullying behavior but takes no action to intervene or report on behalf of the targeted Participant(s).

KEY AREAS OF SAFESPORT(cont.)

Threats -A threat to harm others includes any written, verbal, physical or electronically transmitted expression of intent to physically injure or harm someone else. It is a violation of this Policy if an Adult Participant knows or should know of the threatening behavior but takes no action to intervene or report on behalf of the targeted Participant(s).

Harassment- any repeated and/or severe conduct that causes fear, humiliation or annoyance; offends or degrades; creates a hostile environment; reflects discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance; superiority or power over an individual or group; any act or conduct described as harassment under federal or state law.

Conduct may not rise to the level of Harassment if it is rude (inadvertently saying or doing something hurtful), mean (purposefully saying or doing something hurtful, but not as part of a pattern of behavior)

Hazing- Contact acts. Hitting, biting, kicking, strangling, locker boxing, etc.

Non-contact acts. Requiring or forcing consumption of alcohol, drugs, or other substances.

Sexualized acts. Actual or simulated conduct of a sexual nature.

Criminal acts. Any act or conduct that constitutes hazing under applicable federal or state law.

Conduct may not rise to the level of Hazing if it is merely rude (inadvertently saying or doing something hurtful), mean (purposefully saying or doing something hurtful, but not as part of a pattern of behavior)

PREVENTION POLICIES (MAAPP)

One-on-One Interactions Policy – Observable and Interruptible

Locker Room Policy – (Read SafeSport Handbook)

Athletic Training Modalities Policy – observable and interruptible (Center proposing a change that person providing the therapy verbally states out loud what they are doing while they are doing it.)

Social Media & Electronic Communications Policy – (Read SafeSport handbook)

Transportation/Lodging Policy - The Local Association must obtain a signature each year by each adult (including parents) acknowledging receipt of and agreeing to the travel policy. A sample local and overnight travel policy form for a Local Association may be found at usahockey.com/safesportprogram.

No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties. In all cases involving travel for youth hockey programs, parents have the right to transport their Minor Athlete and have the Minor Athlete stay in their hotel room.

Billeting Policy – all adults 18 years and older (or turning 18) living in the house with a billet player must register with USA Hockey, complete a background screen, and complete SafeSport training.

CODES OF CONDUCT

Administrators Code of Conduct

Coaches Code of Conduct

Game Officials Code of Conduct

Parents Code of Conduct

Players Code of Conduct

Fans and Spectators Code of Conduct

Coaches need to read and be familiar with these. Local Associations should distribute applicable codes of conduct to parents, and players. (I would have parents and players acknowledge this in some format)

No code of conduct can address every situation, nor can it take the place of good judgement and integrity.

WHERE TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

USA Hockey – Reports can be made directly to USA Hockey

These include all Safe Sport violations except Child Abuse and Sexual Misconduct. Sometimes cases are determined to be a Code of Conduct violation. If a case is determined to be a code of conduct violation after the Affiliate SafeSport Coordinator investigates, there could be a warning issued or a discipline hearing held.

US Center for SafeSport – All Child Abuse and Sexual Misconduct cases must be reported to the US Center for SafeSport, and to local law enforcement.

All USA Hockey registered adult participants are mandatory reporters. If you are told about an abuse or sexual misconduct violation you must report this to the center and to local law enforcement.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION RESPONSIBILITY

Code of Conduct: If a local association believes there is a code of conduct violation they can investigate, and issue discipline as necessary. They may also seek advice from the Affiliate Safe Sport Coordinator.

As with Safe Sport Complaints – the respondents are entitled to a hearing in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

SafeSport Policy Violations: These should be submitted to the Affiliate SafeSport Coordinator email or to USA Hockey reporting portal. They will be investigated by the Affiliate Safe Sport Coordinator.

The Local Association SafeSport Representative has the responsibility to ensure that their program is in compliance. They also have the responsibility to become familiar with the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook to answer questions and direct reports to the correct source.

LOCKER ROOMS

A MAJORITY OF SAFESPORT VIOLATIONS OCCUR BECAUSE OF A LACK OF LOCKER ROOM MONITORS

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS MUST ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THEIR PLAYERS BY HAVING LOCKER ROOM MONITORS ALWAYS!!! Remember coaches are ultimately responsible and can be disciplined for incidents that happen without a monitor present.

NO MONITOR MEANS LOCKER ROOM IS NOT OPEN!!

ALL LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS MUST PUBLISH THEIR LOCKER ROOM POLICIES AND DISTRIBUTE TO THEIR MEMBERS.(Please send a copy of your locker room policy to Wendy Radke, Safe Sport Coordinator)

PLEASE READ AND BECOME FAMILIAR WITH USA HOCKEY SAFE SPORT PROGRAM HANDBOOK AND MAAPP.

BACKGROUND SCREENING - NCSI

USA Hockey requires screening for:

Officials, coaches, volunteers, and other individuals 18 years of age or older who will have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.

All board members or officers of any affiliate or local association that are eighteen (18) years of age or older, regardless of whether the individual will have Regular Contact with, or Authority over, Minor Athletes

USA Hockey does not require screening for: scorekeepers, penalty box keepers, but UAHA highly suggests they are screened as well. Background screenings are done every 2 years.

SAFESPORT TRAINING

USA Hockey requires SafeSport Training annually for all coaches, officials, program personnel, and volunteers, and Players with birth year 2008 or earlier that are on a team with minor players. It is also required for all Billet family members who are 18 years of age or older.

SafeSport training is done in 4 phases. The first year is the main module and takes about 1 hour. Then each of the next 3 years you take a refresher course. These are shorter. After 4 years you go back to the main module.

SafeSport training is good for one year (to the date). You will receive an email notification from USA Hockey 45 days, 30 days and 2 weeks prior to the expiration date. If the training is not taken before it expires you are no longer eligible to participate.

YOUR ROLE IN SAFESPORT

Responsibility: As a coach or volunteer, you are crucial in promoting a safe and respectful environment.

Lead by Example: Demonstrate respect, integrity, and vigilance in all interactions. (Remember this is about the kids – put aside Adult drama)

Support: Be approachable and provide support to athletes and colleagues, ensuring they know you are a trusted resource.

Supervision: Always ensure proper supervision during activities and avoid one-on-one situations.

Boundaries: Set clear boundaries in all interactions with athletes including physical touch, communication, and social media.

Education: Regularly discuss SafeSport principles with athletes and reinforce a culture of respect and safety.

LINKS

<https://www.usahockey.com/makingareport>

<https://www.usahockeyrulebook.com/page/show/1015129-codes-of-conduct>

<https://www.usahockey.com/resourcesanddownloads>

REPORT TO USA
HOCKEY

REPORT TO U.S. CENTER
FOR SAFESPORT

STATE-BY-STATE
MANDATORY REPORTER
INFORMATION

USA HOCKEY SAFE
SPORT PROGRAM
HANDBOOK *UPDATED
1/3/2023

Quick references: Coaches, Bullying, Locker room monitoring

Information & Policies: Safe Sport Handbook, Sample Locker Room Policy, Sample Travel Policy, Sanctioned Tournament Safe Sport Program Protocol, Co-Ed Locker Room Policies.

Consent Forms: Dual Relationship Consent, Personal Care Assistant Consent, Specific Instant Consent

QUESTIONS???