

Minutes

Special Meeting of the USA Fencing Board of Directors

August 31, 2021 via Teleconference

Present: Donald Alperstein, David Arias, Cliff Bayer, Peter Burchard, Lauren Haynie, Kat Holmes, Alan Kidd, Lorrie Marcil Holmes, Ann Marsh-Senic, Tasha Martin, Nzingha Prescod, Adam Watson

Guests*: Peter Barton, Kris Ekeren, Melissa Jones, Jim Neale, Christine Simmons, Bridget Toelle

*There were additional guests in attendance on a separate line listening to the call.

I. Call to Order

General Announcements

Mr. Burchard asked for a Moment of silence to remember Anthony “Buckie” Leach.

Remarks – Peter Burchard, President

Conflict of Interest announcement. Ms. Marcil Holmes and Ms. Holmes both announced a possible conflict that they will each speak on during that portion of the meeting.

II. Consent Agenda Items (Mr. Burchard)

1. To approve the minutes from the July 9 and August 13, 2021 meetings.
2. To approve the May 2021 financial reports.
3. To approve the updated USA Fencing Conflict of Interest Policy & Disclosure.
4. To receive the SEMI Committee and Youth Development Committee minutes.

Motion (Mr. Burchard): to approve items 2, 3 and 4 on the consent agenda.

Second Mr. Alperstein Motion
passed.

III. Old Business

Motion (Mr. Alperstein): To take from the table the 7/7/19 motion to amend the materials rule concerning adding a second different safety system to the mask.

Background: At the 7/7/19 board meeting in Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Alperstein made a motion (which was seconded by Mr. Watson) to amend the material rules to add a second different safety system to the mask (e.g., a second strap). A subsequent motion (which was seconded and passed) laid the first motion on the table "for one year and referred the issue to the RC and SEMI commissions for more data and to report back no later than the deadline for agenda items for the Summer Nationals meeting in 2020 and to request any data the FIE has on the rule." At the 8/27/2020 board meeting the motion was retabled until the 2021 Summer Nationals meeting, which has past. Here is the text of the motion being taken from the table:

To amend the material rules as follows: **M25.7.**

e:

e) The bib of the mask must be made with cloth resistant to 1600 Newtons. Replace with "350 Newtons"

M25.7. f:

~~f) The mask must contain a horizontal safety strap at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the strap firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask. This strap may be elastic or of any other material that may be approved by the S.E.M.I. Commission.~~ Replace with:

f) The mask must contain two different safety systems at the rear of the mask, with the two ends of the straps of the systems firmly affixed to the two sides of the mask. These straps must meet the following requirements approved by the S.E.M.I. Commission:

Mask with metallic tongue

- ☐ **The central band (strap) should not be less than 45 mm wide.**
- ☐ **The strap must be positioned low enough across the rear of the cervical region that the position of the strap on the head ensures that the mask cannot slide off.**
- ☐ **The band must be in solid material: when stretched the material should not sustain permanent plastic deformation and should quickly return to its original shape and size**
- ☐ **The fastening system must be doubled: it must be closed with a double security system (this means that the Velcro™ must be attached at least twice).**
- ☐ **The Velcro™ must have a minimum breaking strain of 750 N/cm**
- ☐ **The tags to which the strap is attached by Velcro must be secured to each side of the mask with the same breaking strain.**

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Mask without metallic tongue

- ☐ **The position of the main strap must be low enough to ensure that the mask cannot slide off; the correct distance should be decided by the manufacturer (typically, 25/30 mm).**
- ☐ **The strap must incorporate 3 fixing points.**
- ☐ **The use of a magnetic strap, when present, remains mandatory.**

For USA Fencing competitions the retrofit of existing masks, including FIE masks, to the new design is allowed, subject to verification by Equipment Check (approval of the Head Technician).

Appendix A 2.2

4.3 Bibs: (p.177)

~~The bib of the mask must be made with cloth resistant to 1600 Newton, to be tested by the methods described in 3.1, below~~ **Replace with “350 Newtons”**

4.5 Test and Certificates: (p.178)

DELETE 4.5

Implementation: FIE homologated masks used in National events will be required to conform to the amended rules no later than 1 Aug 2020; all masks used in National events will be required to conform to the amended rules no later than 1 Aug 2021; all masks used in any USA Fencing event will be required to conform to the amended rules no later than 1 Aug 2022.

Mr. Alperstein moved to table this motion to the annual meeting.

Second Mr. Kidd. Motion passed.

IV. New Business

Motion Mr. Burchard: To approve the minutes from the July 9 and August 13, 2021 meetings with corrections.

Second Ms. Prescod

Motion (Mr. Burchard): to amend the August 13, 2021 minutes to include the points of order in the document.

Second Ms. Prescod.
Motion fails.

Motion (Mr. Watson): to bifurcate the original motion and approve the July 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

Second Mr. Kidd
Motion passed.

Motion (Mr. Watson): To direct the national office to draft a social media policy.

Rationale: At the July 9, 2021 membership meeting Ms. Asher proposed that the organization draft a social media policy.

Second Mr. Kidd.

Motion (Mr. Alperstein): to amend the motion to read: To direct the National Office to draft a social media policy for submission to the board for potential approval.

Mr. Watson & Mr. Kidd accepted the amendment.

Motion to amend passes.

Motion to direct the National Office to draft a social media policy for submission to board for potential approval passes.

Motion (Ms. Holmes): To adopt the proposed bylaw changes.

Please click [here](#) to review the proposed bylaw changes.

Second Mr. Arias.

Ms. Marcil Holmes spoke on the potential conflict of interest. Some question has been raised as to whether there is a conflict regarding the proposed extension for the at-large director position on the board. Ms. Marcil Holmes was not involved in the discussion to extend her term and was under the understanding that this was the only solution that did not involve shortening anyone else's term. Ms. Marcil Holmes also stated that she does not serve on this board for any type of personal gain. During a previous bylaw change there was a transition plan included as with this new proposed change. This impact to the term does not at all influence the view towards the proposed changes.

Ms. Holmes discussed that her potential conflict follows suit with Ms. Marcil Holmes.

Motion (Mr. Alperstein): to amend the original motion to approve the proposed bylaw changes, and address the amendment to section 7.21 in a later amendment.

Second Mr. Kidd.

Motion to amend passes.

Motion (Ms. Haynie): to bifurcate the amended the motion and vote separately on provision 6.1b.

Second Ms. Prescod

Motion to bifurcate fails.

Motion to adopt the proposed bylaw changes with exception of section 7.21 to address that item in a later amendment passes with nine in favor, one opposed and one abstention.

Mr. Alperstein: Can we correct typographical errors contained in the bylaws or do they require further bylaw amendment? The corrections are consistency of the use of USFA and USAF throughout the document and 'chairs of the boards of the USFA' should be 'chairs of the board of the USFA'.

Mr. Neale – There are non-substantive changes and would be okay without the 45 day process.

Motion (Mr. Alperstein) to make those changes before publication of the bylaws.

Second Mr. Watson.
Motion passed.

Motion (Mr. Arias): To extend the board-approved \$20 COVID event fee for the remaining 2021 National Tournaments to offset a portion of increased expenses to provide necessary safety protocols in light of the delta variant.

Rationale: USA Fencing National Office is requesting the Board of Directors consider extending the \$20 COVID fee, per unique entrant, for remaining 2021 National Tournaments. The COVID fee would help to offset a portion of protocol expenses. Expenses related to providing COVID-19 protocols for athletes, coaches, officials, parents, and staff are necessary to safely conduct national tournaments. Protocol expenses include PPE for all officials and staff, single hotel rooms for officials, and sanitizing competition and high traffic areas. Participants have understood the need for the COVID fee. The National Office has received very few questions or concerns related to the fee for previous national tournaments as our membership has been understanding of the additional costs.

Second Mr. Watson.

Mr. Alperstein – Will there continue to be single rooms and PPE provided to event officials?

Ms. Toelle – Yes those items are what the COVID fee will help cover.

Motion passed.

SafeSport Report (Appendix A)

Motion (Mr. Burchard): The president makes the following motions:

1. Within fifteen days, form a Fencing SafeSport Task Force to study the efficiency and efficacy of SafeSport and evaluate other measures for protecting our members and athletes of USA Fencing. This Task Force shall be drawn from the membership-at-large and must be independent of the current USA Fencing officers and directors. The Fencing SafeSport task force will contact other Olympic sports to encourage them to form SafeSport Task Forces and provide their own recommendations. There will be a 60-day period from appointment to form and report preliminary concerns and recommendations
2. USA Fencing will ask SafeSport to provide anonymized copies of open complaints involving USA Fencing members, including date of complaint, seriousness of allegations by category, and will request ongoing supplementation every six months.
3. Implement a communications platform for our membership to provide comments, suggestions, and feedback for anything related to SafeSport. Initially, this data will be used by the USA Fencing SafeSport Task Force for its recommendations.
4. Mandatory SafeSport training for all members of USA Fencing, including children amend to read with parental consent.

1. Logic: All must be trained to recognize when abuse occurs, whether they are directly involved, or are witness to it. (children's training is free).
2. Link to SafeSport for children: <https://athletesafety.org/training/index>

Motion fails due to lack of a second.

V. Good and Welfare

Mr. Burchard – The Buckie Leach situation is very sad. I propose that we establish a Buckie Leach trophy and award for National Women's Foil Coach or coach in the future. A sponsor has offered to fund it and I hope in the future we can do this. Thank you to Michael Marx for offering.

VI. Recess to Executive Session

Motion (Mr. Burchard): to recess to executive session.

Second Mr. Watson.
Motion passed.

VII. Executive Session

Present: Donald Alperstein, David Arias, Cliff Bayer, Peter Burchard, Lauren Haynie, Kat Holmes, Alan Kidd, Ann Marsh-Senic, Nzingha Prescod, Adam Watson

Absent: Lorrie Marcil Holmes

Guests: Peter Barton, Kris Ekeren, Melissa Jones, Suzie Riewald

The board received an update on two disciplinary panels.

The board discussed a current contract.

VIII. Recess

Motion (Mr. Burchard): to adjourn.

No objection was heard.

Appendix A



USA Fencing Safe Sport Background

USA Fencing’s first Safe Sport Policy was implemented in August 2013. Prior to the creation of an official policy, USA Fencing had formed a task force to review athlete safety policies and procedures, including background screens.

The US Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC – at that time the USOC) required that all National Governing Bodies (NGBs) implement athlete safety policies prior to December 31, 2013. Our initial policy defined the six areas of misconduct: sexual misconduct and abuse, physical, emotional, bullying, harassment and hazing. This policy applied to “constituents,” defined as USA Fencing employees, coaches, staff, volunteers, board members, committee and task force members, division officers and other individuals working with athletes or other sport participants while at USA Fencing events. Reporting guidelines and procedures and the background screen policy were also included in the Safe Sport policy. Over the next few years, the Safe Sport Policy was revised and expanded to cover additional individuals, and to include additional reporting requirements and prevention policies.

Effective March 3, 2017, upon the creation of the US Center for Safe Sport (“Center”), the Center’s Safe Sport Code superseded and replaced the USA Fencing SafeSport Policy. Among other things, the Center’s Code expanded its coverage to include any individual within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of an NGB, or whom the NGB or USOC had formally appointed to a position of authority over athletes. USA Fencing’s Code amended and restated in July 2017 to include supplemental SafeSport related policies, procedures and requirements that are important to creating and maintaining a SafeSport environment. The current SafeSport Code of the Center and USA Fencing Safe Sport Policy can be found on our website [here](#).

Importantly, from the outset, the Center’s Code vested the Center with *exclusive* authority over actual or suspected sexual misconduct by a covered individual, meaning that “(a) only the Office will investigate and manage any related hearings involving sexual misconduct and (b) neither the NGB nor USOC will conduct its own investigation with respect to possible sexual misconduct” The Center retained the right to exercise discretionary jurisdiction over other types of prohibited conduct – such as bullying, harassment, etc. – If it did not exercise discretionary jurisdiction over non-sexual misconduct, then the NGB was free to investigate and take action. Although the provisions of the Code regarding exclusive and discretionary jurisdiction have evolved somewhat over time (see Reports of Misconduct, below), these basic distinctions have been maintained continuously to date.

US Center for SafeSport Background

Effective February 14, 2018, the federal [Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017](#) authorized the U.S. Center for SafeSport to serve as the nation’s independent safe sport organization with jurisdiction over the USOPC, each National Governing Body (including USA Fencing) and each Paralympic Sports Organization, with regard to

safeguarding amateur athletes against abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse in sports. The Act gave the Center the scope and authority to investigate and resolve abuse and misconduct reports throughout the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement that includes over 14 million individuals. The Act further provided that the Center's policies and procedures would be incorporated into the duties of National Governing Bodies under the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, effectively giving them the force of federal law over all NGBs. The Act also extended "the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes at an amateur sports organization facility or at an event sanctioned by a national governing body (NGB) or member of an NGB." The Center develops and enforces policies, procedures, and training to prevent abuse and misconduct and its [SafeSport Code](#) governs all participants affiliated with the Olympic and Paralympic Movement. The Code has been and continues to be updated periodically. In addition to the Code, the Center has implemented [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#) ("MAAPP") to which all NGBs must adhere.

Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act of 2020 (EOPAAA)

The [Empowering Olympic, Paralympic and Amateur Athletes Act](#) (EOPAAA) enacted on October 30, 2020 protects "amateur athletes from abuse, including sexual abuse, by coaches and employees in U.S. Olympic and Paralympic sports." The Act includes "legislative mechanisms by which Congress can dissolve the Board of Directors of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and decertify national governing bodies; and (2) a duty of care that USOPC owes to amateur athletes, including protecting athletes by requiring it to ensure that any allegation of child abuse of an amateur athlete who is a minor is immediately reported to law enforcement."

Included in the law is the provision that the USOPC and NGBs cannot interfere or influence the outcome of the Center's investigations and requires the Center to report to Congress any attempt to interfere or influence within 72 hours of the occurrence. The Act added protection against retaliation as well as the creation of a Commission to study the US Olympic and Paralympic movement. It prohibits former employees or board members of the USOPC or an NGB from working or volunteering at the Center for two years. Funding of the Center was increased to \$20 million a year, to be provided by the USOPC and NGBs.

Independence of the US Center for SafeSport

Pursuant to the EOPAAA of 2020, the US Government General Accountability Office (GAO) must certify the Center's independence each year. Included in the independence review are the following items:

- 1) a finding of whether a violation of the prohibition on employment of former employees or board members of the USOPC or NGBs has occurred during the year preceding the certification; 2) a finding of whether an executive or attorney for the Center has had an inappropriate conflict of interest during that year; and
- 3) a finding of whether the USOPC or NGBs has interfered in, or attempted to influence the outcome of, an investigation by the Center.

The GAO 2020 Certification Report is available publicly [here](#).

Relationship between the Center, NGBs and the USOPC

As mentioned earlier, the Center is an independent agency empowered by federal law. NGBs, including USA Fencing, and the USOPC have no influence on the response and resolution of cases once the Center has jurisdiction over an issue.

NGB staff participate in quarterly meetings with the USOPC Athlete Safety staff to discuss best practices and SafeSport concerns. The NGB Council has formed a SafeSport liaison group that meets quarterly with the Center staff to discuss concerns and the Center CEO meets quarterly with NGB CEOs to provide an update on the Center's work. In addition, the Center hosts a yearly Summit for NGB staff.

The Center conducts yearly audits on all NGBs and the audits will be posted publicly on the Center's website.

While USA Fencing cannot attempt to influence an investigation, we may provide the Center with membership information and contact information and responses to its inquiries. If the Center takes jurisdiction over a case, USA Fencing is notified, and the notice may or may not include temporary measures, including but not limited to temporary suspensions, to be enforced by USA Fencing and other NGBs. USA Fencing also receives notice after the Center concludes an investigation; the notice includes the Center's decision and related sanctions, if any.

Reports of Misconduct

Reports of misconduct can be submitted to either USA Fencing or to the Center. The Center accepts reports online or by phone. Its *exclusive jurisdiction* now extends to the following:

- Sexual Misconduct, including without limitation child sexual abuse and any misconduct that is reasonably related to an underlying allegation of Sexual Misconduct
- Criminal Charges or Dispositions involving Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct
- Misconduct Related to Reporting, where the underlying allegation involves Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct;
- Aiding and Abetting, when it relates to the Center's process
- Misconduct Related to the Center's Process

The Center also accepts reports of emotional and physical misconduct (including bullying, hazing, stalking, and harassment); however, the Center has *discretionary jurisdiction* in these matters and may send the report back to USA Fencing for resolution.

USA Fencing accepts all misconduct reports and immediately submits any reports of sexual misconduct to the Center. We also have the option to submit all reports to the Center in an effort to provide data on reports that fall outside of the Center's current jurisdiction.

Both the Center and USA Fencing have formal policies against retaliation, which is itself a reportable violation.

Response and Resolution

The Center's Response and Resolution process has three steps:

- 1) Reporting and Intake
- 2) Investigation
- 3) Resolution

We have included the process flowchart in the appendix.

The Center has also developed [informational videos](#) that detail the steps that are taken by the Center.

The Center also has a dedicated staff person available to respond to questions about the process:

Resource.Advisor@safesport.org or by calling 720-727-4084.

USA Fencing's Response and Resolution process is detailed in its [disciplinary procedures](#) and the flowcharts are also included in the appendix.

In 2018, the Guidelines for individuals [Participating in Disciplinary Proceedings](#) was created with the assistance of members in the fencing community, including referees.

Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP)

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

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

USA Fencing's MAAPP is located on our [website](#) and is approved by the Center, as all future iterations must also be. A number of resources are available to assist with implementing the MAAPP, including its limitations on one-on-one interactions between adult participants and minor athletes.

Education

USA Fencing has partnered with the U.S. Center for SafeSport to offer online SafeSport training for our members. Training is a SafeSport requirement for USA Fencing coaches, volunteers, referees, committee members, vendors, staff and those that have regular contact with minor fencers to complete online training on an annual basis. SafeSport training will be required at the time of membership renewal and will be valid for the membership year. Additionally, the online training is offered at no additional cost to all adult members and can be accessed online through your USA Fencing member dashboard at member.usafencing.org.

Coach, +CheckEd and +Coach members must first complete the core course that includes three 30minute modules:

1. Sexual Misconduct Awareness training
2. Emotional and Physical Misconduct
3. Mandatory Reporting

After the completion of the Core Training, a 30-minute refresher course is taken in subsequent seasons to satisfy the SafeSport training requirement. The Core training and refresher courses are offered in English, French and Spanish.

USA Fencing **strongly encourages** parents and youth members to take the free training that is currently available on the Center's platform. *Minors must have parental permission before taking the course.* Please note that the Center will be updating their training platform by October 15, 2021 and will be revising the youth training offerings.

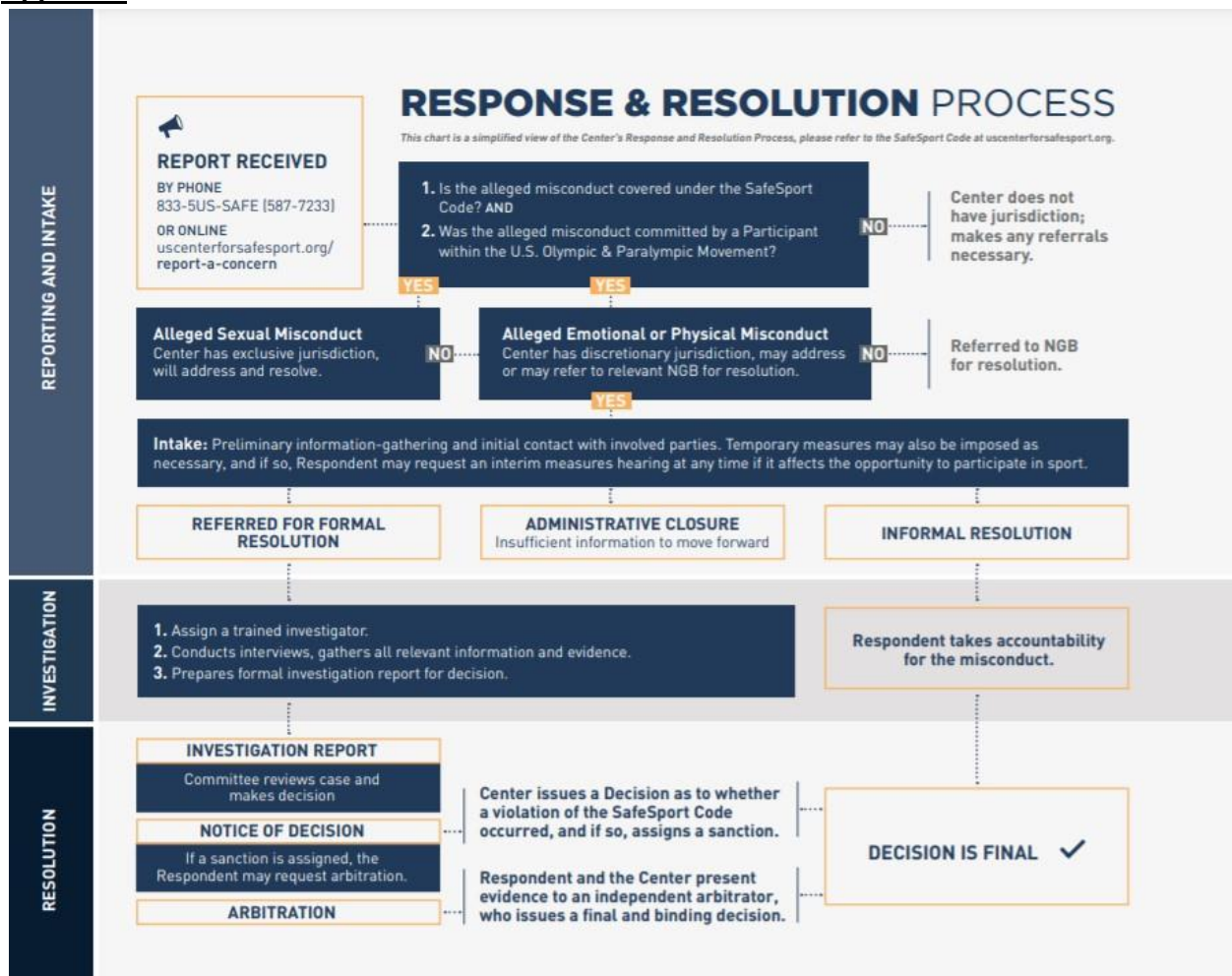
USA Fencing has many educational materials and resources for our members and clubs on our website to help increase awareness and reduce the risk of misconduct. In the appendix, we have

included screenshots of the resources available related to the MAAPP such as noteworthy changes to the MAAPP, club signage and posters, and sample consent forms.

We recognize that parents are critical in our efforts to protect young athletes. The USA Fencing website has resources to help increase parents' awareness around reducing the risk of misconduct and creating a positive sports environment.

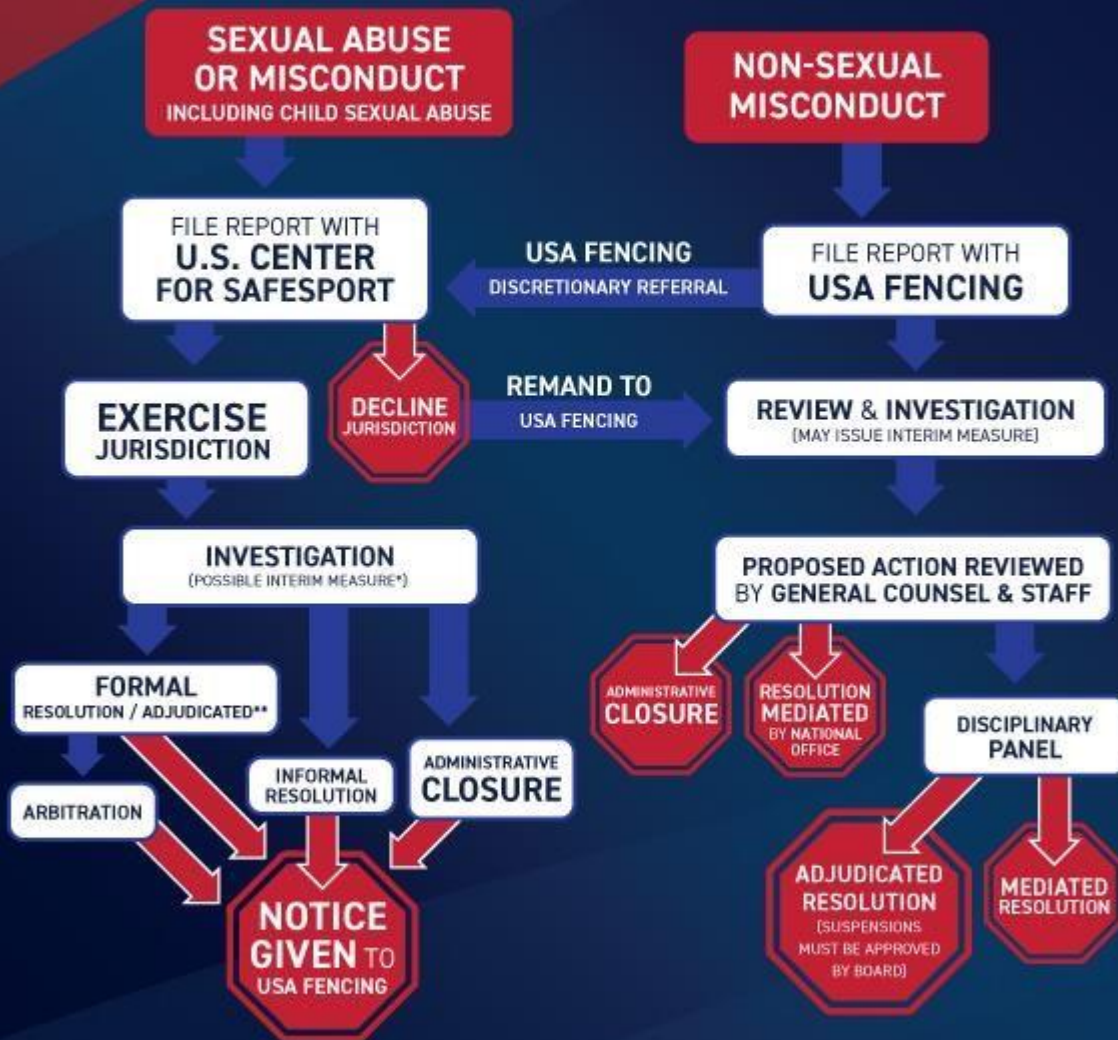
Through our various newsletters and eblasts, we strive to keep our members informed of educational opportunities and SafeSport updates.

Appendix





USA
FENCING
SAFESPORT



This flowchart is a general summary for convenience. Complete procedures can be found in the USA Fencing Athlete Handbook, USA Fencing SafeSport Policy and the SafeSport Code of the US Center for Safe Sport.

* After Center assumes jurisdiction, it may impose interim measures to be enforced by USA Fencing.

**Adjudicated resolutions are subject to appeal as set forth in the SafeSport Code or Athlete Handbook.



We have included screenshots to show a number of the resources available on our website such as noteworthy changes to the MAAPP, club signage and posters, and sample consent forms.

Athletes

Rankings

- Current Point Standings
- Rankings Archive
- Point Rules
- Point Standings FAQ

Programs

- College Programs
- Veteran Fencing
- Parafencing
- Sports Medicine

Rules and Compliance

- Athlete Handbook
- SafeSport
- Ineligible Member List
- Clubs & Coaches
- Parents
- Athletes
- Center for SafeSport
- Blog
- Resource Team
- USA Fencing Rulebook
- Codes of Conduct
- Anti-Doping

Education

- DEIB

International Comp

- Selection Criteria
- Register Online
- National Team Staff
- International License
- International Calendar

USA Fencing is working to increase awareness and reduce the risk of misconduct and abuse in fencing through its SafeSport Program. It takes a team effort to create, monitor and maintain a safe and healthy environment. **Coaches and Club leadership, you are part of this team.** Following are some resources to help increase your awareness and provide you with tools to protect our athletes and create a positive sport experience.

Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies Toolkit

- USA Fencing MAAPP
- Updated MAAPP Noteworthy Revisions
- MAAPP Certification Statement
- Club Signs
 - One-on-One Interactions
 - Locker Rooms and Changing Areas
- Individual MAAPP Policy Posters/Handouts
 - One-on-One Interactions
 - Athletic Training Modalities, Massages and Rubdowns
 - Lodging
 - Transportation
 - Meeting and Training Sessions
 - Electronic Communications
 - Locker Rooms and Changing Areas
 - In-Program Contact
- Sample Consent Forms
 - General Consent Form

This consent form is a general consent form to address several in-program activities that require parental consent as per the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies: Individual Training Sessions; Athletic Training Modalities, Messages and Rubdowns; Transportation; Media in Locker Rooms
 - Lodging Consent Form
 - Dual Relationship Consent Form
 - Personal Care Assistant Consent Form

ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS POLICY

2021 MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

POLICY APPLICATION

The One-on-One Interactions Policy must be followed for all In-Program Contact.

POLICY REQUIREMENTS

1 | **ALL** One-on-One interactions between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be:

- Observable
- Interruptible

POLICY EXCEPTIONS

If one of the following exceptions exists with appropriate consent, the One-on-One Interactions Policy does not need to be followed:

- Emergency
- Dual Relationship – The Adult Participant has an existing relationship with Minor Athlete outside of the sport program.
- Close-in-Age – The Adult Participant has no Authority over the Minor Athlete and is not more than 4 years older than the Minor Athlete.
- Personal Care Assistant – The Adult Participant is a Personal Care Assistant and has met all the requirements.

This product was supported in part by grant number 2018-WF-BB-0001, awarded by the SMART Office, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Under the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 the Center is charged with creating "reasonable procedures to find and on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is younger and an adult (here is not the minor's legal guardian) or a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body or an international sports organization without being an observable and interruptible activity from another adult, except under emergency circumstances." The Center strongly recommends that a record which be present to make contact between a minor and an adult observable and interruptible but also acknowledges that this may not be reasonable in all situations.

COMMON QUESTIONS

As an Adult Participant, if I attend a church function where Minor Athletes from my Organization are present, is the interaction with those Minor Athletes considered In-Program Contact where the One-on-One Interactions Policy must be followed?

A: No. A function that is organized by a church is not related to participation in sport and would not be considered In-Program Contact (Remember that In-Program Contact must include all three components from the Three-Part Test: an Adult Participant, a Minor Athlete, and related to participation in sport). However, as an Adult Participant, it is always in the best interest of yourself and Minor Athletes in your Organization to avoid all one-on-one interactions with unrelated Minor Athletes.

What is an Emergency situation?

A: An Emergency is a serious, unexpected, and possibly dangerous situation that requires quick action and cannot be avoided. Emergency situations include, but are not limited to, a medical emergency of a Minor Athlete, relative of Minor Athlete, or relative of Adult Participant; a severe weather event; or last-minute practice changes due to facility power issues. (For more information on Emergency Exceptions, please refer to the MAAPP Manual).

Would an 18-year-old assistant coach for a team with Minor Athletes ages 15-16 years old meet the Close-in-Age exception?

A: No. Remember that for the Close-in-Age exception to apply, the Adult Participant must have no Authority over Minor Athletes. An assistant coach is in a position of Authority.

Would In-Program one-on-one interactions between a coach who is also the uncle of a Minor Athlete on his team be required to be observable and interruptible?

A: It depends. If the coach obtained a Dual Relationship consent form from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, then In-Program one-on-one interactions do NOT need to be observable and interruptible. If the coach did not obtain a Dual Relationship consent form, then all In-Program one-on-one interactions with the Minor Athlete would need to be observable and interruptible.

U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT
2021 MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES
ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS POLICY RESOURCE

Also available on the website are the USA Fencing Codes of Conduct or Code of Conduct Templates to co-brand for their club. We have compiled a list of additional resources for those looking for further information.

Website Links and Training Resources

- The U.S. Center for SafeSport
 - The U.S. Center for SafeSport works collaboratively with sport organizations to ensure a culture of safety through awareness, education and training programs, so that every athlete is safe, supported and strengthened through sport. The Education and Outreach office offers the SafeSport Training courses that are required for USA Fencing's Coach and +CheckEd members. The Response and Resolution office investigates and resolves alleged violations of the *SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement*.
- Positive Coaching Alliance
 - The Positive Coaching Alliance's mission is to transform the youth sports culture into a *Development Zone*® where all youth and high school athletes have a positive, character-building experience that results in better athletes and better people. The site offers many educational resources – printable material, articles, audio-visuals – for coaches, athletes, parents and administrators.
- The Child Welfare Information Gateway
 - The mission of the Child Welfare Information Gateway is to connect child welfare and related professionals to comprehensive resources to help protect children and strengthen families. The site contains detailed information on how to prevent and respond to child neglect and abuse.
- StopBullying.gov
 - This website provides comprehensive information related to bullying. StopBullying.gov provides information from various government agencies on what bullying is, what cyberbullying is, who is at risk, and how you can prevent and respond to bullying.
- Boston vs Bullies
 - Do you want to learn more about bullying? Are you concerned about bullying that you have observed with teammates? This link features a series of videos featuring athletes from Boston's professional sports teams who share their stories and provide ways for you to stand strong against bullying. This is also a helpful tool for clubs as it can be used to start a dialogue about athlete behavior and how to create a positive team environment.
- TrueSport
 - The mission of TrueSport is to change the culture of youth sports by providing educational tools to equip athletes with resources to build life skills and core values for success - on and off the field. This website contains informative and educational article, resources, videos for parents, coaches and athletes.

Putting SafeSport Policies into Place for your Club

Template codes of conduct for your club: The Code of Conduct templates can assist in reducing the risk of potential misconduct or abuse.

- Members
 - [USA Fencing Member Code of Conduct](#)
 - [Template Member Code of Conduct](#)
- Coaches
 - [USA Fencing Coach Code of Conduct](#)
 - [Template Coach Code of Conduct](#)
- Spectator
 - [USA Fencing Spectator Code of Conduct](#)
 - [Template Spectator Code of Conduct](#)

Template policies for your club: The policy templates can assist in reducing the risk of potential misconduct or abuse.

- [Anti-Bullying Plan](#)
- [Resource Guide for Peer to Peer Incidents](#)



USA Fencing Spectator Code of Conduct

As a spectator and supporter of the sport of fencing, I understand that it is my role to help create a positive and supportive environment for everyone involved in a tournament – both on and off the strip.

I will:

- Display good sportsmanship by respecting athletes, coaches, referees, officials and other spectators.
- Act appropriately and remain orderly so I do not disturb the smooth running of the competition. I will remember to enjoy the competition – regardless of the outcome – and will not taunt or disturb other spectators.
- Abide by all applicable USA Fencing rules and regulations, including USA Fencing's SafeSport Policy, Athlete Handbook and Rulebook.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity. I understand that continually vocalizing criticism so that it detrimentally affects the good order of the competition is a violation of fencing rules.
- Never physically contact a referee in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
- Be a role model by positively supporting athletes and not shouting instructions or criticism to the athletes, coaches or officials.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment for all participants.
- Encourage all competitors in a positive manner, remembering that the use of profanity and objectionable gestures are offensive and are prohibited.
- Be supportive after the competition – win or lose. I will recognize good efforts and sportsmanship.

I acknowledge that failure to comply with the USA Fencing Spectator Code of Conduct may result in removal from the venue or other disciplinary action. I understand its requirements and agree to abide by the letter and spirit of the Code.

Screenshot of Parent Information

[COURSES](#) [RESOURCES](#) [WEBSITE LINKS](#) [ARTICLES](#)

Parent SafeSport Course

An online course was developed by the U.S. Center for SafeSport for parents of athletes of all ages. Titled "Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sport," this course explains the issues of misconduct in sport and helps parents ensure their children have a positive and safe sport experience. To take this free, 30 minute course click [here](#).

Youth Athlete Training Course

The U.S. Center for SafeSport is now offering a Youth Athlete Training course.

These resources include courses for children of preschool age, grades K-2, grades 3-5, middle school and high school. These free online trainings are designed as an introduction for minor athletes and their parents or other caregivers to understand the importance of positive, welcoming environments in sports, where misconduct like bullying or abuse is less likely to happen and to know where to report abuse, should it occur.

Each course is hosted on athletesafety.org and requires that a parent or legal guardian create an account to provide consent for their child to access the training. Once an account is created, select not affiliated from the dropdown menu and then parents can choose which course is best for their child based on their actual or developmental age.

Each course will take less than 30 minutes to complete. A writeable PDF certificate is available at the conclusion of each training and parents are encouraged to write their child's name on the printed certificate.

- **Preschool course:** The preschool course includes a fun cheer; emphasizes that sports should be an inclusive environment that prioritizes safety, respect and fun over winning; and encourages starting an open conversation with children at an early age. This course will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.
- **Grades K-2 course:** The grades K-2 course includes an animated video and game that focuses on having a positive attitude, keeping sport fun and speaking up when something doesn't feel right. The course concludes with resources for reporting abuse or misconduct. This course will take approximately ten 10 minutes to complete.
- **Grades 3-5 course:** The grades 3-5 course provides an interactive game to identify and speak up when behavior crosses the line, recognize the difference between discipline and abuse, stresses the importance of being a good teammate and have a healthy