



SAFE SPORT

Safe Sport at USATF Newsletter July 2023

USA Track & Field (USATF) strives to create a safe and healthy environment in which our members can participate, as well as to provide members with the most up-to-date information and opportunities centered around participant and athlete well-being.

Features & Upcoming USATF Events

A full list of upcoming USATF events can be [found here](#).



USATF Masters Outdoor Championships: The *Truist Stadium on the campus of North Carolina A&T State University* in Greensboro, NC is pleased to welcome the 2023 USATF Masters Outdoor Championships on July 20 – 23, 2023.

USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships: If you are planning to attend the 2023 USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships as a USATF certified official, youth coach, or volunteer with access and/or authority over athletes (among other roles), you need to be USATF 3-Step Safe Sport Compliant (coaches are additionally required to be listed on USATF's Coaches Registry) through the last date of the USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships (**current through July 30, 2023**).



USATF 7 Mile Championships: 2023 marks the 49th running of the Quad-City Times Bix 7. The 2023 USATF 7 Mile Championships will be hosted in Davenport, IA on July 29, 2023, from 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM. For more information on the Quad Cities Bix 7 Event, please visit the [host event home page](#).





FREE SafeSport Courses for Parents & Youth

Under federal law, the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the “Center”) is tasked to end sexual, physical, and emotional abuse and misconduct in amateur sport. The Center’s latest set of SafeSport education courses are offered to Parents, Youth Athletes, and Kids free of cost.

**For help understanding why the MAAPP is important,
listen to this podcast!**

Parent’s Guide to Misconduct in Sport: The Center’s 30-minute course designed for the parents of youth athletes at any age. This free course educates parents on recognizing, responding to, and preventing abuse and misconduct in their child’s sport setting. The perspectives and voices of experts and advocates, with sound guidance are featured to effectively foster positive and safe sport experiences for children on the field and at home. After completing the course, Parents will be equipped with information and tactics necessary to minimize risks of harm to their children.

SafeSport for Youth Athletes (Ages 13-17): The Center’s 20-minute course primarily focuses on consent and respectful behavior, supporting friends who have experienced abuse or misconduct, and the resources available to Youth Athletes for reporting.

**Note: Parental consent is required at the start of the course.*

SafeSport for Kids (Ages 5-12): The Center’s 15-minute course designed to educate children about the difference between discipline and abuse, while encouraging them to reach out to a trusted adult when something is not right. The course stresses the importance of being a good teammate, positive sportsmanship, and having a healthy sport environment focused on fun and safety.

**Note: Parental consent is required at the start of the course. Parents should plan to take the course alongside their child to supervise and to reinforce the course’s important lessons.*



MAAPP

Created by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) is a set of two policies: 1) training requirement policies; and 2) policies on limiting one-on-one interactions between certain adults who have regular contact and authority over minor athletes. USATF's current MAAPP can be found in USATF's Safe Sport Handbook, available on [USATF's website](#).

For help understanding why the MAAPP is important, listen to [this podcast](#)!

MAAPP Rules to Follow

USATF has a variety of short and easy documents that highlight key MAAPP policies. The following documents are great learning tools to ensure you are familiar with USATF's MAAPP policies:

One-On-One Interactions: One-on-one interactions, while they have potential benefits, can also pose a risk to children. To keep our child athletes safe, all In-Program Contact involving one-on-one interactions between an Adult Participant and minor athlete **MUST** be observable and interruptible. Exceptions to the One-on-One Interactions Policy include emergency circumstances, dual relationships, close-in-age, and personal care assistants who meet the requirements.

Social Media & Electronic Communications: One-on-one electronic communications and social media can increase the risk of abuse and grooming. To help ensure the safety of children when using electronic communications and social media, follow these three requirements:

1. Content – all electronic communication from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.
2. Open and Transparent – no one-on-one communication between Applicable Adults and minor athletes.
3. Requests to Discontinue – if requested by a parent/guardian, no electronic communication to minor athletes may take place absent emergency circumstances.

Local Travel: It is important to address travel situations, which present a unique scenario in which one-on-one interactions are more likely to take place. Here are three essential rules for all vehicle travel:

1. An Applicable Adult not acting as a parent/guardian should not ride alone in a vehicle with an unrelated minor athlete.
2. An unrelated Applicable Adult must be accompanied by at least two minor athletes or another adult in a vehicle.
3. One-on-One In-Program travel is permitted between an Adult Participant and a minor athlete when advance written consent is obtained from a parent/guardian on an annual basis.

MAAPP Rules to Follow (cont'd.)

Team Travel: Like for local travel, there are three essential rules to know to help keep athletes safe during team travel.

1. Competition Travel – parent/guardian consent is required for any travel involving an Applicable Adult and one minor athlete.
2. Hotel Rooms - an unrelated Applicable Adult and minor athlete shall not share a hotel room without prior written parent/guardian consent.
3. Meetings – meetings during travel must be observable and interruptible.

For full MAAPP, please see [USATF's SafeSport Handbook](#)

Please note, violations to USATF's MAAPP should be immediately reported to USATF. Reporting information can be found below and on [USATF's website](#).

Use RealResponse Reporting Mechanism

In April 2022, USATF announced its engagement with RealResponse, a safe and secure feedback, monitoring, and anonymous reporting platform for athletic teams and organizations, as their platform to track, monitor, and proactively address issues and potential misconduct encountered by their athletes, coaches, and staff. USATF members can anonymously report questions, feedback, concerns, and more in real-time, via text from their mobile phones. To report a complaint using RealResponse, simply text (833) 9-USATF (987-2834). More information about the platform can be found [here](#).

Tailored MAAPP Trainings

The U.S. Center for SafeSport offers [free live trainings](#) on the MAAPP customized for parents, coaches, administrators, and adult athlete groups. You can pre-register for these trainings and check back monthly as new training dates are released throughout the summer.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport also offers several free, optional training programs in its catalog of [available courses](#). These include "Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sport," "SafeSport for Youth Athletes," and "SafeSport for Kids."



Safe Sport Recognized Association Program

About the Program

USATF’s Safe Sport Recognized Association Program allows Associations to demonstrate their commitment to creating a safe and positive environment for all Association members through implementing, enforcing, and monitoring USATF’s Safe Sport Program.

Associations have the opportunity to earn three different levels of recognition – Bronze, Silver, or Gold, which can be upgraded annually.

Once acquired, Associations will be able to advertise the corresponding USATF Safe Sport badge on their Association platforms and USATF will encourage parents to consider the measures of protection that Associations have implemented.

The Facts

- Voluntary and no-cost program for all USATF Associations.
- Applications are open on June 1 and December 1 of each calendar year, where Associations are invited to submit detailed information demonstrating they have met the below criteria.
- Once Earn one (1) of the three (3) levels of USATF Safe Sport Recognized badges.
- Focused on Association Safe Sport policies, procedures, and processes.
- Successful completion demonstrates a commitment to creating a safe and positive environment for all Association members.



Levels of the USATF Safe Sport Recognized Association Program Criteria

Note: Each level is all-encompassing of the previous.

Bronze	Silver	Gold
<p>Promote Safe Sport (“SS”) education, policy requirements, and MAAPP awareness via communication to members, including a MAAPP link <i>yearly</i>.</p> <p>Link to USATF’s SS webpage on Association platforms.</p> <p>Identify all Applicable Adults* (“AAs”) required to complete SS training.</p> <p>System to track all Association’s AAs.</p> <p>All AAs complete SS training and update once every 365 days and complete a background screen once every 2-years.</p> <p>Track and file MAAPP related consent forms.</p> <p>Ensure all new AAs complete SS training prior to contact with athletes and within 45-days of assuming such position.</p>	<p>Promote SS education, policy requirements, and MAAPP awareness via communication to members, including a MAAPP link <i>twice</i> a year.</p> <p>Educate members on reporting a SS complaint via direct communication to members on how to report SS violations <i>yearly</i>.</p> <p>Link to the Center or USATF’s SS Reporting forms on Association platforms.</p> <p>System to regularly check that all AAs completed SS training.</p> <p>Document emergency one-on-one situations.</p> <p>Designate a USATF Association SS Volunteer Coordinator.</p> <p>Provide an event Safe Sport checklist.</p>	<p>Promote SS education, policy requirements, and MAAPP awareness via communication to members, including a MAAPP link <i>four</i> times a year.</p> <p>Educate members on reporting a SS complaint via direct communication to members on how to report SS violations <i>twice</i> a year.</p> <p>Advertise Code of Conduct on Association platforms.**</p> <p>20% of minor’s parents complete SS training to promote awareness of SS policies among parents.</p> <p>15% of minors complete age-appropriate to encourage education of MAAPP among athletes.</p> <p>Provide itineraries to parents/guardians of minors and obtain their consent for overnight travel trips.</p> <p>If applicable, provide proof of proper use of Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program.</p>

**Applicable Adults (“AAs”) is defined as “any Adult Participant to have Regular Contact with and/or Authority over Minor Athletes” (i.e., officials, coaches, Association leadership, Committee members, club leaders, and frequent volunteers).*

***Either USATF’s or the Club’s own Code of Conduct.*

Click [here](#) to submit your application.

Disciplinary Records

USA Track & Field

USATF's Disciplinary Records are available at: <https://www.usatf.org/safe-sport/disciplinary-records>, the listed individuals are either subject to certain temporary restrictions pending investigations by the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the "Center") or are currently serving a suspension from either USATF or the Center.

During their suspension period, individuals may not participate in any capacity in any activity or competition authorized by, organized by, sanctioned by, or under the auspices of USATF or the USOPC, the national governing bodies (NGBs) recognized by the USOPC, and/or the USOPC (including any USATF associations and clubs).

Please note, an interim suspension is a temporary suspension, pending the outcome of the matter.

U.S. Center for SafeSport

Any suspensions issued by the Center can also be found [here](#).

On the Center's database, users can search the database by Name, City, State, and/or Sport Affiliation(s). Search results will include the Participant's Name, City, State, Sport Affiliation(s), Decision Date, Misconduct, and Action Taken.

[Read more about](#) the types of misconduct handled by the NGBs, LAOs, and USOPC and what is included in the Center's Centralized Disciplinary Database.

Report a SafeSport Concern

Participant health and safety is of paramount importance and is something that USATF takes very seriously. As always, you should report any instances of sexual misconduct to the U.S. Center for SafeSport via their online reporting form [here](#).

Please report misconduct relating to bullying, hazing, harassment, and physical or emotional misconduct to USATF via our online reporting form [here](#), by emailing safesport@usatf.org, by calling (317) 713-4688, or by text at 833-9-USATF (987-2834).

Important Reminders

USATF Background Screening: USATF background screens are eligible for renewal 60 days before expiration, with email notifications sent to members at the 30-day mark. USATF encourages members to renew their background screen at the onset of the 60-day renewal window in order to give NCSI maximum time to process its background screen. Members only need to complete **one** background screen type in order to be eligible to participate in a role that requires USATF 3-Step Safe Sport Compliance.

SafeSport Training: SafeSport training (Core training and Refresher courses) can be completed directly on your USATF Connect account or [here](#). If you have completed SafeSport training with another organization, please let us know and we will get that training connected to your USATF Connect account.

