
AT-A-GLANCE

2022 MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES



In September 2020, the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) published the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) with Mandatory Components that NGBs, PSOs, and the USOPC were required to adopt.

USA Softball _____ adopted its MAAPP _____ on September 21, 2019 _____.

This document is based on the minimum mandatory components of the Center's Model MAAPP. Every Organization may choose to go beyond these minimum requirements and set standards that are stricter. Additionally, Adult Participants must be familiar with their respective Organization's policies and be aware of all requirements.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

REMEMBER:

- If you have Regular Contact with or Authority over a Minor Athlete, or if you are an employee or board member of an NGB, PSO, LAO or the USOPC, you are required to complete the *SafeSport Trained Core* and subsequent Refresher Courses.
- Adult Participants who also are medical providers obligated to complete training can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport Trained Core*.
- Adult Participants must complete training:
 - » Before Regular Contact with a Minor Athlete begins; and
 - » Within the first 45 days of initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy

IN-PROGRAM CONTACT

As the equation illustrates, all three components (Adult Participant, Minor Athlete, and Related to Participation in Sport) must be present for the MAAPP to apply. If one component is absent, then the interaction or activity would NOT be considered In-Program and thus not covered by the MAAPP.



1 | ADULT PARTICIPANT: Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

- A** A member or license holder of an NGB, PSO, LAO, or USOPC;
- B** An employee or board member of an NGB, PSO, LAO, or USOPC;
- C** Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of an NGB, PSO, LAO, or USOPC;
- D** Authorized, approved, or appointed by an NGB, PSO, LAO, or USOPC to have Regular Contact with or Authority over Minor Athletes.

2 | MINOR ATHLETE: An amateur athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of, an NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO.

Common examples of activities **Related to Participation in Sport:**



REGULAR CONTACT

Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s). Some examples of NGB/PSO/USOPC/LAO members who MAY have Regular Contact with Minor Athletes include:

- Coaches
- Adult Athletes on teams with Minor Athletes
- Volunteers in positions of Regular Contact (e.g., locker room monitors, parent chaperones)
- Athletic Trainers
- Health Professionals
- Officials

****REMEMBER:** NGB/LAO/PSO/USOPC Staff and Board Members are required to complete the *SafeSport Trained Core/Health Professionals Course* and subsequent Refreshers regardless of whether they have Regular Contact with or Authority over Minor Athletes.

AUTHORITY

When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person.

REQUIRED PREVENTION POLICIES



In addition to the above three exceptions there is an overarching Emergency Exception that applies in all areas of the MAAPP.

MAAPP EXCEPTIONS:

In the MAAPP, there are multiple areas where exceptions have been built into the Required Prevention Policies to address common relationships and situations that occur throughout the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. If an exception applies to a specific policy, it will be listed as a possible exception, along with any additional requirements. The exceptions found in the MAAPP are:

1 | **AN EMERGENCY.**

2 | CLOSE-IN-AGE: When an Adult Participant does not have Authority over the Minor Athlete and is no more than four years older than the Minor Athlete.

3 | PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT (PCA): When an Adult Participant is a Personal Care Assistant and has met the following requirements:

- The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must provide written consent to the Organization for the PCA to provide care/work with their Minor Athlete.
- The PCA must complete the required training as defined in the Education & Training Policy.
- The PCA must meet all screening requirements of the Organization.

4 | DUAL RELATIONSHIPS: When an Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete that is outside of the sport program. A parent/guardian must provide written consent to the Organization on an annual basis for this exception to be granted.

ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS POLICY

- Policy Jurisdiction: All In-Program Contact.
- All one-on-one interactions between an Adult Participant and Minor Athlete **MUST** be:
 - » Observable
 - » Interruptible
- Exceptions to the One-on-One Interactions Policy:
 - » Emergency Circumstances
 - » Dual Relationships
 - » Close-In-Age
 - » Personal Care Assistant who meets the requirements

MEETING AND TRAINING SESSIONS

- Must follow One-on-One Interactions Policy when Minor Athletes are present.
- Individual Training Sessions.
 - » Policy Jurisdiction: All In-Program Contact.
 - » Consent required from parent/guardian annually. Can be withdrawn at any time.
 - » Parents/Guardians must be allowed to observe.
- One-on-One Interactions Policy Exceptions are allowed for In-Program meetings and individual training sessions.
- Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers.
 - » Policy Jurisdiction: At facilities that are partially or fully under the jurisdiction of the Organization.
 - » Meetings do not need to be observable and interruptible if the following requirements are met:
 - a. Door is unlocked.
 - b. Another adult is present in the facility and is aware of the meeting.
 - c. Organization is aware of the meeting.
 - d. The provider obtains appropriate consent as required by law and ethical standards.

ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES, MESSAGES, AND RUBDOWNS

- Must follow One-on-One Interactions Policy.
- Must **ALWAYS** have a second **Adult Participant** in the room during treatment.
- Required consent from parent/guardian that needs to be documented at least annually.
- During treatment Minor Athlete's breast, buttocks, groin, and genitals **MUST** always be covered.
- Parents/Guardians **must** be allowed to attend treatment unless in a restricted area.
- **No** policy exceptions.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

- Must follow One-on-One Interactions Policy.
- The photographic or recording capabilities of any device (cell phones, cameras, tablets) cannot be used by any Participant in locker rooms or changing areas during In-Program activities.
- Adult Participants **MUST NOT** change clothes or behave in a way that exposes their breast, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.
- Adult Participants **CANNOT** shower with a Minor Athlete unless:
 - » The Adult Participant is an athlete with no Authority over the Minor Athlete and there is no more than four years age difference (Close-in-Age Exception).
 - » The Adult Participant and Minor Athlete are wearing swimwear and the shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse.
- Media and Championship Celebration recordings are allowed if they meet specific requirements.
- Monitoring must occur for all locker rooms and changing areas at sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under Organization's jurisdiction.
- A semi-private or private area to change must be provided to all Minor Athletes at sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under the Organization's jurisdiction.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

- Must be Open and Transparent, meaning that:
 - » Communication between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must include a parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant.
 - » This includes all communication started by a Minor Athlete.
- Only electronic platforms that can be Open and Transparent should be used.
- All team communication or communications with multiple Minor Athletes from an Adult Participant must copy or include another Adult Participant, or all the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians.
- All communication must be professional in nature.
- Organizations must honor a parent/guardian's request to discontinue communication with their Minor Athlete unless there is an emergency.
- One-one-One exceptions are allowed.





TRANSPORTATION

- Must follow One-on-One Interactions Policy, unless an exception exists or appropriate consent is obtained.
- In-Program transportation requirements are met if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors.
- 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. Can be withdrawn at any time.
- Written consent must be obtained from a parent/guardian annually for all transportation sanctioned by the Organization.
- One-on-One Exceptions are allowed.

LODGING

- Must follow One-on-One Interactions Policy.
- An Adult Participant **CANNOT** share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete during In-Program lodging except:
 - » When there is a Dual Relationship and written consent is provided by a parent/guardian prior to the lodging arrangement.
 - » When there is a Close-In-Age Exception and written consent is provided by a parent/guardian prior to the lodging arrangement.
 - » When there is a Personal Care Assistant Exception, all PCA requirements have been met, and written consent is provided by a parent/guardian prior to the lodging arrangement.
- Written consent is required for all In-Program lodging at least annually.
- Adult Participants traveling with an Organization overnight:
 - » Must agree to and sign the Organization's lodging policy annually.
 - » Are assumed to have "Authority" and must comply with the Center's Education & Training Policy.

RECOMMENDED POLICIES FOR KEEPING YOUNG ATHLETES SAFE

OUT-OF-PROGRAM CONTACT

- Adult Participants should not have Out-of-Program Contact with Minor Athletes, unless an exception exists, or appropriate consent has been obtained.
- Out-of-Program Contact should be avoided even if the contact is not one-on-one.

GIFTING

- Adult Participants should not give personal gifts to Minor Athletes unless an applicable exception exists (Close-in-Age or Dual Relationship).
- Gifts are permitted if distributed equally for all athletes.
- Gifts that serve a motivational or educational purpose are permitted.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO

- Photographs or videos of athletes should only be taken in public view.
- Must observe generally accepted standards of decency.
- Adult Participants should not share or post photos or videos of Minor Athletes unless proper consent has been obtained from the Minor Athlete and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian.

