



# Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy

["MAAPP"]



The MAAPP is a collection of proactive prevention and training policies for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement.

It consists of 3 primary components:

- An Education & Training Policy
- Required Prevention Policy
- Recommended Prevention Policies

These policies address training requirements and limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and minor athletes.

The logo for MAAPP (Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies) features the letters 'MAAPP' in a large, bold, white, outlined font. The letters are stylized with a blocky, geometric appearance.

**MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE  
PREVENTION POLICIES**

***What is MAAPP?***

## The SafeSport Code works alongside the MAAPP to prevent abuse.

- **SafeSport Code**  
Contains misconduct policies for individuals
- **MAAPP**  
Proactive policies for organizations and minors

Violations of the MAAPP can violate the SafeSport Code and violators can be sanctioned.

## Refresher Training

- **Must be completed on an annual basis by completing the SafeSport Refresher training.**  
*(Adult Participants will be required to complete the Full SafeSport Core training once every 4 years).*



***Is MAAPP different from the SafeSport Code?***

- **Minor Athlete**

Is an athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, participated within the previous 12 months in any event, program, activity or competition

- **Adult Participant**

Is any adult (18 years of age or older) and who is

- An Athlete
- An employee or board member
- Authorized, approved or appointed to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes

- **In-Program Contact**

Any contact (including communications, interactions or activities) between any Minor Athlete(s) and an Adult Participant related to participation in a sport.

- **Close-In-Age**

Adult Participant that **DOES NOT** have authority over a Minor Athlete **AND** is not more than 4 years older than the Minor Athlete.

- **Dual Relationship**

Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete; **AND** the Minor Athlete's parent / guardian has provided written consent at least annually authorizing the exception



## **Definitions / Terminology**

- **Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant**

An Adult Participant who assists an athlete requiring help with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation. Can be provided by a Guide for the Blind for visually impaired athletes

Assistance with

Guide for the Blind for visually impaired athletes

Transfer

Dressing

Showering

Medication Administration

Toileting

Should be individualized to fit the athlete's needs

Must be authorized by the parents/guardians for Minor Athletes

# Club & Ecosystem Expectations

## Education and Training Policy

- Requires training for certain Adults Participants (Personal Care Assistant, Close-in-age exception, Dual Relationships) within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement

## Adult Participants within the USL ecosystem are required to take SafeSport Training if:

- You have regular contact with Minor Athletes
- You have authority over Minor Athletes

## Timing of Training for Adult Participants:

- Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins
- and
- Within the first 45 days of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy.



**An Education & Training Policy**

# An Education and Training Policy

## Parent Training

- The U.S. Center for SafeSport also provides training for parents of Minor Athletes. **This is not a mandatory training and Clubs are not expected to track this training.** The USL **encourages** Parents to take this training to enhance their knowledge and understanding of potential safeguarding concerns that may arise.

(A parent course can be located at [SafeSportTrained.org](https://SafeSportTrained.org) that meets this requirement)



## Minor Athlete Training

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# Organizational Requirements

- Tracking of required training for Adult Participants
- On an annual basis, offer and subject parental consent, give training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
  - For Minor Athlete training
  - Document the description of the training and it was offered

not required to track individual course completions for Minor Athletes



***An Education and Training Policy***

**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.**

**MAAPP**

**MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE  
PREVENTION POLICIES**

***Required Prevention Policy***

# One-On-One Interaction

## Requirements:

- All One-one One Interactions between Adults and Minor Athletes must be:
  - **Observable**
  - **Interruptible**
- **Policy Exceptions**
  - **Emergency**
  - **Dual Relationship**
  - **Close-in-Age: Adult is no more than 4 years older**
  - **Personal Care Assistant (PCA)**



***Required Prevention Policy***

## MAAPP EXCEPTIONS

### AN EMERGENCY

- An emergency is a serious, unexpected and possibly dangerous situation that requires a quick decision that cannot be avoided.

### CLOSE IN AGE

- When an Adult Player does not have Authority over the Minor Athlete and is no more than four years older than the Minor Athlete.

### PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT

- 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.

### 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.



## Meeting and Training Sessions

- **Must follow the One-on-One Interactions Policy**
- **Individual Training Sessions**
  - 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 must follow the One-on-One Interaction Policy except:**
  - If the door remains unlocked; and
  - Another adult is present at the facility and is aware of the meeting
  - Organization is aware of the meeting
  - The provider obtains appropriate consent as required by law and ethical standards



***Required Prevention Policy***

## Athletic Training Modalities, Massages & 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.**

***Required Prevention Policy***



# Locker Rooms and Changing Areas

- Must follow One-on-One Interactions Policy.
- The photographic or recording capabilities of any device cannot be used by locker rooms or changing areas.
- 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
- A semi-private or private area to change must be provided to all Minor Athletes.



**LOCKER ROOMS AND  
CHANGING AREAS**

## COMMON QUESTIONS

Can locker room monitors be in the locker room or changing area with Minor Athletes?

**A:** Yes. As long as the monitor is not one-on-one with Minor Athletes and all interaction is observable and interruptible, the Adult Participant can monitor the locker room inside or outside the area as needed by the Organization. The monitor should avoid Minor Athletes who are actively changing.

Can an adult athlete shower with a Minor Athlete if they are on the same team

**A:** It depends. If an adult athlete meets the Close-in-Age Exception, then they are permitted to shower with a Minor Athlete. Additionally, if the shower is part of a pre- or post-event rinse, and swim apparel is being worn, an adult athlete can shower with a Minor Athlete. There are no other circumstances where an adult athlete can shower with a Minor Athlete. The parent/guardian of the Minor Athlete may request that the Adult Participant not shower with their Minor Athlete and the Organization and Adult Participant must abide by this request.

What is a Semi-Private or Private Changing Area? Does an Organization need to provide a private and semi-private changing area at each sanctioned event and at all the facilities partially or fully under the jurisdiction of the Organization?

**A:** A Semi-Private Area is an area that is not separate from where other individuals are changing but offers the Minor Athlete some privacy. For example, a bathroom stall with a door or an area created by a partition or drapery. A Private Area is an area separated completely from anyone else changing. This area would be fully enclosed with a door and no other individual would be able to enter without the Minor Athlete's permission. This could be a single restroom or family restroom where the Minor Athlete can lock the door and change alone.

Providing one option is sufficient. If your organization does not utilize locker rooms and athletes are advised to come prepared and dressed to compete, a restroom stall is sufficient as a semi-private area to change if needed.

# Electronic Communications

## (MANDATORY)

- **Open and Transparent:** The Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent / guardian, another family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant. If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds. Only use platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.
- **Team Communication:** When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include another Adult Participant or the Minor Athlete's parent / guardians.
- **Content:** All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s) must be professional in nature unless an exception exists.
- **Request to Discontinue:** Parents/Guardians may request in writing that the Organization or an Adult Participant subject to this policy not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. The Organization and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

## (USL BEST PRACTICE)

- **Hours**

Generally, set between 8:00am and 8:00pm

- **Social Media Connections**

Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-In-Age Exception, are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with Minor Athletes.

## Transportation

- An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during USL In-Program travel unless meeting exception requirements
- Minor Athlete(s) or their parent / guardian can withdraw consent at any time
- An Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors.
- Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent / guardian is required for all transportation for a Club or USL sanctioned event at least annually.



***Required Prevention Policy***

# Required Prevention Policy

## Transportation

**An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program travel, except if:**

- A Dual Relationship exists
- The Close-in-Age Exception applies
- A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant
- The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent / guardian

**A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:**

- The Minor Athlete's parent / guardian has provided written consent to the Club for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
- The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
- The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USL Safeguarding Policy



# Transportation Recommendations

## Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangements

- The U.S. Center for SafeSport encourages parents / guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

## Parent Training

- Parents / guardians should receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to travel one-on-one with an Adult Participant



***Required Prevention Policy***

# Required Prevention Policy

## Lodging

### Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible

An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s)

### Lodging with Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete (Exceptions)

- A Dual Relationship exists, and the Minor Athlete's parent / guardian has provided the Organization with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement.
- The Close-in-Age exception applies, and the Minor Athlete's parent / guardian has provided the Organization with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement.
- The Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant.
- Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent / guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually.

## Lodging when a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant

- The Minor Athlete's parent / guardian has provided advance, written consent to the Organization for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete and for the lodging arrangement.
- The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy
- The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Organization's screening policy



***Required Prevention Policy***

# Required Prevention Policy



## Lodging Recommendations

### Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

- If the Organization or team performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed.
- At least two adults must be present for the room checks.

### Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by the Organization

- Adult Participants traveling with the Organization's lodging policy at least annually.
- Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Center's Education & Training Policy.

## Out of Program Contact

Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not have out-of-program contact with Minor Athlete(s) without legal / parent guardian consent, even if the out-of-program contact is not one-on-one.

## Gifting

Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not give personal gifts to Minor Athlete(s). Gifts that are equally distributed to all athletes and serve a motivational or education purpose are permitted.

## Photography / Video

Only taken in public view. Must observe generally accepted standards of decency. Adult Participants should not publicly share or post photos or videos of Minor Athlete(s) if the Adult Participant has not obtained the Parent / Guardian and Minor Athlete's consent.

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# Contact Info



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