



USYS SAFEGUARDING REVIEW

COACHES CONVENTION

January 2025





DISCLAIMER

This presentation is not intended to provide legal advice and is for informational purposes only.



SALLY YATES REPORT AND U.S. SOCCER SAFEGUARDING PHILOSOPHY

A 2022 investigation into allegations of misconduct in the NWSL, commissioned by U.S. Soccer and performed by former deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, found systemic abuse and misconduct in the league, and determined that the abuse was “deeply rooted” in youth league culture that normalizes such behavior:

Our investigation has revealed a league in which abuse and misconduct—verbal and emotional abuse and sexual misconduct—had become systemic, spanning multiple teams, coaches, and victims. Abuse in the NWSL is rooted in a deeper culture in women’s soccer, beginning in youth leagues, that normalizes verbally abusive coaching and blurs boundaries between coaches and players. The verbal and emotional abuse players describe in the NWSL is

In response to this report, U.S. Soccer has implemented a core philosophy that **safety is non-negotiable** and is dedicated to ensuring that its participants **enjoy a safe, healthy environment**.

U.S. SOCCER STRATEGIC PILLARS



Visit [USSoccer.com/OurVision](https://ussoccer.com/OurVision) to learn more



SAFESPORT TRAINING BENEFITS



- Along with club policies, SafeSport training helps to establish behavior standards that foster a healthy and safe club environment for everyone.
- SafeSport training is for your protection, helping to ensure that you understand your legal obligation as mandatory reporters to report misconduct.
- Preventing and addressing abuse effectively is integral to club success – an abuse scandal can have a negative impact from players signing up to community support.



SAFESPORT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

What must be reported?

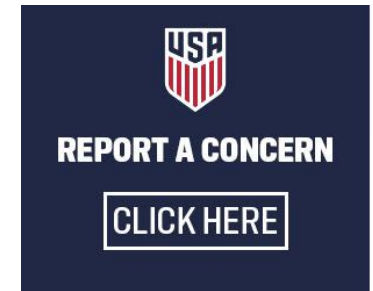
- **To law enforcement (within 24 hours):** Any allegation of child abuse
- **To the Center For SafeSport (within 24 hours):**
 - Child abuse
 - Sexual misconduct, including:
 - Power imbalance
 - Sexual harassment (regardless of the age of the parties involved)
 - Retaliation or other abuse of the Center's process
- **To the organization:**
 - Any other prohibited conduct as defined by your policies

HOW TO REPORT

Center for SafeSport

By phone: 833-5US-SAFE (587-7233)

Online: <https://safesport.i-sight.com/portal>



U.S. Soccer*

By phone: 312-528-7004

Online: <https://ussoccer.i-sight.com/portal>

*Please remember that only reporting allegations to U.S. Soccer that fall within the SafeSport Code's mandatory reporting requirements does not satisfy your reporting obligation. However, you can always report to both U.S. Soccer and your organization.



PRACTICE

Where would the following allegations need to be reported?

- You receive a report that the parent of one of the players on your team is listed on your state's Sex Offender Registry. The parent is not registered with you or otherwise affiliated with your organization in any way.
 - **Report to the Center for SafeSport**
- You receive a report that a parent and a coach had an altercation during a recent game which began as a verbal argument and escalated into a physical fight.
 - **Report to the organization**



PRACTICE

Where would the following allegations need to be reported?

- A high school-aged player in your program tells her coach that a friend, who is an adult player at a local junior college, was sexually harassed by the college coach. The college coach is not registered with your organization and does not otherwise participate in your programs.
 - **Report to the Center for SafeSport**
- A coach tells you that he thinks one of the minor athletes in your program is experiencing abuse at home based on comments he has made during practice. The player's parent is not registered with your organization and does not otherwise participate in your programs.
 - **Report to law enforcement and the Center for SafeSport**

PRACTICE

Where would the following allegations need to be reported?

- A parent tells you that their coach has been direct messaging their daughter on social media. The content of the messages themselves is not inappropriate, but the parent is concerned because her daughter is a minor.
 - **Report to the organization**
- You receive reports that one of your coaches often screams at players and insults their physical appearance or playing ability. Several parents have reported that their athletes have left practice or games very upset as a result.
 - **Report to the organization**

NOTABLE CHANGES TO THE 2024 SAFESPORT CODE



MEMBERSHIP & EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS

After communications with the Center, this is our understanding about these decisions:

- LAOs/NMOs are allowed to make membership decisions, including decisions to permanently exclude an individual from obtaining membership with your organization or prohibit renewal of membership. Membership decisions are within the purview of the organization member.
- LAOs/NMOs can make membership and employment decisions based on information learned through the employment process, background checks, or information provided by the Center, but any investigative steps outside of that into allegations within the Center's exclusive jurisdiction or if the Center has accepted jurisdiction is prohibited.
- Sanctioning is different than issuing employment and membership decisions for several reasons. Employment decisions lie with an employer and the legal ramifications are outside of the Center's process.



NOTABLE CHANGES TO THE SAFESPORT CODE CONT.



Old Resolution Types

Administrative Closure

- No applicable policy
- Previously adjudicated
- Admonishment
- Unsupported allegations
- Insufficient information
- Claimant declined
- Unidentified claimant

Administrative Hold

- Not current participant
- Allegations fall within the Center's exclusive jurisdiction



New Resolution Types

Administrative Closure

- No applicable policy
- Previously adjudicated
- Admonishment
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Administrative Hold

- Insufficient information
- Claimant declined
- Unidentified claimant

Jurisdictional Hold

- Not current participant
- Allegations fall within the Center's exclusive jurisdiction

Key Changes

Status that was previously called “Administrative Hold” is now titled “Jurisdictional hold”

New “Administrative hold” category enable the Center for SafeSport explain rationale for hold.



MAAPP UPDATE

The newest version of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies “MAAPP” is now in effect, as of January 1st.

U.S. Soccer’s approved MAAPP and Model MAAPP for our members are now updated on U.S. Soccer’s Safeguarding Hub:

<https://www.ussoccer.com/safeguarding>