

# Safe Sport Act



**The Safe Sport Act**, formally known as the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, is designed to protect youth athletes from sexual abuse in sports organizations. Here's a summary of its key points and affected organizations:

## Key Points of the Safe Sport Act:

1. **Mandatory Reporting:** The act requires all adults authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes to report any suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the appropriate authorities within 24 hours.
2. **Prevention Policies:** Organizations must implement policies and procedures to prevent abuse, including training and education on recognizing and reporting sexual misconduct.
3. **Oversight and Accountability:** The U.S. Center for SafeSport, an independent organization, was established to oversee the protection of athletes, investigate reports of misconduct, and enforce compliance with the Safe Sport Act.
4. **Limitation Extensions:** The act extends the statute of limitations for victims of child sexual abuse, allowing more time to report and seek justice for the crimes.

## Affected Youth Sports Organizations:

1. **National Governing Bodies (NGBs):** All NGBs under the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, such as USA Gymnastics, USA Swimming, and USA Track & Field, must comply with the Safe Sport Act.
2. **Amateur Sports Organizations:** Any organization that arranges or sponsors amateur athletic competitions, including local clubs, leagues, and tournaments, is affected.
3. **Youth Sports Leagues and Clubs:** This includes school sports teams, recreational leagues, and private sports clubs that involve minors.
4. **Nonprofit Organizations:** Nonprofits involved in youth sports activities must adhere to the reporting and prevention requirements outlined in the act.

The Safe Sport Act aims to create a safer environment for young athletes by enforcing stricter reporting guidelines, establishing preventative measures, and ensuring accountability for organizations involved in youth sports.

**To comply with the Safe Sport Act, a youth sports league must conduct several specific actions and implement comprehensive policies and procedures.**

Here are the key steps:

### 1. Mandatory Reporting

- **Training:** Educate all staff, volunteers, and associated adults about their obligation to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to law enforcement or child protective services within 24 hours.

- **Reporting Procedures:** Establish clear and accessible reporting mechanisms for staff, volunteers, parents, and athletes.

## 2. Prevention Policies

- **Background Checks:** Conduct thorough background checks on all staff, coaches, and volunteers who have regular contact with minors.
- **Abuse Prevention Policies:** Develop and enforce policies that minimize one-on-one interactions between adults and minors, such as the "two-deep" rule, where two adults are present during all activities.
- **Code of Conduct:** Implement a code of conduct for coaches, volunteers, and staff that outlines appropriate and inappropriate behaviors.
- **Training and Education:** Provide regular training for staff, coaches, volunteers, parents, and athletes on recognizing and preventing abuse. This training should cover topics like grooming behaviors, boundary violations, and how to report concerns.

## 3. Oversight and Accountability

- **SafeSport Coordinator:** Appoint a designated SafeSport coordinator or officer responsible for overseeing compliance with the Safe Sport Act and serving as a point of contact for reporting concerns.
- **Compliance Audits:** Regularly review and audit the league's policies and procedures to ensure they meet Safe Sport Act requirements and best practices.
- **Collaboration with SafeSport:** Cooperate with the U.S. Center for SafeSport for any investigations, training programs, and policy updates.

## 4. Education and Awareness

- **Parent and Athlete Education:** Provide resources and educational materials to parents and athletes about the signs of abuse, how to report concerns, and the league's commitment to safety.
- **Publicize Policies:** Make the league's abuse prevention policies, reporting procedures, and contact information for the SafeSport coordinator easily accessible to all members.

## 5. Incident Response

- **Immediate Action:** Ensure that any reports of suspected abuse are handled promptly and appropriately, including contacting law enforcement and removing the alleged perpetrator from activities involving minors.
- **Support for Victims:** Provide support and resources for victims of abuse, including counseling and guidance on the reporting process.

By taking these steps, a youth sports league can create a safer environment for young athletes and comply with the Safe Sport Act, ensuring that all members are aware of and committed to preventing abuse and protecting children.

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**N Zone Sports is affected by the Safe Sport Act.** N Zone Sports, as an organization that offers youth sports programs and leagues, falls under the category of amateur sports organizations and youth sports leagues that are required to comply with the provisions of the Safe Sport Act. This means that:

1. **Mandatory Reporting:** All adults associated with N Zone Sports who interact with minor athletes are mandated to report any suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the appropriate authorities within 24 hours.
2. **Prevention Policies:** N Zone Sports must implement and enforce policies and procedures to prevent abuse. This includes providing training and education to recognize and report sexual misconduct.
3. **Oversight and Accountability:** N Zone Sports is expected to cooperate with the U.S. Center for SafeSport for any investigations or compliance checks related to athlete safety and misconduct.

By complying with the Safe Sport Act, N Zone Sports ensures a safer environment for its young athletes and aligns with national standards for protecting minors in sports settings.

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