



USA Swimming Safe Sport Updates

Important documents about protecting young athletes
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About Bill S. 534, the Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017

By USA Swimming | Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Dear Members,

On February 14, 2018, Senate bill S. 534 – Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 – was signed into law and became effective immediately.

The legislation amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 and the Amateur Sports Act of 1978 and, among other things: (i) extends reporting duties; (ii) expands civil remedies; and (iii) designates the United States Center for SafeSport (the “Center”) to serve as the independent national safe sport organization.

Information regarding the legislation is available here: <http://safesport.org/files/details/72>.

Notably, the legislation requires USA Swimming and its adult members to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to local or federal law enforcement or to a child-welfare agency designated by the Justice Department **within 24 hours**. A failure to report is subject to criminal penalties.

Additionally, and pursuant to Article 306 of USA Swimming’s Rules, all USA Swimming Covered Individuals (as defined by the Center: <http://safesport.org/files/details/27>) must report to the Center conduct that could constitute (a) sexual misconduct, (b) misconduct that is reasonably related to the underlying allegation of sexual misconduct and (c) retaliation related to an allegation of sexual misconduct.

Further information regarding how to report to the Center is available here: <https://safesport.org/report-a-concern>.

Information regarding USA Swimming’s reporting requirements is available here: <https://usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/governance-lsc/rules-regulations>.

For more information about USA Swimming’s Safe Sport Program, or if you have any feedback, comments or suggestions, please email us at: safesport@usaswimming.org.



Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017

On February 14, 2018, [S. 534](#) was signed into law and became effective immediately.

The bill amends two federal statutes: (1) the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 and (2) the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

(1) Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990

(a) Extended reporting duties

The bill amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 to extend the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to certain adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes at a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body. A “national governing body” means an amateur sports organization that is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee.

An individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child sexual abuse is subject to criminal penalties.

(b) Civil remedies

Additionally, the bill amends the federal criminal code to revise civil remedy provisions. Among other things, it changes the civil statute of limitation to 10 years from the date the victim discovers the violation or injury (currently, 10 years from the date the cause of action arose). The bill also extends the statute of limitations for a minor victim of a federal sex offense to file a civil action to 10 years (currently, 3 years) from the date such individual reaches age 18.

(2) Amateur Sports Act of 1978

The bill also amends the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

(a) Designation of United States Center for SafeSport

It designates the United States Center for SafeSport to serve as the independent national safe sport organization, with the responsibility for developing policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes. These policies and procedures developed by the Center must include:

- A requirement that (a) all adult members of a national governing body or a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body or at any event sanctioned by a national governing body, and (b) all adults authorized by such members to interact with an amateur athlete, immediately report an allegation of child abuse of an amateur athlete who is a minor to: (i) the Center, and (ii) to law enforcement
- A mechanism that allows a complainant to easily report child abuse
- Reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between a minor and an adult •
Procedures to prohibit retaliation

- Oversight procedures, including:
- Audits, to ensure the policies and procedures are followed correctly
- Consistent training is offered
- A mechanism for national governing bodies to share reports of suspected child abuse

(b) General requirements for youth-serving amateur athletic organizations

The bill also modifies the obligations of amateur athletic organizations – a not-for-profit corporation, association, or other group organized in the United States that sponsors or arranges an amateur athletic competition.

- Amateur sports organizations seeking a sanction for amateur athletic competitions must implement and abide by the policies and procedures to prevent emotional, physical, and child abuse of amateur athletes.
- Amateur sports organizations, which participate in an interstate or international amateur athletic competition and whose membership includes any adult who is in regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor, must:
 - Comply with the reporting requirements of the Victims of Child Abuse Act
 - Establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult
 - Offer and provide consistent training to adult members who are in contact with amateur athletes who are minors
 - Prohibit retaliation



OVERVIEW TIMELINE

				1980	1991	1998	2004	1998
				United States Swimming Opens	First Member Permanently Banned	Code of Conduct Adopted	Child Protection Policy Established	Child Protection Task Force Established
				2004	2010			
				Criminal Background Checks Required	 LAUNCHES	Child Welfare League Partnership	Safe Sport Best Practices Released	Athlete Protection Policies
2010	2010	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011
Mandatory Reporting Policies Adopted	Online Reporting Form Launched	National Safe Sport Committee Appointed	Director of Safe Sport Hired	Criminal Background Check Requirement	Clubs Conduct Pre-Employment Screens	Athlete Protection Training	Second Full-Time Staff Member Hired	
2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013
Free Safe Sport Training For Parents	Electronic Communication + Anti-Bullying Policies	In-Person Workshops Train Over 600	First Safe Sport Leadership Conference	Free Safe Sport Handbook Published	Free Safe Sport Training For Athletes	Peer-to-Peer Abuse Rules Update	LSC Safe Sport Coordinator Mandate	
2013	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
In-Person Workshops Train Over 750	Vieth Conducts Independent Review	Vieth Report Task Force Adopts 38 of 39 Recs	In-House Counsel Position Created	3rd Full-Time Safe Sport Position Created	In-Person Workshops Train Over 1,060	Second Safe Sport Leadership Conference	Vieth Progress Report Released	
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015
In-Person Workshops Train Over 750	Second Athlete Protection Course Added	Free Anti-Bullying Training Released	USOC Visiting Clubs Training Required	Zone Safe Sport Coordinators Appointed	Safe Sport Club Coordinator Position Created	Team Self-Assessment Tool Launched	Swim Staff Select Online Tool Launched	
2015	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2017
SwimAssist Survivor Support Launched	In-Person Workshops Train 2,395	First NGB Safe Sport Roundtable	Safe Sport Real Talk at Olympic Trials	Safe Sport Athlete Fellowship Launches	In-Person Workshops Train Over 2,790	Safe Sport Mondays Launched	Third Safe Sport Leadership Conference	
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
2017 Vieth Progress Report	U.S. Olympic Committee Safe Sport Audit	U.S. Center For Safe Sport Launched	USA Swimming LEARN Launched	Safe Sport Activity Book Produced	Set, Direct, Protect Slogan Introduced	In-Person Workshops Train 3,048		



IN-DEPTH TIMELINE

1980

- USA Swimming opens

1991

- First member permanently banned for misconduct.

1998

- USA Swimming adopts a member Code of Conduct.

2004

- The Child Protection Policy for Staff and National Volunteers established.

2005

- The Child Protection Task Force established.

2007

- Criminal background checks are required for coaches, staff, and select member groups and must be renewed every other year.

2010

- USA Swimming's comprehensive Safe Sport Program, the first in the Olympic movement, launches.
- The Child Welfare League of America partners with USA Swimming to review and make recommendations to expand its athlete protection efforts.
- The Code of Conduct is updated and Safe Sport Best Practices are released.
- Athlete Protection Policies, including rules regarding travel, boundaries, and grooming behaviors, are adopted.
- Reporting Policies, including mandatory reporting and anti-retaliation, are adopted.
- USA Swimming launches its online reporting form, which allows for anonymous and confidential reporting.

- The national Safe Sport Committee is appointed and charged with review of athlete protection policies, guidelines, educational programs, reporting and adjudication procedures. Membership includes athletes, coaches, officials, and outside experts from the fields of law enforcement, abuse prevention, legal, and Olympic Sport.
- USA Swimming hires a Director of Safe Sport, the first position of its kind in the Olympic movement.

2011

- The criminal background check requirement is expanded to include all non-athlete members and also to search the member county of residence and conduct a monthly recurring check.
- Member clubs are required to conduct pre-employment screens on any new employee including: (1) reference checks; (2) education verification; and (3) motor vehicle report.
- Athlete Protection Training is launched and required for all non-athlete members including all coaches, officials, and staff. APT must be renewed every other year.
- The Safe Sport department adds a second full time staff member.

2012

- Free Safe Sport Training for parents is released.
- Member clubs are required to have an electronic communication policy and an anti-bullying policy.
- The Safe Sport program trains over 600 people in in-person workshops or conferences.

2013

- USA Swimming hosts its inaugural Safe Sport Leadership Conference, the first of its kind of the Olympic movement. 18 NGBs and the USOC are among the 175 attendees.
- The Safe Sport Handbook is published and distributed to all 1,800 member clubs.
- Free Safe Sport Training for athletes released.
- Rules are updated to prohibit peer-peer sexual abuse.
- Each of the 59 Local Swimming Committees is required to elect or appoint an LSC Safe Sport Coordinator. Training workshops for Safe Sport Chairs are offered twice annually.
- The Safe Sport program trains over 750 people in in-person workshops or conferences.

2014

- Victor Vieth, executive director of the Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center, releases the Vieth Report following his independent review of the USA Swimming Safe Sport Program, including access to review all past case files.
- USA Swimming's Vieth Report Task Force adopts 38 of 39 recommendations from the Report and produces a four-phased plan for implementation.
- USA Swimming creates and hires its first in-house counsel position.
- The Safe Sport department adds a third full time staff member to lead education and outreach efforts.
- The Safe Sport program trains 1,060 people in 26 in-person workshops or conferences.

2015

- USA Swimming hosts the 2nd Safe Sport Leadership Conference.
- USA Swimming releases the 2015 Vieth Progress Report, with implementation complete on 13 of 38 recommendations.
- A second course is added to the Athlete Protection Training curriculum required for all non-athlete members.
- Free anti-bullying training is released.
- USA Swimming requires all member clubs training at the Olympic Training Center to receive in person Safe Sport training.
- Zone Safe Sport Coordinators are appointed to coordinate communication between the national effort and the Local Swimming Committees.
- The Safe Sport Club Coordinator position is created.
- The Safe Sport Self-Assessment, a free, online tool, allows clubs to gauge current Safe Sport efforts and where the club could be doing more to engage.

- SwimStaffSelect, a custom online tool for clubs to manage hiring and employment practices, is released and made available free for USA Swimming clubs.
- SwimAssist is launched to provide financial support for survivors of harm through swimming to seek counseling or other services to address the trauma suffered.
- The Safe Sport program trains 2,395 people in 43 in-person workshops or conferences.

2016

- USA Swimming hosts the first NGB Safe Sport Roundtable.
- Safe Sport Real Talk debuts at the US Olympic Trials Aquazone fan engagement area and shares Safe Sport with 648 fans over 3 days.
- The Safe Sport Athlete Fellowship launches, engaging athletes from across the country in a year long leadership program focused on promoting Safe Sport at their home clubs and LSCs.
- The Safe Sport program trains 2,970 people in 65 in-person workshops or conferences.
- Safe Sport Mondays are introduced to facilitate regular conversation about Safe Sport between coaches and athletes.

2017

- USA Swimming hosts the 3rd Safe Sport Leadership Conference.
- USA Swimming releases the 2017 Vieth Progress Report, with implementation complete on 18 of 38 recommendations, and implementation in progress on 12 additional items.
- The United States Olympic Committee conducts a Safe Sport audit of all 47 NGBs. USA Swimming meets the Athlete Safety Standards in full with no observations.
- The US Center for Safe Sport launches creating an independent agency for Safe Sport case management and adjudication.
- Online learning platform, USA Swimming LEARN, launches with three new and updated Safe Sport member courses.
- The Safe Sport Activity Book is released as a tool to introduce Safe Sport ideas to swimmers ages 12&Under.
- Set, Direct, Protect is introduced as a program slogan and club engagement strategy.
- The Safe Sport program trains 3,048 people in 62 in-person workshops or conferences.



PERSONNEL STRUCTURE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular updates on Safe Sport programming and cases at quarterly board meetings

ZONE SAFE SPORT COORDINATORS

Est. 2015; 4 total, one each Zone, responsible for coordinating communication between the Safe Sport committee and their 15 LSC Safe Sport Coordinators

CLUB SAFE SPORT COORDINATORS

Est. 2015; Five year goal to have a Safe Sport Club Coordinator at each of 2,871 member clubs.

STAFF

General Counsel & VP of Business Affairs
(Executive Team)

Director of Safe Sport

(Executive Leadership Team)

Manager, Safe Sport Education

Manager, Safe Sport Program

Administrative Assistant

Office Manager

background check program manager (part time)

Staff dedication to Safe Sport Program is three full time, and three part time.

SAFE SPORT COMMITTEE

Est. 2010; reports to the Board Chair; Twelve volunteers (3 athletes, 3 coaches, 5 at large, one subject matter expert) + three staff.

LSC SAFE SPORT COORDINATORS

Est. 2013; 59 total, one each region, responsible for promoting Safe Sport within LSC and recruiting and training Club Safe Sport Chairs

SAFE SPORT ATHLETE FELLOWS

Est. 2016; 4 each year, 12 total; apply to participate in a leadership program with the goal of planning and executing a project to promote Safe Sport in their home LSC or club

STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAFE SPORT COMMITTEE

ZONE SAFE SPORT COORDINATORS

LSC SAFE SPORT COORDINATORS

CLUB SAFE SPORT COORDINATORS

SAFE SPORT ATHLETE FELLOWS