



MARYLAND STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION

SafeSport Policy

The following policy is applicable to all officers of the Maryland State Soccer Association, officers/commissioners/organizers of member leagues and MSSA employees (collectively “MSSA Leaders”).

Prohibited Conduct

Conduct that includes bullying, hazing, harassment (including sexual harassment), emotional misconduct, physical misconduct and sexual misconduct as those terms are defined by the US Center for SafeSport are prohibited. A list of these types of prohibited conduct can be found at the SafeSport Code:

<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution/safesport-code/>

Required Reporting of Prohibited Conduct

All MSSA Leaders are mandatory reporters as defined in the Federal Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017 (“SafeSport Act”). Within 24 hours of observation of any prohibited conduct, the incident must be reported to:

- Local law enforcement
- US Soccer Integrity Hotline - <https://www.ussoccer.com/report-a-concern> or call (312) 528-7004 to leave a voicemail. Please provide as much detail in your report as possible, including contact information, should you wish to be contacted concerning your report.
- The Center for SafeSport at <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/> or by calling (833) 587-7233.

Any individual member of MSSA may also report prohibited conduct to the above listed organizations. Reports may be made anonymously and no fee or other cost is involved.

MSSA Leaders are prohibited from retaliating against individuals making good faith reports of prohibited conduct.

Required Training and Background Screening

All MSSA Leaders must complete the SafeSport Trained Core provided by the US Center for SafeSport online training. A refresher course is required annually in accordance with the SafeSport policy.

Copy of a completed certificate of training must be provided annually to the MSSA office.

The MSSA will be responsible for conducting background screenings for MSSA Leaders. A list of the names of the officers/commissioners/organizers of a member is to be submitted to MSSA for screening.

Screening shall consist of checking the individual's name through the following:

1. Screening Test 1: National Sex Offender Registry - <https://www.nsopw.gov>
1. Screening Test 2: U.S. Soccer's Risk Management List:
<https://ussoccer.box.com/s/whfzcaetbyoho4tvhenr8pohldvu1op8>
The password for access is: V4@#+S{h9nCr
2. Screening Test 3: The Center for SafeSport's Disciplinary Database:
<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution/centralized-disciplinary-database/>

It shall be deemed a failure if the adult is listed in the corresponding database or if the adult refuses to comply with the screening requirements.

- An adult who fails Screening Test 1 and/or 2 may not participate in any way on a team with players under the age of eighteen.
- An adult who fails Screening Test 3 and is listed by the Center for SafeSport as ineligible or suspended must be removed from the team and may not participate on any team, league, state association or USASA in any way.
- An adult who fails Screening Test 3 and is listed by the Center for SafeSport as temporarily restricted or limited participation may possibly play for a team or serve as a staff member depending on the specific nature of the restrictions or limits. MSSA will obtain the specifics for the restricted/limited adult from the Center for SafeSport, and the participation of the adult will be permitted only within the specified restrictions/limits.

Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)

The U.S. Center for SafeSport recognizes that youth-adult relationships can be healthy and valuable for development. Policies on one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships. As child sexual abuse is often perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations, it is critical to limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

Per the MAAPP policy to limit one on one interactions between minor athletes and adult participants who are not their legal guardian, the following policy for minor athletes applies for teams that register one or more players who are under 18 years of age.

In accordance with the SafeSport Act, persons 18 or older (“adults”) with close and continuing contact with individuals under the age of 18 (youth) must take the following actions:

- One-on-one interactions between an adult and a youth player on the team must be limited in accordance with the SafeSport Code

<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution/safesport-code/>

- The coach/manager/staff on the team must maintain current annual certificate of SafeSport Training. Any adult player with close and continuing contact (i.e. provides transportation) or authority over a youth player must also maintain current annual certificate of SafeSport Training.
- If the team meets more than twice a week or has use of a locker room/changing facility on a regular basis, then each adult player must also maintain current annual training.
- Background screening for the individuals above must be done once every three years.

Adult players who do not have close and continuing contact with individuals under the age of 18 are to be directed and become familiar with the One on One policy and the Prohibited Conduct Policy found on the MSSA web site.

SafeSport Policy Requirements for MSSA Affiliated Leagues

MSSA Affiliated Leagues must formally adopt a SafeSport Policy. MSSA shall assist Leagues with policy templates for this purpose. Member Leagues are required to submit a list of the names of their officers/commissioners/organizers and employees each calendar year. These individuals must complete the SafeSport Core Training requirements as specified in this policy. Copies of the League SafeSport, Prohibited Conduct and One on One policies must be posted on the league web site. It should also include the methods for reporting violations.

A member league may establish policy that prohibits the registration of players under the age of 18.