



REVISIONS TO SAFE SOCCER FRAMEWORK AND 2022 MAPP REQUIREMENTS FOR AMATEUR ORGANIZATION MEMBERS

The Center for SafeSport has required U.S. Soccer to implement changes to the Safe Soccer Framework and USSF Policy 212-3 to ensure that it complies with the requirements set forth in the Center's new Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies ("MAAPP"), which take effect on January 1, 2022. U.S. Soccer's board of directors adopted these changes at its meeting on August 27, 2021.

Noteworthy Revisions:

Center for SafeSport jurisdiction extends beyond National Governing Bodies to all "Local Affiliated Organizations".

All Local Affiliated Organizations (i.e., State Association Members and their leagues and clubs) fall under the jurisdiction of the Center's MAAPP. Even though National Member Organizations are still not subject to the Center's MAAPP jurisdiction, U.S. Soccer Policy 212-3 continues to require any Organization Member that is an "**Applicable Entity**" under Title II of the Sports Act or that has non-professional soccer programs ("Amateur Organization Members") to implement policies consistent with the Center's MAAPP.

All Amateur Organization Member board members and employees must complete the Center's "SafeSport Trained" Core training.

The Center now requires all employees and board members of LAOs complete Center for SafeSport abuse prevention training (the "SafeSport Trained" Core), regardless of whether those individuals have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes. U.S. Soccer's Policy requires all Amateur Organization Members, including National Association members, to comply with the training requirement.

All Amateur Organization Members with minor athletes must offer the Center for SafeSport's Parent Training on an annual basis.

The Center's Parent Training is available free of charge without an access code. Parent training is accessible here: <https://athletesafety.org/training/index>. Amateur Organization Members are not required to track completion of parent training but should document how and when it was offered. Amateur Organization Members were already required to offer training to minor athletes. Minor athlete training modules are available for minor athletes ranging in age from



preschool up through high school and can be accessed free of charge here:

<https://athletesafety.org/training/index>.

The Safe Soccer Framework includes new definitions for terms established by the Center including “Regular Contact”, “Authority”, and “In-Program Contact” that help clarify where and when the MAAPP must be applied.

“Regular Contact” is newly defined as “ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s).”

U.S. Soccer’s Model Policies in the Safe Soccer Framework have been revised to comply with the Center’s 2022 MAAPP Model Policies.

All model policies contain the following exceptions to the prohibition on one-on-one interactions: the Close-In-Age Exception, the Personal Care Assistant exception, and the Dual Relationship exception. All these exceptions are fully defined in the Safe Soccer Framework.

Some substantive changes to the model prevention policies include:

Locker Rooms and Changing Areas:

- Adults are not permitted to shower with minor athletes absent one of the recognized exceptions to the policy.
- A private or semi-private changing area must be provided to minor athletes at sanctioned events where possible.

Electronic Communications:

- Only platforms that allow for open and transparent communication may be used to communicate with minor athletes.
- Adult Participants are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with minor athletes and should discontinue existing social media connections with minor athletes.

Transportation and Lodging:

- Written consent from a minor athlete’s parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually.
- Written consent from a minor athlete’s parent/guardian must be obtained for transportation arranged by a member organization.
- Any Adult Participant traveling with the organization must agree to and sign the organization’s Lodging policy at least annually.



- Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athletes are assumed to have authority of Minor Athletes and thus must comply with the organization's education and training policy.

*** Please review the Model Policies in the Safe Soccer Framework to ensure that your organization's policies contain all required components.**