



USA WATER POLO, INC.

**MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION
POLICIES**

(Effective December 14, 2024)

I INTRODUCTION

On February 14, 2018, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (the “**Act**”) became federal law. Among other things, the Act designated the United States Center for SafeSport (the “**Center**”) as the national safe sport organization and authorized the Center to: (a) develop training and policies to prevent abuse, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse and (b) exercise jurisdiction over all national governing bodies to safeguard amateur athletes against emotional, physical, and sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. Pursuant to that authority, the Center has required USA Water Polo, Inc., the national governing body for the sport of water polo in the United States, (“**USAWP**”) to adopt policies and procedures applicable to USAWP and its local affiliated organizations (as defined by the Center, but which includes all USAWP member clubs) designed to prevent the abuse of USAWP athlete members who are minors.¹ Those policies and procedures are set forth below and apply to all Adult Participants (as defined below, including all USAWP members) and to all USAWP local affiliated organizations, including USAWP member clubs and the members and employees of such clubs.

I **DEFINITIONS**

- A. “**Adult**” means a person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- B. “**Adult Participant**” means any Adult who is: (i) A member or license holder of USAWP or a LAO, (ii) An employee or board member of USAWP or a LAO, (iii) within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USAWP or a LAO, or (iv) authorized, approved or appointed by USAWP or a LAO to have regular contact with, or authority over, minor athletes, other than the parent or legal guardian of the minor athlete to which the policy in question applies.²
- C. “**Adult Personal Care Assistant**” means an Adult Participant who assists an athlete who requires help with activities of daily living (ADL) and preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for the Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication administration, and toileting. Personal Care Assistants are different for every athlete and should be individualized to fit their specific needs. When assisting a Minor Athlete, Adult Personal Care Assistants must be authorized in writing by the Minor Athlete’s parent or legal guardian.
- D. “**Amateur Athlete**” means a USA Water Polo athlete member.
- E. “**Authority**” means that one person’s position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, that person has the power to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for, the other person. Examples of Authority include the relationship between USAWP club administrators and coaches, on the one hand, and USAWP athlete

¹ See Appendix 1 for the details of the Center’s requirements.

² USAWP and LAO Board members, staff, coaches and volunteers, along with Staff, NGB/LAO Board Members, Coaches and Staff, Volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, and adult athletes, among others, may be Adult Participants.

members affiliated with that club, on the other hand. Also see the [Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code](#).

- F. **“Billeting”** means a Residential Environment facilitated by an Adult Participant, USAWP, a LAO, or sanctioned event staff in which a Minor Athlete is temporarily housed in a private home with a adult who, or family that, is not related to, or known by, the Minor Athlete in conjunction with an activity related to sport.
- G. **“Center”** means the U. S. Center for Safe Sport.
- H. **“Close in Age Exception”** means an exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does not have Authority over a Minor Athlete, and the Adult Participant is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete. Note: this exception *only* applies within these Minor Abuse Prevention Policies where indicated and *not* regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.
- I. **“Code”** means the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements as it presently exists or as it may in the future be amended.
- J. **“Consent”** requires that a parent or guardian of a Minor Athlete complete and return to USAWP at Compliance@usawaterpolo.org and the Minor Athlete’s LAO a Consent Form in the form attached as Appendix 2. Consent will only apply to those matters identified and as to which the Minor Athlete’s parent or guardian has signed and cannot be granted for a period in excess of one year. Consent may be withdrawn at any time; provided that the withdrawal is provided in a writing delivered to Compliance@usawaterpolo.org and the Minor Athlete’s LAO within twenty-four hours of the time that consent is withdrawn. Parents of Minor Athletes are encouraged to take the Center’s training at safesporttrained.org prior to providing Consent.
- K. **“Dual Relationship”** means an exception applicable to certain policies when: (i) an Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete apart from a sport relationship, such as when the Adult Participant is a relative other than a parent or legal guardian of the Minor Athlete, or a neighbor or friend of the Minor Athlete’s family and (ii) the Minor Athlete’s parent or legal guardian has provided Consent in the form attached hereto as Appendix 3 at least annually authorizing the exception.
- L. **“Electronic Communication”** means any form of electronic communication including, but not limited to: (a) telephone conversations, (b) e-mails, (c) text messages, (d) postings on internet sites, (e) direct messaging, (f) group messaging platforms, (g) postings on social media sites, such as Facebook and X (formerly known as Twitter), (h) videoconferencing and (i) any other electronic medium.
- M. **“Events”** means: (a) practices, (b) competitions, (c) travel and lodging in connection with practices and competitions, (d) health and medical treatment provided by or at the behest of USAWP or a LAO and (e) travel in connection with health and medical treatment provided by or at the behest of USAWP or a LAO.
- N. **“In Program Contact”** means any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport including, without limitation, competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post-game meals or outings, team travel, review of

game film, team or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team or sport related fundraising or community service, sport education and competition site visits.

- O.** “**LAO**” means a local affiliated organization as defined by the Center, i.e., a regional, state, or local club or organization that is affiliated, directly or indirectly, with USAWP such as by being a member of USAWP, including, but not limited to, USAWP member clubs and Zones.
- P.** “**Lodging**” means, but is not limited to, hotel stays, rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.), and long-term residential environments, including rooming at training sites and billeting.
- Q.** “**Minor Athlete**” means an Amateur athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USAWP or a LAO.³
- R.** “**Partial or Full Jurisdiction**” means any Event sanctioned by USAWP or organized by a LAO (including all travel and lodging in connection with the Event), or any facility that USAWP or a LAO owns, leases, or rents for practice, training or competition.
- S.** “**National Governing Body**” (abbreviated as “**NGB**”)” means a U.S. Olympic National Governing Body, Pan American Sport Organization, or Paralympic Sport Organization certified by the USOPC pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games. USAWP is a NGB.
- T.** “**Refresher Training**” means the Center’s online refresher training course or the Center’s approved in-person designated refresher training course, as the same may be in effect from time to time.
- U.** “**Regular Contact**” means ongoing interactions during a twelve-month period in which an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with minor athletes. Adults having Regular Contact with minor athletes include, but are not limited to, coaches, LAO administrative staff, USAWP medical professionals, officials and Adult athletes. Adult Participants whose only regular contact with minor athletes is with one or more minor athletes of whom the Adult Participant is the parent or legal guardian are not deemed to have Regular Contact with minor athletes for the purposes of these Minor Abuse Prevention Policies.
- V.** “**Residential Environment**” means a place in which participants live or stay temporarily. Residential Environments include, but are not limited to, onsite housing at training facilities, billeting, hotel stays, or rentals (such as Airbnb, VRBO and HomeToGo).

³ This term shall also include any minor who participates in or participated within the previous 12 months in a non-athlete role partially or fully under the jurisdiction of an NGB, the USOPC or an LAO. Examples include, but are not limited to: officials, coaches or volunteers.

- W.** “**Training**” means the online training courses offered by the Center, including the Center’s Core Training and Refresher Training, as the same may be in force from time to time.
- X.** “**USAWP**” means United States Water Polo, Inc.
- Y.** “**USOPC**” means the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, a federally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States.

II CONSENTS AND NOTICES

- A. Where these policies require that a notice or consent be provided to USAWP, the notice or consent should be sent via e-mail to Compliance@usawaterpolo.org.
- B. Where these policies require that a notice or consent be provided to a LAO, the notice or consent should be provided to the LAO's administrator.

III EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICY

A. **Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult Participants**

1. **Adult Participants Required to Complete Training**

- a. The following Adult Participants must complete the *SafeSport Trained Core Course* through the Center's online training:
 - (1) Adult Participants who have Regular Contact with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor, other than the parent or legal guardian of a minor athlete; provided that the only minor athlete with whom the parent or legal guardian has Regular Contact is the child of the parent or the child or minor to which the guardianship applies;
 - (2) Adult Participants who have Authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor, other than the parent or legal guardian of a minor athlete; provided that the only minor athlete with whom the parent or guardian has Regular Contact is the child of the parent or the child or minor to which the guardianship applies; and
 - (3) Adult Participants who are an employee or board member of USAWP or a LAO including, without limitation, USAWP member clubs and Zone officials.
 - (4) All USAWP members 18 years of age or older are required to complete training.
- b. Adult Participants, who are medical providers, required to take training under Section (a) can take the Health Care Professionals course in lieu of the *SafeSport®Trained Core Course*.

2. **Timing of Training**

Adult Participants must complete the Training required by Section III.A: (i) before having Regular Contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor, (ii) within the first 45 days of initial membership or (iii) upon beginning a new role subjecting the Adult to this policy, whichever comes first.

3. **Refresher Training**

The above-listed Adult Participants must complete a refresher course every 12 months, beginning the calendar year after completing the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course*; provided that every four years, Adult Participants must complete the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course* training in lieu of completing a refresher course. Medical providers can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course* and are required to take the refresher courses on an annual basis if they meet the criteria in Section III.A.1. ⁴

B. Minor Athlete Training

1. Every twelve (12) months, subject to parental consent, USAWP will offer training on the prevention and reporting of child abuse to its Minor Athlete members on its own behalf and that of its LAOs.
2. The Center will offer youth courses, located at safesporttrained.org, that meets the requirement of Section III.B.1.

C. Parent Training

1. Every twelve (12) months, USAWP will offer training on the prevention and reporting of child abuse to its Adult members and to the parents and legal guardians of its Minor Athlete members on its own behalf and that of its LAOs.
2. The Center will offer an Adult course, located at safesporttrained.org, that meets the requirement of Section III.E.1.

D. Optional Training

1. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity who will not have regular contact with or authority over any amateur athlete who is a minor, should take the Center's brief Volunteer Course (or *SafeSport® Trained Core Course*) before engaging or interacting with any minor athlete)
2. USAWP may provide training in addition to the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course*, although it cannot refer to this training as "SafeSport" training. Training other than the *SafeSport Trained Core Course* or Refresher does not satisfy this policy.
3. Parents and legal guardians of Minor Athletes will be provided free online access to the Center's parent course and are encouraged to take the training.

E. Exemptions and Accommodations.

The Center's online training courses contain information about various forms of abuse. The courses do not include graphic descriptions of abuse or show violent images or video. The content may be uncomfortable or trigger trauma for some participants.

1. Exemptions to the online training requirement may be requested by survivors of abuse or misconduct. Survivors of abuse or misconduct can request an exemption by contacting USAWP at report@usawaterpolo.org or can choose to contact the

⁴ A medical provider who takes the Health Professionals Course will then take the subsequent refresher each year until they've completed the cycle. Upon restarting the cycle, they would take the HP Course again.

Center directly to request an exemption at exemptions@safesport.org. All exemptions granted by the Center or USAWP under this provision are considered indefinite and do not need to be re-requested every year.

2. Exemptions to the online training requirement for reasons other than that the requestor is a survivor of abuse or misconduct are limited to cognitive or physical disabilities or language barriers. Requests for these exemptions must be made by the individual to USAWP at report@usawaterpolo.org. USAWP will determine whether to grant the exemption. If USAWP grants the exemption, it will track the exemption to ensure it is appropriately applied to the individual's membership status. USAWP will preserve documentation that the exemption was granted and for what duration.
3. The Center has several options available to assist individuals in completing the online training courses, including screen reader-compatible versions and course availability in several languages, including English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Russian, German, and Japanese. If none of the available options will fit an individual's needs, USAWP may determine whether to grant an exemption

F. USAWP Requirements

1. USAWP Membership

Adult Participants who have not completed required training will not be permitted to register as USAWP members and, if registered as USAWP members, their membership may be suspended if they are non-compliant with USAWP's training policy.

2. LAO Compliance.

All USAWP LAOs must implement these policies as to their members and Adult Participants.

3. Policy Implementation.

- a. All USAWP Adult Participants are required to report any violations of these policies to USAWP at report@usawaterpolo.org. The failure of any member to report a violation of these policies constitutes a violation of USAWP's Rules Governing Conduct that subjects the member to sanctions, including suspension of the member's USAWP membership and/or a prohibition on the member participating in any Event conducted by USAWP or a LAO. The failure of a USAWP employee to report a violation of these policies may subject the employee to discipline, including the termination of the employee's employment.
- b. USAWP will communicate these policies to its members by providing its members with a copy of these policies upon a member first applying for membership and at each annual renewal of a member's membership. USAWP will require each member to acknowledge that the member has reviewed and agreed to abide by these policies in order to become a USAWP member.

- c. Any violation of these policies may be reported to USAWP at report@usawaterpolo.org and will be enforced in accordance with USAWP's grievance procedures in effect at the time of the alleged violation, which include USAWP reporting any violation to the Center so that the Center may determine whether it wishes to exercise jurisdiction over the alleged violation.

IV POLICIES APPLICABLE TO ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

USAWP recognizes that youth-adult relationships can be healthy and valuable for development. Policies restricting 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 the reduction of sexual abuse that policies limiting such interactions between youth and adults be implemented.

All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except when one or more of the following exceptions is present and documented.

A. Close-in-Age Exception

The purpose of this exception is to allow for continued relationships among athletes on the same team. This exception applies when:

1. The Adult Participant has no authority over the Minor Athlete; and
2. The Adult Participant is not more than four (4) years older (determined by birth date) than the Minor Athlete.⁵

B. Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant Exception

This exception exists for Adult Participants who assist a Minor Athlete with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation. This exception applies when:

1. The Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian has provided Consent to USAWP or the Minor Athlete's LAO for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
2. The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
3. The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USAWP's background screening policy.

C. Exception for Dual Relationships

⁵ Note: This exception is different from the close-in-age exception in the Code pertaining to misconduct.

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact when the Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete that is outside of the sport program. The exception requires written Consent of the Minor Athlete’s parent/legal guardian at least annually. The Consent must identify the Prevention Policy(ies) for which the parent/legal guardian is allowing the one-on-one In-Program Contact.

D. Emergency Exception

This exception applies to all Prevention Policies in situations where an Adult Participant must violate the requirement(s) of the MAAPP due to an emergency. Adult Participants must carefully consider whether the specific circumstances meet the threshold of “emergency.” Adult Participants should document emergency situations by sending an e-mail to report@usawaterpolo.org providing the following information: (i) the date that the exception was utilized, (ii) the circumstances giving rise to the emergency, (iii) the names of the Adult Participant(s) and Minor Athlete(s) involved and (iv) the policy for which the exception was utilized.

V MEETINGS

Sexual abuse often happens when children are alone with their abusers. This section provides policies for meetings to limit one-on-one interactions between children and adults, including mental health care professionals and licensed health care providers.

- A.** In-Program meetings between Adult Participants (other than licensed health care professionals and health care providers (except athletic trainers)⁶ and Minor Athletes must be observable and interruptible unless one or more of the exceptions stated in Section IV exists.

- B.** If a licensed mental health care professional, licensed health care provider, or a student under the supervision of a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider meets one-on-one with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event, or a facility which is partially or fully under USAWP’s or an LAO’s jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:
 - 1. If the door remains unlocked; and
 - 2. Another Adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete’s identity needs not be disclosed; and
 - 3. USAWP and, where the Minor Athlete is competing on a team affiliated with an LAO, the LAO, are notified that the professional or provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and
 - 4. The professional or provider obtains Consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

⁶ Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must following the “Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities” policy.

VI INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SESSIONS

Some abusers will single out athletes for special one-on-one instruction. This kind of isolation provides opportunities for abuse to occur. This section establishes rules for individual training sessions to protect youth athletes from uncomfortable or unsafe situations.

- A** In-Program individual training sessions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes must be observable and interruptible unless one or more of the exceptions stated in Section IV exists.
- B** Adult Participants providing individual training must receive advance, written Consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time.
- C** Parents/legal guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session.
- D** If a permitted individual training session takes place between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete, another Adult Participant must monitor each training session. Monitoring includes reviewing the parent/legal guardian consent form, knowing that the training session is occurring, knowing the approximate planned duration of the training session, and periodically dropping in on the training session.

VII MANUAL THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC AND RECOVERY MODALITIES⁷

Many athletes require therapies to prevent or treat injuries. However, these treatment sessions can place Minor Athletes in vulnerable positions, especially if they involve physical contact with Adults. This section establishes standards for therapeutic and recovery modalities and manual therapy to reduce the risk of inappropriate contact between Minor Athletes and Adults.

- A.** Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during manual therapy and therapeutic modalities and recovery modalities with Minor Athletes must be observable and interruptible unless the emergency exception stated in Section IV.D applies.
- B.** Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities meet the following requirements:
 - a. Another Adult Participant must be physically present for the modality or manual therapy; and
 - b. There must be a documented Consent meeting the requirements of Section VII.C below; and
 - c. The therapy or therapeutic and recovery modality must be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and

- d. The Minor Athlete’s parents/legal guardians must be permitted to be in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing; and
 - e. The provider must narrate the steps in the modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.
- C. Providers of manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities, USAWP or all LAOs, as applicable, must obtain Consent at least annually from the Minor Athlete’s parents/legal guardians before providing any manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities. Consent can be withdrawn at any time.
 - D. USA Water Polo recommends that, when possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.
 - E. USA Water Polo recommends that only licensed providers should administer manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.
 - F. USA Water Polo recommends that coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, should not massage Minor Athletes.

VIII LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

Minor Athletes may be especially vulnerable to abuse in changing areas where they are undressing and possibly showering. Appropriate monitoring is necessary in these areas to prevent abuse and other inappropriate conduct. This section outlines policies for locker rooms and changing areas to ensure privacy and safety.

- A. Adult Participants must ensure that all one on one In Program Contact between a Minor Athlete and an Adult Participant in a locker room, changing area, bathroom or similar space where Minor Athletes are present is observable and interruptible unless one or more of the exceptions stated in Section IV exists.
- B. Other than as stated in Section VIII,.F, the use of devices having photographic or recording capabilities in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing is prohibited.
- C. Adult Participants must not remove their clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete in a locker room or changing area.
- D. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
 - a. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
 - b. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- E. Parents/legal guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. USAWP, its LAOs and all Adult Participants must abide by this request.

- F.** Recording or photography in locker rooms is prohibited unless USAWP or an LAO authorizes the recording or photography for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment; provided that:
 - a. The Consent of the parent/legal guardian of all Minor Athletes to be recorded or photographed has been obtained; and
 - b. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
 - c. Everyone is fully clothed (for purposes of this rule, individuals shall be deemed to be fully clothed if they are wearing competition water polo swim suits).
- G.** Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they meet the requirements of Section IV.B.
- H.** USAWP and its LAOs must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under their jurisdiction or control.
- I.** The organization responsible for holding an Event (USA Water Polo or an LAO) must monitor the use of locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under their jurisdiction or control.

IX ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Technology has made it easier for teams to communicate and share information. Unfortunately, it also makes it easier for abusers to contact children without supervision or sharing inappropriate images and video. This section sets standards for appropriate electronic communication between Minor Athletes and Adults.

- A.** All one on one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete, including communications from an Adult Participant that respond to a communication from a Minor Athlete, must be copied to one or more of: (i) the Minor Athlete's parent or legal guardian, (ii) another Adult family member of the Minor Athlete or (iii) another Adult Participant unless one or more of the exceptions stated in Section IV exist.
- B.** Adult Participants may only communicate electronically with Minor Athletes on platforms that allow for communications that comply with Section IX.A.
- C.** When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to an entire team or more than one Minor Athlete on the team, the communication must comply with Section IX.A.
- D.** All electronic communications originating from an Adult Participant to one or more Minor Athletes must be professional in nature.
- E.** If a parents or legal guardians of a Minor Athlete requests in writing that USAWP or an LAO cease communicating electronically with the parent's or legal guardian's Minor

Athlete, USAWP or the LAO, as the case may be, must discontinue communicating electronically with the Minor Athlete, except in emergency circumstances.

- F. Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age Exception, may not have private social media connections with Minor Athletes.

X TRANSPORTATION

Minor Athletes are often carpooling or traveling without the supervision of their parent/legal guardian to Events. This can place them in vulnerable positions where they are susceptible to abuse. This section establishes policies for Adults transporting Minor Athletes to or from Events.

- A. Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during Transportation is Observable and Interruptible unless one or more of the exceptions listed in Section IV exist or:
 - a. The Adult Participant has advanced written Consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one, obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/legal guardian can withdraw consent at any time; or
 - b. The Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors who are at least 8 years of age.
- B. Written Consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian is required for all transportation authorized or funded by USAWP or a LAO at least annually. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/legal guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
- C. USAWP recommends that parents/legal guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement so as to eliminate any time when the parent/legal guardian is alone with Minor Athletes other than the parent/legal guardian's Minor Athlete.

XI LODGING AND RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS

Minor Athletes traveling overnight face greater risk of sexual abuse if they are traveling without their parent or legal guardian. Abusers can take advantage of the situation by trying to have unsupervised time alone with Minor Athletes. This section sets rules for sleeping arrangements and room monitoring to protect Minor Athletes during overnight travel. a. Lodging arrangements covered under this policy include, but are not limited to, hotel stays, rentals (i.e. Airbnb, VRBO, HometoGo, etc.), and long-term residential environments, including lodging at training sites and billeting.

- A. All In-Program Contact during Lodging must be observable and interruptible unless one or more of the exceptions listed in Section IV exist.
- B. An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with one or more Minor Athletes, unless one or more of the exceptions listed in Section IV exist and the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian has provided (i) USAWP or the LAO arranging the Lodging and (ii) the Adult Participant with whom the Minor Athlete is to be lodged with advance, written Consent for each specific lodging arrangement; provided that

the Consent must be within one year of the Lodging and can be withdrawn at any time. Additionally, consent must be collected annually for all in-program lodging.

- C. If USAWP or the LAO arranging the Lodging perform room checks during In-Program Lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy (Section IV) must be followed and at least two Adults must be present for the room checks.
- D. Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athletes are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athletes and thus must comply with the Education and Training policy outlined in Part III, unless the Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age exception.

X MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES

- A. USAWP recommends that Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception or have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, not have out-of-program contact with the Minor Athlete without parent/legal guardian Consent, even if the out-of-program contact is not one-on-one.
- B. USAWP recommends that Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception or have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete not give personal gifts to Minor Athletes unless the gifts are equally distributed to all team athletes and serve a motivational or educational purpose. This policy does not prohibit USAWP or LAOs from providing awards to individual Minor Athletes to recognize a Minor Athlete's achievements, such as most valuable player awards.
- C. USAWP recommends that Adult Participants not publicly share or post photos or videos of Minor Athletes if the Adult Participant has not obtained the parent/legal guardian's and Minor Athlete's Consent.

XI REPORTING RULE VIOLATIONS

- A. All USAWP members are required to report in writing to USAWP any suspected violation of USAWP's Minor Abuse Prevention Policies within twenty-four (24) hours of such violation coming to the attention of the USAWP member. Reports should be made via e-mail to report@usawaterpolo.org.
- B. All violations of the Code involving suspected sexual misconduct (as defined in the Code) must be reported to the Center through the Center's website (www.USCenterforSafeSport.org) or by calling the Center at 833.587.7233. Although the Center has exclusive jurisdiction over reports of alleged sexual misconduct, such reports may also be made to USAWP via e-mail at report@usawaterpolo.org. Reports involving suspected sexual misconduct that are received by USAWP will be forward to the Center.
- C. Retaliation against a person who reports a violation of these policies, or who is a victim of a violation of these policies, is prohibited and constitutes a serious violation of these policies.

- D.** All USAWP members are required to cooperate with any investigation concerning any alleged violation of these policies, including providing testimony at any hearing concerning any alleged violation of these policies.

- E.** Violation of these policies by a USAWP member or a LAO, including the failure of a USAWP member or LAO to report suspected violations of these policies, may subject the violator to sanctions, including: (a) the completion of required education or training courses, (b) probation, (c) suspension or permanent termination of an individual's or club's membership in USAWP, or (d) a prohibition on the violator participating in any Event organized by, or conducted under the auspices of, USAWP or a LAO.

APPENDIX 1

ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING AND PREVENTION POLICIES

The Center requires that USAWP implement proactive policies designed to prevent abuse as described below. USAWP has adopted those policies and mandated that all LAOs under its jurisdiction follow the USAWP policies.

A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training

1. USAWP must track whether Adult Participants under its jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Part III.A of USAWP's Minor Abuse Prevention Policies.
2. USAWP, on its own behalf and on behalf of its LAOs, must, every 12 months, offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to minor athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 - a. USAWP must track a description of the training offered to minor athletes and how the training was offered and provided to minor athletes.
 - b. USAWP is not required to track minor athletes' individual course completions.
3. USAWP, on its own behalf and on behalf of its LAOs, must, every 12 months, offer training to parents and legal guardians of minor athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 - c. USAWP must track a description of the training offered to minor athletes' parents and legal guardians and how the training was offered and provided to the parents and legal guardians of minor athletes.
 - d. USAWP is not required to track minor athletes' parents' and legal guardians' individual course completions.

B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation

1. USAWP must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies to limit one-on-one interactions between a Minor Athlete and an Adult Participant. These policies must contain the mandatory components of Part III of the Center's model policies. These model policies cover:
 - a. Meetings
 - b. Individual training sessions
 - c. Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities and Manual Therapy
 - d. Locker rooms and changing areas
 - e. Electronic communications
 - f. Transportation

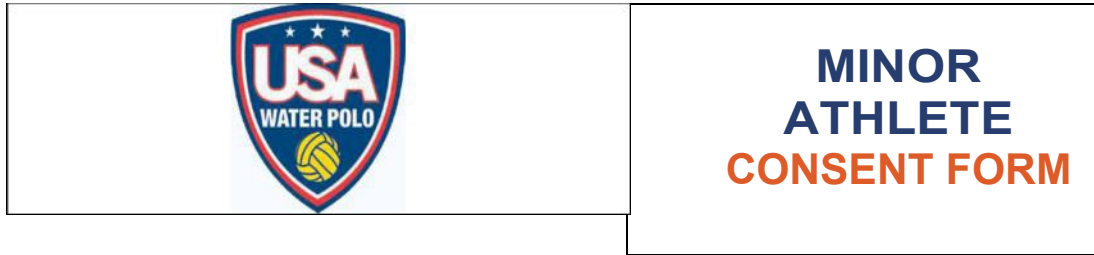
- g. Lodging and Residential Environments
2. The policies must be approved by the Center as described in subsection (C) below. The policies may include the recommended components in Part III of the Center’s model policies and the recommended policies in Part IV of the Center’s model policies. Given the uniqueness of each sport, however, some recommended components or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. Such concerns should be addressed with the Center during the Policy Approval and Submission Process discussed below. USAWP may choose to implement stricter standards than the model policies.
 3. USAWP must also require that its LAOs implement these policies within each LAO.
 4. USAWP must implement these policies for all In-Program Contact.
 - a. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under USAWP’s jurisdiction, USAWP must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
 - b. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under USAWP’s LAO’s jurisdiction, the LAO must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
 - c. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside USAWP’s sanctioned event or facilities, or those of a USAWP LAO, implementing these policies means:
 - i. Communicating the policies to individuals under USAWP’s or the LAO’s jurisdiction;
 - ii. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies; and
 - iii. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.
 5. USAWP, on its own behalf and that of its LAOs, must have a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating its minor athlete abuse prevention policies. USAWP must appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report. This requirement is in addition to requirements to report abuse under the SafeSport Code.

C. Policy Approval and Submission Process

1. USAWP may adopt the minimum requirements of the MAAPP as-is or adapt it to fit its needs. Regardless, USAWP must submit its policies to the Center at compliance@safesport.org for review and approval by April 1, 2024. The Center will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the policies. If the Center denies the proposed policy, the mandatory components of Part III of the Center’s model policies become the default policy until the Center approves the policy.

2. USAWP must require its LAOs to incorporate the mandatory components of Part III. USAWP may require that its LAOs implement its policies, which may be more stringent than the policies in Part III of the Center's model policies.
3. The mandatory components of Part III will serve as the default policy in the event that USAWP fails to develop its own policy as required by this section.
4. Any changes made to USAWP's policy after the policy is approved must be submitted to the Center for approval. The previously approved MAAPP will remain in effect until written approval is provided to the NGB from the Center.

APPENDIX 2



This consent form is for the purpose providing consent in order to trigger the application of certain exceptions to USA Water Polo’s Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (the “**MAAPP**”). The MAAPP prescribes different policies with respect to different types of interactions between adults and minor athletes. These include: (a) one on one interactions, such as private practices, (b) transportation, such as carpooling to practices or competitions, (c) lodging, such as when traveling to events requiring overnight stays at hotels, (d) interactions in locker rooms or other changing areas and (e) electronic communications. There are times when it may be appropriate for a minor athlete to interact with a particular adult in a manner that would otherwise violate the MAAPP, such as when a trusted adult acts as a chaperone on an overnight trip to an event in which the minor athlete is competing. While the MAAPP prescribes the circumstances in which such an exception might exist, it is up to the parents or legal guardians of each minor athlete to determine whether such a circumstance exists in any particular instance and whether the adult for whom consent is being given should be permitted to interact with the minor athlete under the circumstances for which consent is being given.

Please note that, depending on the policy for which consent is being given, consent could be required:

- In every instance (for example, in each case in which a minor athlete travels under the supervision of an adult other than the minor athlete’s parent or guardian);
- On an annual basis, or
- Either in every instance or on an annual basis at the election of the minor athlete’s parent or guardian.

If the applicable policy does not provide an option for annual consent, then consent needs to be provided in every instance. In all instances, consent can be withdrawn by a parent or guardian at any time.

An individual may be excepted from multiple MAAPP policies or from a single policy by completing the applicable form for which consent is being given. When completed, this form should be returned to USA Water Polo at report@usawaterpolo.org and to the club administrator of the water polo club with whom the minor athlete is competing.

The undersigned is the parent/guardian of _____, the Athlete to whom this form relates (the “**Minor Athlete**”).

I acknowledge that the MAAPP contains policies that are intended to prevent abuse and risks of harm to minor members of USA Water Polo. I acknowledge that, by providing consent pursuant to this form, I am assuming certain risks to the Minor Athlete that the MAAPP is designed to prevent. Nonetheless, based solely upon my judgment as to the seriousness of those risks, taking into account the particular circumstances of the Minor Athlete and the adult for whom consent is being given, and not based upon any information provided to me by USA Water Polo or any of its agents or employees, I wish to provide consent as set forth in this consent. I acknowledge that I have been advised that, prior to granting consent, I should complete the training entitled Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sport available at <https://safesporttrained.org/#/public-dashboard>

Dated: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Name (please print)

CONSENT TO PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT

The undersigned hereby consents to the following individual(s) acting as a Personal Care Assistant for the Minor Athlete:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Dated: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Name (please print)

CONSENT TO ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS OR TRAINING SESSIONS⁸

The undersigned hereby consents to the following individual(s) engaging in one-on-one meetings and training sessions with the Minor Athlete:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Dated: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Name (please print)

⁸ Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy Sections IV, V and VI.

**CONSENT TO MANUAL THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC AND RECOVERY
MODALITIES⁹**

The undersigned hereby consents to the following individual(s) performing manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities on the Minor Athlete:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Dated: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Name (please print)

⁹ Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy Section VII.

CONSENT TO TRANSPORTATION¹⁰

The undersigned hereby consents to the following individual(s) providing transportation for the Minor Athlete:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Dated: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Name (please print)

¹⁰ Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy Section X.

CONSENT TO LODGING¹¹

The undersigned hereby represents that the following exceptions listed in Section IV of USAWP's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies exist:

Close in Age Exception: ____

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant Exception: ____

Dual Relationship Exception: ____

and consents to the following individuals having contact with the Minor Athlete in connection with the Minor Athlete's lodging at a hotel or other accommodation as follows:

Lodging Date	Lodging Locale	Name

Dated: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian

Name (please print)

¹¹ Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy Section XI.

