

1 **Mississippi Soccer Association (MSA)**
2 **MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY (“MAAPP”)**
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4 **PART I**
5 **EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY**
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7 **A. Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult Participants**
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9 1. Adult Participants Required to Complete Training

- 10 a. The following Adult Participants must complete the SafeSport Trained Core either
11 through the Center’s online training or the Center’s approved, in-person training:
12 i. Adult Participants who have regular contact with any amateur athlete(s) who is a
13 minor;
14 ii. Adult Participants who have authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
15 iii. Adult Participants who are an employee or board member of MSA OR ANY OF ITS
16 MEMBERS.
17 b. Adult Participants, who are medical providers, required to take training under Section (a)
18 can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the SafeSport Trained Core.
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20 2. Timing of Training: Adult Participants must complete this training:

- 21 a. Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins; and
22 b. Within the first 45 days of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role
23 subjecting the adult to this policy.
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25 3. Refresher Training: The above listed Adult Participants must complete a refresher course on
26 an annual basis, beginning the calendar year after completing the SafeSport Trained Core.
27 Every four years, Adult Participants will complete the SafeSport Trained Core training.
28 Medical providers can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the SafeSport Trained
29 Core and are required to take the refresher courses on an annual basis if they meet the criteria
30 for A(1).
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32 **B. Minor Athlete Training Must Be Offered**
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- 34 1. MSA, on an annual basis, must offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to Minor
35 Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
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37 2. The Center offers youth courses, located at www.athletesafety.org, that meet this
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C. Parent Training Must Be Offered

1. MSA, on an annual basis, must offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers a parent course, located at <https://safesporttrained.org/#/publicdashboard>, that meets this requirement.

D. Exemptions and Accommodations

1. Exemptions from this Education & Training Policy may be made on a case-by-case basis for victims/survivors. Requests may be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at exemptions@safesport.org.
2. The Center will work with the NGBs, PSOs, LAOs, and the USOPC on appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency to satisfy these training requirements. Each NGB, PSO, LAO and the USOPC must provide reasonable accommodations and track any exemptions for individuals with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency.

**PART II
ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING AND
PREVENTION POLICIES**

MSA must implement proactive policies designed to prevent abuse. These organizational requirements are described below.

A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training

1. MSA must track whether Adult Participants under the organization's jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Part I.
2. MSA, on an annual basis, offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 - a. For training to Minor Athletes, MSA must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to Minor Athletes.
 - b. MSA is not required to track individual course completions of Minor Athletes.

- 79 3. MSA must, on an annual basis, offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of
80 child abuse.

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82 **B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation**

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84 1. MSA must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies that contain the mandatory
85 components of the Center's model policies in Part III. These model policies cover:
86 a. One-on-one interactions
87 b. Meetings and training sessions
88 c. Athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns
89 d. Locker rooms and changing areas
90 e. Electronic communications
91 f. Transportation
92 g. Lodging
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94 2. MSA must implement these policies within its membership.
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96 3. MSA must implement these policies for all In-Program Contact.
97 a. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under the MSA's jurisdiction, it must
98 take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
99 b. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside MSA's sanctioned event or facilities,
100 implementing these policies means:
101 i. Communicating the policies to individuals under the MSA's jurisdiction;
102 ii. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies;
103 iii. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.
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105 4. MSA must have a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating
106 its minor athlete abuse prevention policies.
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108 5. MSA must appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is
109 reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report. This requirement is in
110 addition to requirements to report abuse under the SafeSport Code.
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PART III
REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

MSA 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 that organizations limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

MODEL POLICY: ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible
 - a. All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except in emergency circumstances.
 - b. The exceptions below may apply to specific policies, and if the exceptions apply, they are listed in the policy. These exceptions also apply to all one-on-one In- Program Contact not specifically addressed in other policies:
 - i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
 - ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
 - iii. If a Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant, and:
 - (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Organization 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 the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Organization's screening policy; or iv.
 - iv. In other circumstances specifically addressed in this policy that allow for certain one-on-one interactions if the Organization receives parent/ guardian consent.

143 **MODEL POLICY: MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS**

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145 **A. Mandatory Components**

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1. Observable and Interruptible

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Adult Participants must follow the one-on-one interaction policy in all meetings and training sessions where Minor Athlete(s) are present.

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2. Individual Training Sessions

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a. One-on-one, In-Program, individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible except if:

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i. A Dual Relationship exists; or

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ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or

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iii. A Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant, and:

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(1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the

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Organization for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and

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(2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and

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(3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Organization's screening policy.

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b. The Adult Participant providing the individual training session must receive advance, written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and

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c. Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session.

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3. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers¹)

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If 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 the Organization's jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

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a. If the door remains unlocked; and

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b. 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

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c. The Organization is notified that the provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and

¹ Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the "Athletic Training Modalities, Massages, and Rubdowns" policy.

178 d. The provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which
179 can be withdrawn at any time.

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181 **B. Recommended Components**

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183 1. Monitoring

184 If a permitted meeting or training session takes place between an Adult Participant(s) and a
185 Minor Athlete(s) at a facility partially or fully under the Organization's jurisdiction, another
186 Adult Participant will monitor each meeting or training session. Monitoring includes
187 reviewing the parent/guardian consent form, knowing that the meeting or training session is
188 occurring, knowing the approximate planned duration of the meeting or training session, and
189 dropping in on the meeting or training session.

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191 2. Parent Training

192 Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child
193 abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to have a meeting or
194 training session with an Adult Participant subject to these policies.

195 **MODEL POLICY: ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES, MESSAGES, AND RUBDOWNS**
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197 **A. Mandatory Components**
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199 1. Athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown

200 All In-Program athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns of a Minor Athlete must:

- 201 a. Be observable and interruptible; and
- 202 b. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the athletic training modality,
203 massage, or rubdown; and
- 204 c. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (2) below; and
- 205 d. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts,
206 buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
- 207 e. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training
208 venues that limit credentialing.

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210 2. Consent

- 211 a. Providers of athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns or the NGB or USOPC,
212 when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes'
213 parents/guardians before providing any athletic training modalities, massages, or
214 rubdowns.
- 215 b. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

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217 **B. Recommended Components**
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219 1. Parent Training

220 Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse
221 prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to receive an athletic training
222 modality, massage, or rubdown.

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- 224 2. The provider should narrate the steps in the massage, rubdown, or athletic training modality
225 before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.
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- 227 3. When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.
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- 229 4. Only licensed providers should administer a massage, rubdown, or athletic training modality.
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- 231 5. Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, should not massage
232 Minor Athletes.

233 **MODEL POLICY: LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS**
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235 **A. Mandatory Components**

236 1. Observable and Interruptible

237 Adult Participants must ensure that all one-on-one In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s)
238 in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is
239 observable and interruptible, except if:

- 240 a. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- 241 b. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- 242 c. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
 - 243 i. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Organization
 - 244 for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - 245 ii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education &
 - 246 Training Policy; and
 - 247 iii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Organization's
 - 248 screening policy.

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250 2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- 251 a. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of
- 252 any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for
- 253 changing clothes or undressing.
- 254 b. Adult Participants must not change clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or
- 255 recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groins, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.
- 256 c. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
 - 257 i. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
 - 258 ii. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- 259 d. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower
- 260 with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. The Organization and the Adult
- 261 Participant(s) must abide by this request.

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263 3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms

264 The Organization may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of
265 highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:

- 266 i. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
 - 267 ii. The Organization approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
 - 268 iii. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
 - 269 iv. Everyone is fully clothed.
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4. Personal Care Assistants

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 in subsection (1)(a)(iii) above.

5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

a. The Organization 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 the Organization's jurisdiction.

b. The Organization 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 the Organization's jurisdiction.

283 **MODEL POLICY: ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS²**
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285 **A. Mandatory Components**
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287 1. Open and Transparent

288 a. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor
289 Athlete must be Open and Transparent except:

290 i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or

291 ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or

292 iii. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:

293 (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the

294 Organization for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the
295 Minor Athlete; and

296 (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education &
297 Training Policy; and

298 (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Organization's
299 screening policy.

300 b. Open and Transparent means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor
301 Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another
302 Adult Participant.

- 303 • If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult
304 Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.

305 c. Only platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to
306 communicate with Minor Athletes.
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308 2. Team Communication

309 When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of
310 Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include another Adult
311 Participant or the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians.
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313 3. Content

314 All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s)
315 must be professional in nature unless an exception in (1)(a) exists.

² Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, and social media.

- 316 4. Requests to Discontinue
317 Parents/guardians may request in writing that the Organization or an Adult Participant subject
318 to this policy not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication.
319 The Organization and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent
320 emergency circumstances.
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322 **B. Recommended Components**
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- 324 1. Hours
325 Electronic communications should generally be sent only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and
326 8:00 p.m. local time for the location of the Minor Athlete.
327 2. Social Media Connections
328 Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age
329 Exception, are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with Minor Athletes
330 and should discontinue existing social media connections with Minor Athletes.

331 MODEL POLICY: TRANSPORTATION

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333 **A. Mandatory Components**

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335 1. Transportation

336 a. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program
337 travel, except if:

338 i. A Dual Relationship exists; or

339 ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or

340 iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:

341 (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the

342 Organization for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the

343 Minor Athlete; and

344 (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education &
345 Training Policy; and

346 (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Organization's
347 screening policy; or

348 iv. The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-
349 on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian.

350 b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

351 c. An Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult
352 Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors.

353 d. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation
354 sanctioned by an NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO at least annually.

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356 **B. Recommended Components**

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358 1. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

359 The Organization encourages parents/guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop
360 off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

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362 2. Parent Training

363 Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse
364 prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to travel one-on-one with an Adult
365 Participant.

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367 MODEL POLICY: LODGING

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369 **A. Mandatory Components**

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371 1. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

372 a. All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a
373 Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, and an Adult Participant cannot share
374 a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), except if:

375 i. A Dual Relationship Exists, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided
376 the Organization with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement;

377 ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has
378 provided the Organization with advance, written consent for the lodging
379 arrangement; or

380 iii. The Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:

381 (1) The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent
382 to the Organization for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to
383 work with the Minor Athlete and for the lodging arrangement;

384 (2) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the
385 Education & Training Policy; and

386 (3) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the
387 Organization's screening policy.

388 b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-
389 Program lodging at least annually.

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391 2. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

392 If the Organization or team performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-on- one
393 interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

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395 3. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by the Organization

396 a. Adult Participants traveling with the Organization must agree to and sign the
397 Organization's lodging policy at least annually.

398 b. Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have
399 Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Center's Education &
400 Training Policy.

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402 **C. Recommended Components**

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404 Parent Training

405 Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child
406 abuse prevention before providing consent for lodging arrangements under this policy.

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PART IV

RECOMMENDED POLICIES FOR KEEPING YOUNG ATHLETES SAFE

A. Out-of-Program Contact

Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not have out-of-program contact with Minor Athlete(s) without legal/parent guardian consent, even if the out-of-program contact is not one-on-one.

B. Gifting

1. Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not give personal gifts to Minor Athlete(s).
2. Gifts that are equally distributed to all athletes and serve a motivational or education purpose are permitted.

C. Photography/Video

1. Photographs or videos of athletes may only be taken in public view and must observe generally accepted standards of decency.
2. Adult Participants should not publicly share or post photos or videos of Minor Athlete(s) if the Adult Participant has not obtained the Parent/Guardian and Minor Athlete's consent.

432 **TERMINOLOGY**

433 **Adult Participant:** Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

- 434 a. A member or license holder of MSA or its members;
- 435 b. An employee or board member of an MSA or its members;
- 436 c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of an MSA OR its members;
- 437 d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by an MSA or its members to have regular contact with
- 438 or authority over Minor Athletes.³

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440 **Amateur Athlete:** An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by the National
441 Governing Body or paralympic sports organization for the sport in which the athlete competes.

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443 **Authority:** When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the
444 circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for
445 that person. Also see the [Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code](#). NOTE: NGBs, PSOs,
446 and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition
447 including specific volunteer designations.

448
449 **Close-in-Age Exception:** An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does
450 not have authority over a Minor Athlete and is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete
451 (e.g., a 19-year-old and a 16-year-old). Note: this exception only applies within the prevention
452 policies and not regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.

453
454 **Dual Relationships:** An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant has a
455 dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided
456 written consent at least annually authorizing the exception.

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458 **In-Program Contact:** Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between
459 an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

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461 Examples of In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices,
462 camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post game meals or outings, team travel,
463 review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award
464 ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport
465 education, or competition site visits.

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³ This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition

467 **Local Affiliated Organization (LAO):** A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly
468 affiliated with an NGB or that is affiliated with an NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or
469 state affiliate of said NGB. LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that
470 is only a member of a National Member Organization of an NGB.

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472 **Minor Athlete:** An Amateur Athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within
473 the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or
474 fully under the jurisdiction of, an NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO.

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476 **Partial or Full Jurisdiction:** Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging
477 in connection with the event) by the NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO, or any facility that the
478 NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO owns, leases, or rents for practice, training or competition.

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480 **National Governing Body (NGB):** A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body, Pan American
481 Sport Organization, or Paralympic Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic &
482 Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§
483 220501, et seq. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the
484 USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport
485 included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

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487 **Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant:** An Adult Participant who assists an athlete requiring
488 help with activities of daily living (ADL) and preparation for athletic participation. This support can
489 be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer,
490 dressing, showering, medication administration, and toileting. Personal Care Assistants are different
491 for every athlete and should be individualized to fit their specific needs. When assisting a Minor
492 Athlete, Adult Participant PCAs must be authorized by the athlete's parent/guardian.

493

494 **Paralympic Sport Organization (PSO):** an amateur sports organization recognized and certified as
495 an NGB by the USOPC.

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497 **Regular Contact:** Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in
498 a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s). NOTE: NGBs, PSOs, and the
499 USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition
500 including specific volunteer designations.

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502 **U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC):** A federally chartered nonprofit corporation
503 that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United
504 States.