

5/12/2018 Update:  
Preventing Abuse in  
Youth Sports and  
What Your Club  
Needs to Know.



On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the President signed the **Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017** which is aimed at protecting amateur athletes from sexual abuse.

What exactly does the Bill state?

The Bill has a three-pronged approach:

- 1) Any adult interacting with amateur athletes in the program have a duty to report abuse and or suspected abuse within a 24 hour period. **EVERY ADULT** is a mandatory reporter.
- 2) The statute of limitations is extended for up to 10 years after a victim realizes he or she was abused.
- 3) Limits an athlete under the age of 18 from being alone with an adult who is not their parent.

*\*What is an amateur athlete? Any child or minor under the age of 18.*

Legislation is available for download [HERE](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/534) (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/534>)

## What else is important to know about this Bill? How might my club be impacted?

There are additional and more specific requirements for several categories of youth sports providers listed as 'Applicable Entity' within the Bill. Those listed under this category include:

- 1) National Governing Body (NGB) – United States Soccer Federation
- 2) Amateur Sports Organization (sanctioned by NGB) – FYSA and Member Affiliates (clubs)
- 3) Amateur Sports Organizations (NOT sanctioned by NGB) – YMCA, Church Leagues, Municipal Leagues, Independent Recreation Leagues, Camps, all others

U.S. Center for SafeSport fact sheet [HERE](https://www.safesport.org/files/details/78)  
(<https://www.safesport.org/files/details/78>)

# What are the requirements for NGB's and NGB-Affiliated?

- 1) **Reporting** – a mechanism that allows a complaint to be easily reported for a reasonable suspicion of Sexual or Physical abuse/neglect, within a 24 hour period of awareness. Federal regulations state that reports should be made to a) local law enforcement and b) local child protective services, c) US Soccer, and d) the US Center for SafeSport. **EVERYONE is a MANDATORY REPORTER.**
  
- 2) **Mechanism for Reporting** – (Everyone listed below **MUST** be contacted when physical or sexual abuse is suspected)
  - 1) Local Law Enforcement Number (posted on club website and given to athletes and parents)
  - 2) Local Child Protective Services Number (posted on club website and given to athletes and parents)
  - 3) Club Risk Manager Contact Information (every club should have a point person for reporting)
  - 4) State Risk Managers – Becky McLaren and/or Dale Burke
    - Becky McLaren – [vpadministration@fysa.com](mailto:vpadministration@fysa.com)
    - Dale Burke – [dburke@fysa.com](mailto:dburke@fysa.com) 863-268-8220
  - 5) National Governing Body
    - US Soccer Integrity Hotline Number – (312) 528- 7004
    - US Soccer – <https://www.ussoccer.com/integrity-hotline>
    - US Center for SafeSport – <https://www.safesport.org/report-a-concern>

# What are the requirements for NGB's and NGB-Affiliated?

## 3) **Mechanism for Reporting** – *Other forms of misconduct* such as emotional abuse, bullying, hazing, or harassment.

- 1) Club Risk Manager Contact Information (every club should have a point person for reporting)
- 2) Club or BOD Review/Hearing – There should be a process in policy to document and address this other misconduct. The decision of the Club or BOD should be sent to the State Risk Manager and/or Executive Director.
- 3) State Risk Managers – Becky McLaren or Dale Burke  
Becky McLaren - [vpadministration@fysa.com](mailto:vpadministration@fysa.com)  
Dale Burke – [dburke@fysa.com](mailto:dburke@fysa.com)

## 4) **Reasonable Procedures** – Policies and procedures aimed at PREVENTING one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult.

- 1) Implement ***FYSA Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy ( Under Code of Conduct)*** into your club policy.

## What are the requirements for NGB's and NGB-Affiliated?

- 5) Prevention Training** – Offer and provide consistent training to adult members who are in contact with amateur athletes who are minors.

At the 5/12/2018 FYSA Board of Director's meeting the BOD voted to mandate the following program as a tool/resource for educating your membership

US Center for SafeSport [HERE](https://www.safesport.org/) (<https://www.safesport.org/>)

Instructions will be forthcoming for the activation of this program for the 2018-2019 soccer season.

- 6) Prohibit Retaliation** – Include in your club policy that there can be no retaliation from the club toward those who are reporting.

# Questions?

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