

9/28/2018 Update:
Preventing Abuse in
Youth Sports and
What Your
Association and Clubs
Needs to Know.



On February 15th, 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 Association or 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) – NTSSA and Member Associations and their Member 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, d) the US Center for SafeSport and e) North Texas Soccer

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 associations and club website and given to athletes and parents)
- 2) Local Child Protective Services Number (posted on associations and club website and given to athletes and parents)
- 3) Associations and Club Risk Manager Contact Information (every association and club should have a point person for reporting)
- 4) State Risk Managers – Evelyn Swissler and/or David Messersmith at safesportreports@ntxsoccer.org
- 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) Association and Club Risk Manager Contact Information (every association and club should have a point person for reporting)

2) Association and Club or BOD Review/Hearing – There should be a process in policy to document and address this other misconduct. The decision of the Associations and Club or BOD should be sent to the State Risk Manager and/or Executive Director.

3) State Risk Managers – Evelyn Swissler or David Messersmith

Evelyn Swissler – evelyn@ntxsoccer.org

David Messersmith – david@ntxsoccer.org

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

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 9/4/2018 North Texas State Soccer Association Board of Director's meeting the BOD voted to highly recommend the following program as a tool/resource for educating your membership. Note: This could become mandatory in the future.

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

Instructions for the activation of this program for the 2018-2019 is attached to this presentation.

6) Prohibit Retaliation – Include in your Association and Club policy that there can be no retaliation from the Member Associations and their Member Clubs toward those who are reporting.

Questions?

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