USA SURFING

Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

(“MAAPP”)

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Introduction

USA Surfing, in partnership with the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the "Center"), is committed to building a sports community where participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct. The most commonly used terms throughout this document are defined in the Terminology section at the back of this document.

Authority

The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 authorizes the Center to develop training and policies to prevent abuse—including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse—within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(1). Federal law requires that, at a minimum, national governing bodies and paralympic sports organizations must offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse: (1) to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors and (2) subject to parental consent, to members who are minors. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(3). Federal law requires that these policies contain reasonable procedures to limit unobservable and uninterruptible one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor, and an adult who is not the minor's legal guardian, at facilities under the jurisdiction of organizations within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2). To that end, the Center has developed, and USA Surfing has adopted, the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP).

What is the MAAPP?

The MAAPP is a collection of proactive prevention and training policies for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. It has four primary components:

1. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training and Prevention Policies;
2. An Education & Training Policy that requires training for certain Adult Participants within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement;
3. Required Prevention Policies, focused on limiting one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes that USA Surfing must implement to prevent abuse;
4. Recommended Prevention Policies.

The Center developed the MAAPP to assist National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Local Affiliated Organizations (LOAs), the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and other individuals to whom these policies apply in meeting their obligations under federal law. *(Note: implementing these policies does not guarantee that an organization or individual fully complies with federal law or all applicable legal obligations).* USA Surfing has adopted this MAAPP and will share these policies with all Participants and with parents/guardians of minor athletes. Consideration will be given to the physical and cognitive needs of all athletes.

The MAAPP focuses on just two important aspects of a much larger comprehensive abuse prevention strategy. These policies address training requirements and limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and minor athletes. These policies are intended to be enforceable and reasonable, acknowledging, for example, that when a 17-year-old athlete turns 18, they become an adult athlete, and a complete prohibition of one-on-one interactions may not be necessary or practical. Additionally, there may be other instances when one-on-one interactions

could occur, and in those cases, these policies provide strategies so parents/guardians can provide informed consent if they choose to allow a permitted interaction.

> **Center Recommendation:**
> The Center recommends that parents first complete training on abuse prevention to be informed about potential boundary violations and concerns before consenting to the interaction. Complimentary training is available at SafeSportTrained.org.

While the MAAPP will help organizations implement these policies to greatly improve minor athlete safety, in no way can they guarantee athlete safety in all circumstances, especially when the policies are not fully implemented, followed, or monitored. These policies are not comprehensive of all prevention strategies, nor are they intended to be. These policies should be implemented alongside the SafeSport Code. Additionally, other resources are available that may assist organizations in improving athlete safety.[1]

How Does the Center Ensure Compliance with the MAAPP?

Federal law requires the Center to conduct regular and random audits of the NGBs to ensure compliance with these policies. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2)(E). More specific organizational compliance requirements can be found in Part I. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the USOPC, each NGB, LAO, and Adult Participants to comply with the MAAPP. The aforementioned Organizations can address violations of the MAAPP by Adult Participants in their respective programs. Adult Participants also have an independent responsibility to comply with the MAAPP provisions. Violations of these provisions can result in sanctions under the SafeSport Code and USA Surfing's SurfSafe Policy.

Is the MAAPP Different from the SafeSport Code and the SurfSafe Policy?

Yes. The SafeSport Code and the USA Surfing SurfSafe Policy work alongside the MAAPP to prevent abuse. The MAAPP includes proactive prevention policies for organizations and individuals, while the SafeSport Code and SurfSafe Policy contain misconduct policies for individuals. However, violations of the MAAPP can violate the SafeSport Code and the SurfSafe Policy, and violators who are also Participants can be sanctioned.

Scope

[1] Saul, J., & Audage, N. C. (2007). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection. (2014). *Child Sexual Abuse: It Is Your Business*. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

The Australian Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. (2017). *Final Report*.

The MAAPP Applies to "In-Program Contact" Within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement

The MAAPP, or a policy containing the minimum required components of the MAAPP, is required for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), National Governing Bodies (NGB), and Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO) within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement (each an "Organization"). USA Surfing has adopted this MAAPP to safeguard our minor athletes and to be in compliance with this requirement.

Some policies impose requirements on Organizations at sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under the Organization's jurisdiction. For example, Organizations must monitor locker rooms at their facilities and sanctioned events, if applicable. Other policies impose certain requirements on Adult Participants under USA Surfing's jurisdiction when the Adult Participant is having "In-Program Contact." For example, Adult Participants cannot have one-on-one meetings with a Minor Athlete unless it is observable and interruptible.

Who is a Minor Athlete?

A **Minor Athlete** is an 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, USA Surfing.[2]

> **Partial or Full Jurisdiction:**
> Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by USA Surfing, or any facility that USA Surfing owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

Who is an Adult Participant?

An **Adult Participant** is any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

1. A member or license holder of USA Surfing.
2. An employee or board member of USA Surfing.
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Surfing.
4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Surfing to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.[3]

An **Adult Participant** in **USA Surfing** is any adult (18 years of age or older) who is a/an:

- Board of Director
- Officer
- Employee

[2] 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, USOPC, or LAO. Examples include, but are not limited to: officials, coaches, or volunteers.

[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.

- Standing Committee Member, including Athlete Advisory Council Member
- Advisory Group Member
- Hearing Panel Member
- Adult Individual Member
  - Athlete - Adult Member
  - Athlete - One-Time Adult Member
  - Private Coach
- Contractor *(authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Surfing to have regular contact with and/or authority over a minor)*.
  - Contractor - Coach
  - Contractor - Judge
  - Contractor - Official
  - Contractor - Medical
  - Contractor - Broadcast
- Volunteer *(officially recognized as such by USAS; including, but not limited to):*
  - Volunteer - Coach
  - Volunteer - Medical
  - Volunteer - Chaperone
  - Volunteer - Intern
  - Volunteer - Pusher, Catcher, Visual Guide
  - Volunteer - Other
- Vendors *(authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Surfing to have regular contact with and/or authority over a minor)*
- Any other individual determined by USAS to be a "Participant"

What is In-Program Contact?

In-Program Contact includes USA Surfing-sanctioned events and facilities, but it also applies more broadly to any sport-related interactions. USA Surfing defines "In-Program Contact" as:

> *Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in our sport.*

Examples of activities related to participation that could be identified as In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, coaching sessions, camps/clinics, pre/post-competition meals or outings, team travel, analysis of practice and/or competition video, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, competition site visits, beach training sessions, ocean-based training, and wave pool or dry-land conditioning sessions.

Am I Required to Take SafeSport Training?

Certain Adult Participants within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement who have (i) regular contact with athletes who are minors, (ii) authority over athletes who are minors, or (iii) are

employees or board members of USA Surfing, are required to take training. The specific training requirements can be found in Part II.

Part I: Organizational Requirements for Education & Training and Prevention Policies

USA Surfing must implement proactive policies designed to prevent abuse. USA Surfing organizational requirements are described below.

A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training

1. USA Surfing must track whether Adult Participants under its jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Part II.

2. USA Surfing must, every 12 months, 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, USA Surfing must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to minor athletes.
   b. USA Surfing is not required to track individual course completions of minor athletes.

3. USA Surfing must, every 12 months, offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
   a. For training to parents, USA Surfing must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to parents.
   b. USA Surfing is not required to track individual course completions of parents.

B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation

1. USA Surfing must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies to limit one-on-one interactions between a USA Surfing Minor Athlete and an Adult Participant. These policies must contain the mandatory components of the Center's model policies in Part III. 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 and the recommended policies in Part IV. Given the unique nature of surfing, including ocean-based competition, beach venues, outdoor training environments, and surf-specific physical contact inherent in coaching, some recommended components or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. Such concerns have been addressed with the Center during the Policy Approval and Submission Process discussed below.

3. USA Surfing does not currently recognize any Local Affiliated Organization (LAO). However, should USA Surfing recognize an LAO in the future, it must also require that each LAO implement these policies.

4. USA Surfing must implement these policies for all In-Program Contact.
   a. At USA Surfing-sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under its jurisdiction, USA Surfing must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
   b. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside of USA Surfing-sanctioned events or facilities, implementing these policies means:
      i. Communicating the policies to individuals under USA Surfing's jurisdiction;
      ii. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies;
      iii. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.

5. The USA Surfing SurfSafe Policy provides a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating the USA Surfing MAAPP. USA Surfing will appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is reported to the Center (including reports USA Surfing may request the Center exercise jurisdiction over) 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. USA Surfing may adopt the mandatory minimum requirements of the MAAPP as-is or adapt it to fit the specific needs of USA Surfing. Regardless, USA Surfing must submit its policies to the Center at compliance@safesport.org for review and approval by June 1, 2026. 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 MAAPP become the default policy until the Center approves the policy.

2. USA Surfing must require its LAOs (if applicable) to incorporate the mandatory components of Part III. USA Surfing may require that its LAOs implement USA Surfing's policies, which may be more stringent than the Center's Part III model policies.

3. The mandatory components of the Center's Part III model policies will serve as the default policy for any Organization that fails to develop its own policy as required by this section.

Important:
Any changes made to the USA Surfing MAAPP after the policy is approved by the Center must be submitted to the Center for approval. The previously approved MAAPP will remain in effect until written approval is provided to USA Surfing from the Center.

Part II: Education & 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:
      i. Adult Participants who have regular contact with athlete(s) who is a minor;
      ii. Adult Participants who have authority over any athlete(s) who is a minor;
      iii. Adult Participants who are employees or board members of USA Surfing.
   b. Adult Participants who are medical providers required to take training under Section A can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the SafeSport® Trained Core Course.

The following USA Surfing Adult Participant categories and their training requirements are set forth below. Training is required before initial membership or upon beginning a new role which subject an Adult Participant to these requirements – whichever comes first:

USA Surfing Adult Participant Category	Regular Contact with Minor Athletes	Authority over Minor Athletes	SafeSport Training Required
Board of Directors + Officers	—	X	X
Employees	X	X	X
Standing Committee Members	—	X	X
Advisory Group Members	—	X	X
Athlete Advisory Council Members	X	X	X
Hearing Panel Members	—	X	X
Adult Individual Members (i.e. Athletes, Private Coaches)	X	X	X
Contractors including Coach, Judge, Official, Medical, Broadcast (as designated by USA Surfing)	X	X	X
Volunteers (as designated by USA Surfing)	X	X	X
Volunteers *(without Regular Contact or Authority over Minors)* **	—	—	—
Vendors ** **(as designated by USA Surfing)**	—	—	—

**Optional Training (D1)

2. Timing of Training

Adult Participants must complete this training as a part of their membership or participation onboarding through Sport80. Membership will not be afforded until this requirement has been met. For individuals beginning a new role subjecting them to this requirement, training must be completed before regular contact with an athlete who is a minor begins, or within the first 45 days–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. Every four years, Adult Participants will complete the SafeSport® Trained Core Course training. 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 for A(1).

B. Minor Athlete Training Must Be Offered

1. USA Surfing, every 12 months, must offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to minor athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers youth courses, located at safesporttrained.org, that meet this requirement.

C. Parent Training Must Be Offered

1. USA Surfing, every 12 months, must offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers a parent course, located at safesporttrained.org, that meets this requirement.

D. Optional Training

1. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity, who will **not** have regular contact with or authority over any athlete(s) 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(s).
2. USA Surfing may provide training in addition to the SafeSport® Trained Core Course, although USA Surfing 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 of minor athletes are 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 and misconduct. Survivors of abuse can request an exemption by contacting USA Surfing at athletesafety@usasurfing.org or can choose to contact the Center directly to request an exemption at exemptions@safesport.org. All exemptions granted by USA

Surfing or the Center in this category are considered indefinite and do not need to be re-requested every year.

2. Exemptions to the online training requirement for reasons other than survivor of abuse and misconduct are limited to cognitive or physical disability or language barrier. Requests for these exemptions must be made by the individual to USA Surfing at athletesafety@usasurfing.org. USA Surfing will determine whether to grant the exemption. If USA Surfing grants the exemption, it must track the exemption to ensure it is appropriately applied to the individual's membership status. USA Surfing must preserve documentation that the exemption was granted and for what duration.
3. USA Surfing will work with the Center on appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency. The Center has several options available, including screen reader-compatible versions and course availability in multiple languages. If none of the available options will fit the individual's needs, USA Surfing may determine whether to grant an exemption.

Part III: Required Policies for One-on-One Interactions

USA Surfing and the U.S. Center for SafeSport recognize 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.

> **Core Requirement:**
> All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except in emergency circumstances or with a documented exception.

Exceptions:

There are certain relationships and situations in which one-on-one interactions may be allowed or necessary. This section identifies policy exceptions for close-in-age relationships, Personal Care Assistants, dual relationships, and emergencies.

The following exceptions are applicable within all Required Prevention Policies unless otherwise noted.

A. Mandatory Components

1. A Close-in-Age Exception

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

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

a. The Adult Participant has **no** authority over the Minor Athlete; and
b. The Adult Participant is not more than 4 years older (determined by birth date) than the Minor Athlete.

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

2. Exceptions for Adult Personal Care Assistants Working with a Minor Athlete

This exception exists for Adult Participants who also assist an athlete with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation.

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if the following requirements are met:

a. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Surfing for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; **and,**
b. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; **and,**
c. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with all USA Surfing Participant requirements, including the background check policy.

3. Exceptions for Dual Relationships

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 USA Surfing to receive written consent of the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually. The consent must identify for which Required Prevention Policies the parent/guardian is allowing the one-on-one In-Program Contact.

4. Emergency Exception

This exception applies to all Required Prevention Policies for situations where an Adult Participant must violate requirement(s) of the MAAPP due to an emergency. Adult Participants must carefully consider whether specific circumstances meet the threshold of emergency. This may include, but is not limited to, in the surf context, ocean emergencies, injury in the water, or other immediate safety situations requiring immediate one-on-one assistance.

Adult Participants must document emergency situations by emailing an explanation (e.g. athlete name, location of incident, incident, rationale for 1:1 contact, resolution) to athletesafety@usasurfing.org within 48 hours of the emergency, or as soon as possible after the incident is resolved.

Center Recommendation:

The Center recommends parents take training on child abuse prevention before providing consent to the above exceptions. The Center offers a free Parent Course at safesporttrained.org.

Prevention Policy: 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 Adult Participants, including mental health care professionals and licensed health care providers. In the surfing context, "meetings" include, but are not limited to, in person or online, video analysis sessions, athlete check-ins, selection discussions, and coach-athlete planning sessions held at beach venues, or other training facilities.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

a. Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program meetings with Minor Athletes are observable and interruptible, unless an exception exists.

2. Meetings with Licensed Mental Health Care Professionals and Health Care Providers (other than athletic trainers).[4]

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 USA Surfing-sanctioned event or a facility which is partially or fully under USA Surfing's jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

a. If the door remains unlocked (or, at outdoor venues, the meeting takes place in a visible location); **and**
b. Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete's identity need not be disclosed; **and**
c. USA Surfing is notified that the professional or provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; **and,**
d. The professional or provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Parent Training

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

[4] Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the "Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities" policy.

Prevention Policy: 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. In the sport of Surfing, individual training sessions include, but are not limited to, one-on-one coaching in the ocean or on the beach, film review sessions, athlete performance review, and skill-specific coaching (e.g., paddling technique, wave selection, maneuver coaching, and competition strategy sessions).

> **Surf-Specific Context:**
> One-on-one coaching in the ocean or on the beach is a common and important part of athlete development. These sessions must be conducted in an observable and interruptible location (e.g. from the shore or from the water).

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

   Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program individual training sessions with a Minor Athlete be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.

2. Consent

   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.

3. Parent Observation

   Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session, including from the beach or shore for ocean-based sessions.

B. Recommended Components

1. Monitoring

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

2. Parent Training

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

Prevention Policy: Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities[5]

Many athletes require therapies to prevent or treat injuries. However, these treatment sessions can place children 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 youth and adults.

In the sport of surfing context, manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities include, but are not limited to: first aid including treatment of lacerations, coral abrasions, and marine life injuries; massage; taping; cupping; stretching; cryotherapy; neuromuscular stimulations; electrical stimulation; and any other modality within the scope of a Healthcare Provider's credentials. Beach-side and competition-venue first aid are covered under this policy.

Important Note: Only the emergency exception applies within the Mandatory Components section of this policy.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

   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.

2. Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities Requirements

   Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities meet the following requirements:

   a. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the modality or manual therapy; and
   b. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (3) below; and
   c. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
   d. Allow parents/guardians in the room or nearby 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.

3. Consent

   a. Providers of manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities, or USA Surfing when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.

[5] Manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities can be different for each sport. They can include, but are not limited to: first aid, massage, taping, cupping, stretching, cryotherapy, neuromuscular stimulations, electrical stimulation, or other modalities within the scope of a Healthcare Provider's credentials.

b. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Parent Training

   Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to receive a manual therapy, therapeutic modality, or recovery modality.

2. Reduction of Physical Touch

   When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.

3. Licensed Providers Only

   Only licensed providers should administer manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.

4. Coaches Restriction - Massage

   Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, shall not massage Minor Athletes.

Prevention Policy: Locker Rooms and Changing Areas

Young athletes may be especially vulnerable to abuse in changing areas where they are undressing and possibly showering or rinsing off. 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.

Surf-Specific Spaces:
The sport of surfing involves unique changing environments including outdoor changing tents, portable facilities at beach venues, indoor locker rooms at training facilities, and van or vehicle changing arrangements during travel. All such spaces are covered by this policy. "Changing area" includes any location a Minor Athlete uses to shower, rinse off, change wetsuits, rash guards, and/or competition attire.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

   Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is observable and interruptible, unless an exception exists.

2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces
   a. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing.

   b. 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.

   c. Adult Participants must not shower or rinse with Minor Athletes unless:
   (i) the Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
   (ii) the shower/rinse is part of a pre- or post-activity while wearing swimwear.

   d. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. USA Surfing and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.
3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms

   USA Surfing may permit recording or photography in locker rooms or changing areas for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:
   a. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
   b. USA Surfing approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
   c. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
   d. Everyone is fully clothed.

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 detailed on pages 11-12.

5. Availability and Monitoring of Changing Areas at Surf Events
    a. USA Surfing must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Surfing's jurisdiction.

    b. USA Surfing 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 USA Surfing's jurisdiction.

B. Recommended Components

1. Gender-Separated Changing Areas

    In the event locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces are used at USA Surfing events, USA Surfing recommends that event organizers provide gender-separated changing areas whenever feasible, and that all changing areas be clearly designated and communicated to participants and families at the event briefing.

2. Parent Notification

    In the event locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces are used at USA Surfing events, USA Surfing recommends notifying parents/guardians of the changing area arrangements at any event where Minor Athletes will be competing, including the location and monitoring plan for those areas.

Prevention Policy: Electronic Communications[6]

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 share inappropriate images and video. This section sets standards for appropriate electronic communications between youth and adults.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Open and Transparent
    a. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent, unless an exception exists.
    b. "Open and Transparent" means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant on every communication.
        i. If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.
    c. Only platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.
2. Team Communication

    When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians, another adult family member of the Minor Athletes, or another Adult Participant.

3. Content

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

4. Requests to Discontinue

    Parents/guardians may request in writing that USA Surfing or an Adult Participant not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. USA Surfing and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

B. Recommended Components

1. Hours

    Electronic communications should generally be sent only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time for the location of the Minor Athlete.

2. Social Media Connections

    Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age Exception, are not permitted to have private social media connections with Minor Athletes and should discontinue existing private social media connections with Minor Athletes.

[6] Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: email, phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, social media, or through any other electronic medium.

3. Social Media and Public Profiles

   Given the high public profile of competitive surfing, Adult Participants should be aware that Minor Athletes may have public social media followings. Adult Participants should not engage with Minor Athletes through public comment sections or direct messages in any manner inconsistent with the Electronic Communications Policy.

Prevention Policy: Transportation

Athletes are often carpooling or traveling without the supervision of their parent/guardian to practices and competitions. This can place them in vulnerable positions where they are susceptible to abuse. This section establishes policies for adults transporting children to or from surfing activities, including, but not limited to, travel to beach venues, competition sites, and training locations.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

   Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during Transportation is Observable and Interruptible unless an exception exists, or:

   a. The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one, obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/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.

2. Additional Requirements for Transportation Authorized or Funded by USA Surfing
   a. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation authorized or funded by USA Surfing at least annually.
   b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

   USA Surfing encourages parents/guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

2. Parent Training

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

3. Water Transportation

   When transportation to competition or training sites involves watercraft (e.g., boat or ski shuttles to breaks or marine competition venues), USA Surfing will ensure all applicable water safety protocols. All Mandatory Components in A remain required for the duration of the water transport.

Prevention Policy: Lodging and Residential Environments

Youth athletes traveling overnight face greater risk of sexual abuse if they are traveling without their parent/guardian. Abusers can take advantage of the situation by trying to have unsupervised time alone with children. This section sets rules for sleeping arrangements and room monitoring to protect athletes during overnight travel.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

   All In-Program Contact during lodging must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.

   a. Lodging arrangements covered under this policy include, but are not limited to: hotel stays, rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.), long-term residential environments, lodging at training sites and billeting.

2. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

   a. An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), unless an exception exists and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Surfing or the Adult Participant with advance, written consent for each specific lodging arrangement.
   b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually.
   c. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

3. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

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

4. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by USA Surfing

   Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Education and Training policy outlined in Part II, unless the Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age exception.

B. Recommended Components

Parent Training:

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

Surf Camp Context:
USA Surfing-sponsored training camps where Minor Athletes reside at or near the competition venue (including surf ranch camps, regional development camps, and national team training camps) must be compliant with this Lodging Policy.

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 educational purpose are permitted.

C. Photography and 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..

Terminology

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

a. A member or license holder of USA Surfing;
b. An employee or board member of USA Surfing;
c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Surfing;
d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Surfing to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.

Note: Adult Participants in USA Surfing are explicitly defined on Page 5 ('Who is an Adult Participant?').

Athlete: An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by USA Surfing.

Authority: When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. Also see the Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code. *Note: Refer to Table in Section II (A).*

Billeting: A residential environment facilitated by an Adult Participant, USA Surfing, or USA Surfing-sanctioned event staff in which a Minor Athlete is temporarily housed in a private home with an adult or family who is not related to or known by the Minor Athlete. This lodging arrangement is in conjunction with an activity related to USA Surfing.

Close-in-Age Exception: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does not have authority over a Minor Athlete **and** is not more than 4 years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., a 19-year-old and a 16-year-old). ***Note: This exception only applies within the prevention policies and not regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.***

Dual Relationships: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete outside of the sport program and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent at least annually authorizing the exception.

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

Examples of activities related to participation that could be identified as In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, coaching sessions, camps/clinics, pre/post-competition meals or outings, team travel, analysis of practice and/or competition video, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, competition site visits, beach training sessions, ocean-based training, and wave pool or dry-land conditioning sessions.

Local Affiliated Organization (LAO): A regional, state, or local surf club or organization that is directly affiliated with USA Surfing or that is affiliated with USA Surfing by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of USA Surfing. LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of an NGB. *Note: USA Surfing does not currently recognize any organization as an LAO.*

Minor Athlete: 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, USA Surfing.[7]

National Governing Body (NGB): A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body or Pan American Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq.

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant: An Adult Participant who assists a parasport athlete who requires help with activities of daily living (ADL) and preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer include assistance with dressing, showering, rinsing, 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 Participant PCAs must be authorized by the athlete's parent/guardian.

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event), by USA Surfing, or any facility that USA Surfing owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

Regular Contact: Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any athlete(s) who is a minor. *Note: Refer to Table in Section II(A).*

Residential Environment: 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 (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.).

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

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[7] 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, USOPC, or LAO. Examples include, but are not limited to: officials, coaches, or volunteers.