**OC Elite Safety, Abuse and Bullying Policies and Reporting / Prevention Procedures**

We will do our best and will be committed not to tolerate the abuse, bullying of any minor or adult participant. We will do our best to prevent such incidents and report accordingly.

**Safe sport Initiative**

We are passionate about raising awareness of the SafeSport initiative and providing our athletes unparalleled development and competitive opportunity in a safe environment.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport is a 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on preventing physical, emotional and abuse in sport. The Center, initially chartered by the U.S. Olympic Committee, is an independent organization with a nine-member board of directors, including subject-matter experts in abuse prevention, child abuse and sexual assault investigation, ethics compliance and sport administration.

In 2018, the “Protecting Young Victims from Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017” became Federal law. The mission of the U.S. Center for Safe sport is to make the athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation’s sports culture. All athletes deserve to participate in sports free from bullying, hazing, sexual misconduct, or any form of emotional or physical abuse. Education and awareness are the most critical components to creating safe and respectful sporting environments, free of abuse and harassment.

We will strive to create a safe and healthy environment for all participants and their families. There are certain requirements from the SafeSport Act that Our volunteers will do our best to adhere to.

•Reporting of Abuse involving a minor or adult to the proper authorities. All volunteers are now reporters and must report to the proper authorities, any witnessed act of child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours. Local programs must be aware of the proper procedures to report sexual abuse in their state. Please reference the Safe Sport act website for this information.

•Local programs must adopt a policy that prohibits retaliation on “good faith” reports of child abuse

•Local programs must adopt a policy that limits one-one-one contact with minors when all possible

•Local programs are highly encouraged to complete the Abuse Awareness training provided by USA Baseball and SafeSport – Abuse Awareness for Minors & Abuse Awareness for Adults

[www.usabaseball.education.com](http://www.usabaseball.education.com)

**Safe Sport Resources**

1. Mandatory Reporting Protocols will be discussed with all coaches and volunteers and this responsibility is the assigned manager of the team, as each team is individual managed within OC Elite and is that managers responsibility to enforce and follow the rules.
2. Education & Training Classes will be available to all coaches and volunteers and this responsibility is the assigned manager of the team, as each team is individual managed within OC Elite. and is that managers responsibility to enforce and follow the rules.
3. Background Checks will be performed with all coaches and this responsibility is the assigned manager of the team, as each team is individual managed within OC Elite. and is that managers responsibility to enforce and follow the rules.

If you need to obtain Background Checks, you may use the link below as it meets the requirements of the Safe Sport Act. <http://www.jdp.com/chappell>

We appreciate your continued support of OC Elite travel sports as we continue our mission to enrich the lives of Athletes at all levels and provide a fun, inclusive and safe experience for all.

**Stop Bullying on the Spot**

When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior, they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time.

Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy. See Link Below for additional training and awareness on bullying. <https://www.stopbullying.gov/>

**Mandatory reporting** – Individuals that see any suspicious type of child abuse (sexual or physical) must report it to appropriate law enforcement within 24 hours.

**Prevention training** – Non-National Governing Bodies (Non-NGBs) must offer and provide training to adults who are in contact with youth participants.  Training needs to include methods on how to recognize “grooming”.  “Grooming” is where a predator develops over time a relationship with a victim and over time gaining their trust.

**Warnings signs of Abuse**

* One on one contact
* Low self-esteem
* Dropping out of group activities
* Coaches providing special attention to individual participants.
* Youth being afraid of adult coaches/staff

**Prevention methods**

* Limit one on one contact with adult/youth
* Make sure that there always two adults to one youth
* Picking up/Taking home is discouraged due to the ability of limiting one on contact.
* Have backgrounds checks performed on all volunteers and paid staff.
* No sleepovers
* An individual should be removed from coaching if a background check executed on them shows that they have been involved in child abuse.
* An individual should be removed from coaching if they are accused of an incident until the incident can be settled.