



PACIFIC DISTRICT SAFESPORT FAQ

Q: ARE THERE CHANGES TO USA HOCKEY'S SAFESPORT'S EDUCATION PLATFORM FOR 2018-19?

A: There are no changes to the current Safesport education provided through USA Hockey..... But there will be. There is currently no ETA on when new or revised training will be required.

Q: ARE THERE CHANGES TO SAFESPORT COMPLIANCE IN 2018-19?

A. **YES!** There is new federal legislation that every member organization needs to be aware of and in compliance with. The **Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017** (<https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/ZeXEaZoEt-k/fact-sheet-protecting-young-victims>) is now in effect and all members of the organization must comply. The key components of the legislation impact:

- Liability to report
- Who must report
- Accountability of the member organization (each program)

Q: WHAT EXACTLY IS NEW FOR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS RIGHT NOW?

1. Duty to Report – Member Programs:

- All member programs must report all SafeSport activity within their organization to the state affiliate SafeSport Coordinator. What does this mean? All NGB's now have increased reporting responsibilities. If you plan to handle a SafeSport issue internally, the first step is to report it to your program's SafeSport coordinator, who will report it to the state affiliate SafeSport Coordinator. There are no exceptions to this reporting requirement.
- Mandatory duty to report all known or suspected instances of physical or sexual abuse. Any individual who holds a designated position or role that interacts with minors in a youth sports organization (referred to as a "covered individual" and "mandatory reporter") IS REQUIRED to report any known or suspected case of child abuse within 24 hours to both CPS or local law enforcement, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
- Who is a mandatory reporter? Every volunteer, board member, coach, manager, locker room monitor, SafeSport Liaison, etc. If you have a role in which you interact with minors in a youth sports organization, then you are now a mandatory reporter under the SafeSport Act of 2017. (Refer to the Educational Materials on Mandatory Reporting and How to Report on the Pacific District SafeSport Webpage).

New/increased conditions of participation under the SafeSport Act of 2017:

- All Members. A reminder that SafeSport is applicable to every member of USA Hockey - not just travel programs. If you are a rink and are running USA Hockey programs, or an independent house program registering players with USA Hockey, all the SafeSport policies apply to your program. There is no "waiver" of compliance with SafeSport for any USA Hockey program. This is not new – but with the law, there is a renewed focus on compliance.



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- **Duty to Report/Mandatory Reporter.** Any individual who holds a designated position or role that interacts with minors in a youth sports organization (referred to as a “covered individual” and “mandatory reporter”) IS REQUIRED to report any known or suspected case of child abuse within 24 hours to both CPS or local law enforcement, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Who is a mandatory reporter? Every volunteer, board member, coach, manager, locker room monitor, SafeSport Liaison, etc. If you have a role in which you interact with minors in a youth sports organization, then you are now a mandatory reporter under the SafeSport Act of 2017. (Refer to the Educational Materials on Mandatory Reporting and How to Report on the CAHA SafeSport Webpage).
- **Criminal Penalties.** An individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child sexual abuse is subject to criminal penalties for non-reporting. This means that there are federal criminal penalties for non-reporting of information. There are also civil penalties for non-reporting in the State of California under the existing Mandatory Reporter legislation.
- **Organizational Changes.** The USOC now has ultimate oversight of SafeSport across all NGB organizations, in conjunction with the US Center for SafeSport. Random and regular audits of all NGB SafeSport activities, education and training will be instituted. This is one reason that ALL SafeSport activity must be reported to the state affiliate.
- **The U.S. Center for SafeSport.** The role of the U.S. Center for SafeSport will now expand to include both a (1) report and investigation office and a (2) education and outreach office. The education and outreach office will develop and have oversight of all SafeSport training criteria, requirements and materials, including screening. The U.S.C.S.S is the entity that will develop the new programming that supports any changes in policy and procedure for SafeSport.

For more information on the U.S. Center for SafeSport:

<https://www.usahockey.com/reportingtouscenterforsafesport>

For more information on USA Hockey SafeSport: <https://www.usahockey.com/safesportprogram>