

# **Acreage Athletic League Sexual Abuse Prevention & Response Policy**

## **1. Purpose**

The **Acreage Athletic League** is committed to providing a safe environment for all athletes, free from abuse, misconduct, and harassment. This policy aims to prevent sexual abuse, educate participants, and establish procedures for reporting and responding to allegations.

## **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all coaches, volunteers, staff, officials, parents, and athletes involved in the league's activities.

## **3. Definitions**

- **Sexual Abuse:** Any unwanted sexual contact or behavior, including but not limited to, sexual advances, inappropriate touching, exploitation, and coercion.
- **Grooming:** A process used by perpetrators to gain a child's trust and lower their defenses before abuse occurs.
- **Mandatory Reporters:** Individuals who are legally required to report suspected abuse (e.g., coaches, staff, volunteers).

## **4. Prevention Measures**

- **Background Checks:** All coaches, volunteers, and staff must undergo a thorough background check before engaging with the league.
- **Training:** All adults in the program must complete annual training on recognizing, preventing, and reporting abuse.
- **Two-Adult Rule:** No adult should be alone with a minor. Practices, games, and meetings must have at least two approved adults present.
- **Locker Room & Travel Guidelines:**
  - No adult should enter a locker room alone with a minor.
  - Parents and additional staff should be present during team travel.
- **Social Media & Communication:** Direct one-on-one electronic communication between adults and minors is prohibited. All communication must include parents or guardians.

## 5. Reporting Procedures

- **Obligation to Report:** Any suspected abuse must be reported immediately. Reports can be made to the league's Sport President, directly to an Executive Board member and appropriate authorities.
- **Protection from Retaliation:** Anyone reporting in good faith is protected from retaliation.

## 6. Response & Investigation

- **Immediate Action:** Upon receiving a report, the accused individual will be suspended pending an investigation.
- **Law Enforcement Involvement:** If applicable, reports will be forwarded to local authorities.
- **Internal Review:** An internal investigation will be conducted following league protocols, ensuring confidentiality and fairness.
- **Disciplinary Measures:** If allegations are substantiated, disciplinary actions may include permanent suspension, legal action, or other appropriate consequences.

## 7. Parental Involvement & Education

- Parents will receive educational materials on recognizing and preventing abuse.
- Open discussions on safety will be encouraged at parent meetings.

## 8. Policy Review & Updates

- This policy will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure compliance with legal and best practice standards.

Print Name:

Date:

Signature:

Date