

SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017

Senate Bill 534: SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017

In 2018, the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017” became Federal law. The mission of the U.S. Center for SafeSport 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.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport is a 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on preventing physical, emotional and sexual 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.

Senate Bill 534: Background Check

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1. All participating adults that have contact with minor athletes, at minimum; are required to undergo a background check with the National Criminal Database and the National Sex Offender Registry due, established when Senate Bill 534 (SafeSport Act), was ratified.
2. There are multiple background check companies to contact in their industry.
3. No additional background check is required in most cases, if a person has been checked for employment or other volunteer purposes.
4. The entire background check process should take 2-5 business days but for some areas of the Country that do not have all of the criminal records on a computer file could take up to 2 weeks but that is a very small percentage of the Country.
5. The results of most criminal background checks are good for 1 year from the date of purchase.

Senate Bill 534: Incident Reporting

1. All volunteers of a team/local league/community organization are now mandated reporters and could face criminal charges if the team/league chooses to ignore, or not report to the proper authorities, any witnessed act of child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours.
2. Local programs if not aware, need to become educated on the proper procedures to report sexual abuse in their state.
3. Local programs of any kind, must adopt a policy that prohibits retaliation on “good faith” reports of child abuse.
4. Local programs are highly encouraged to complete the Abuse Awareness training once the training is established and communicated to the entire association.

Senate Bill 534: Witness Responsibility:

1. The failure to report is a crime under federal law and it is punishable as a criminal offense.
2. What if someone intentionally makes a false accusation? Someone who maliciously abuses the reporting process or falsifies information is subject to a civil suit.