

VADA Safe Sport

Protecting Our Riders, Building a Safer Community



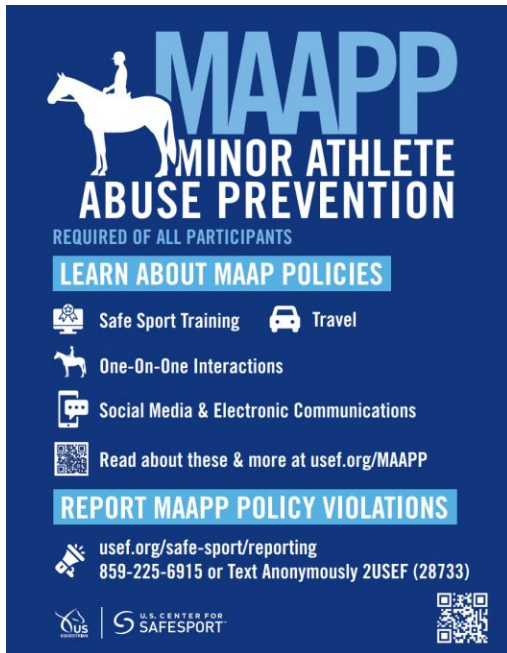
Why These Changes?

Safety is the heart of good horsemanship. With updated national standards from the U.S. Center for SafeSport and USEF, VADA is adopting new policies to ensure all riders, especially minors, feel safe and protected at every event.



New Protocols for VADA Chapters

- **MAAPP Protocols:** now official rules for all VADA chapters.
- **Visible Signage:** summarizing Safe Sport and MAAPP will be posted at all VADA and chapter events. (Poster examples are shown below)
- **Volunteer Certification:** Volunteers and leaders are encouraged to complete SafeSport training. VADA will reimburse costs for non-USEF members!
- **Culture of Vigilance:** Practice 'See Something, Say Something' at barns and events.
- **Online Presence:** Chapter websites must display SafeSport posters and provide easy links to full policies.
- **Supervision:** No adult should ever be alone with a minor — multiple adults should be present at all times.
- **Parent/Guardian absence forms:** If a parent or guardian is not present for their minor, a form stating who will be that minor's guardian in absence must be provided before an event.



MAAPP
MINOR ATHLETE
ABUSE PREVENTION

REQUIRED OF ALL PARTICIPANTS

LEARN ABOUT MAAP POLICIES

- Safe Sport Training
- Travel
- One-On-One Interactions
- Social Media & Electronic Communications

Read about these & more at usef.org/MAAPP

REPORT MAAPP POLICY VIOLATIONS

usef.org/safe-sport/reporting
859-225-6915 or Text Anonymously 2USEF (28733)

U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

US Equestrian wants you to know: if you are a victim or survivor of sexual abuse or suspect abuse of any kind, there are resources and people to help.

REPORT
833-5US-SAFE or uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern

24/7 HELPLINE
866-200-0796 or visit safesporthepline.org

TRAINING & RESOURCES
Free to US Equestrian members at usef.org/safesport.

#youarenotalone

SAFE SPORT



SafeSport Policy Goals

- Prevent Abuse: Stop sexual, emotional, and physical abuse.
- Consistent Policies: Uniform rules across all sports.
- Swift Action: Investigate and resolve misconduct.

Core Elements

- Code of Conduct: Clear standards for behavior.
- Mandatory Reporting: All adults must report abuse within 24 hours.
- Training: Annual SafeSport training for athletes, coaches, and volunteers.
- Response & Resolution: Centralized investigation and sanctioning system.
- Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP): Protect minors in training, travel, communications, and facilities.



MAAPP Policy Highlights

- One-on-One Interactions: Must be observable and interruptible.
- Electronic Communications: Copy a parent/guardian or other show staff on all communications with minors.
- Travel Rules: Minors must travel and lodge with a parent or guardian, or parent/guardian must provide a show with waiver naming trusted adult who will accompany the minor.
- Locker Room & Changing Areas: Supervised, limited access with privacy considerations.
- Meetings/Training Sessions: Keep sessions open and transparent.

Best Practices for Implementation

- Anyone working with minors should complete SafeSport Core Training.
- Keep all interactions visible.
- Always include a parent/adult in electronic communications.
- Distribute and post policies regularly.



Useful Links

USEF Safe Sport Main Page: <https://www.usef.org/safe-sport>

USEF MAAPP Policy: <https://www.usef.org/maapp>