



MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

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INTRODUCTION

USA Boccia, in partnership with the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) is committed to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct.

Authority: prevention training and policies

Federal law authorizes the Center to address the risk of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. See [Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017](#). This policy is based on the recommendations and requirements of the Center.

General requirement

The USA Boccia Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention (MAAP) Policy must be reviewed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members.

TERMINOLOGY

Jurisdiction: Authority or control.

Minor, child or minor athlete: An amateur athlete under 18 years of age.

EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

The following adults at USA Boccia shall complete training concerning child abuse prevention:

- All USA Boccia non-athlete and adult athlete members;
- Participating non-members (e.g., referees, volunteers, etc.);
- Board members and USA Boccia employees; and
- Any other adult authorized to have contact with or authority over minor athletes.

Collectively “Applicable Adult(s)”

1. Core Center for SafeSport Training

The above listed adults are required to complete training concerning child abuse prevention:

- Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins; or
- Within the first 45 days of initial membership, or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy.

Training other than the Core Center for SafeSport Training does not satisfy this policy.

Applicable Adults may complete training *in addition* to the Core Center for SafeSport Training. However, if an Applicable Adult completes additional training that training alone will not meet the requirements of the USA Boccia MAAP Policy.

2. Refresher Course(s)

A refresher course is required on an annual basis, to be completed no later than December 31st, effective the calendar year following the completion of the Core Center for SafeSport Training for all Applicable Adults through USA Boccia.

A. Minor Athletes

USA Boccia shall, subject to parental consent, annually offer and give training to members who are minors regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse.

Minor Athletes who reach the age of majority (i.e. 18 years of age) must adhere to the provisions found in the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies when interacting with minor athletes who are 14 years of age or younger.

Minor Athletes who reach the age of majority and then obtain a position of authority that presents a power imbalance, such as becoming a coach or official, must also comply with these prevention policies regardless of the age of the minor athletes with whom they will interact.

USA Boccia shall track:

- A description of the training(s);
- The date the training(s) was/were offered and given; and
- A description of how the training(s) was/were offered and given.

B. Exemptions

Exemptions from this Education & Training Policy may be made on a case-by-case basis for victims/survivors. Requests may be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, nbservices@safesport.org, or to USA Boccia at usaboccia@gmail.com

The Center will work with USA Boccia regarding appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities to satisfy the training requirements herein.

REQUIRED PREVENTION POLICIES

A. Required policies

USA Boccia is required to implement the following athlete prevention policies:

1. One-on-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions
2. Massages and rubdowns/athletic training modalities
3. Locker rooms and changing areas
4. Social media and electronic communications
5. Local travel
6. Team travel

To satisfy these requirements, USA Boccia provides these policies.

REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

The majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations. By reducing such interactions between children and adults, programs reduce the risk of child sexual abuse. However, one-on-one time with trusted adults is also healthy and valuable for a child. Policies concerning one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships.

ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

a. Application

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Boccia;
- 2) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 3) Any adult authorized by USA Boccia to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 4) Adult staff and board members of USA Boccia.

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy.)

b. Observable and interruptible

One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under USA Boccia jurisdiction are permitted if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult and in circumstances described in subpart d of this section and under emergency circumstances.

c. Meetings

- Meetings between Applicable Adults and minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under USA Boccia jurisdiction may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult.
- If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office at a facility partially or fully under USA Boccia jurisdiction, the door to the office must remain unlocked and open. If available, it will occur in an office that has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.

d. Meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers

If a mental health care professional and/or health care provider meets with minor

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athletes at a facility partially or fully under USA Boccia jurisdiction, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy provided that: (1) the door remains unlocked; (2) another adult is present at the facility; (3) the other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring; and (4) written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance by the mental health care professional and/or health care provider, with a copy provided to USA Boccia.

e. Individual training sessions

Individual training sessions between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted at a facility partially or fully under USA Boccia jurisdiction if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. It is the responsibility of the Applicable Adult to obtain the written permission of the minor's legal guardian in advance of the individual training session if the individual training session is not observable and interruptible by another adult. Permission for individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.

f. Monitoring

When one-on-one interactions between Applicable Adults and minor athletes occur at a facility partially or fully under USA Boccia's jurisdiction, Applicable Adults will monitor these interactions. Monitoring includes knowing that the one-on-one interaction is occurring, the approximate planned duration of the interaction, and randomly dropping in on the one-on-one.

g. Out-of-program contacts

Applicable Adults are prohibited from interacting one-on-one with unrelated minor athletes in settings outside of the program that are not observable and interruptible (including, but not limited to, one's home and individual transportation), unless parent/legal guardian consent is provided for each out-of-program contact. Nonetheless, such arrangements are strongly discouraged.

MASSAGES AND RUBDOWNS/ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES

a. Application

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Boccia;
- 2) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 3) Any adult authorized by USA Boccia to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 4) Adult staff and board members USA Boccia.

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy.)

b. Massage or rubdown/athletic training modality

Any massage or rubdown/athletic training modality, which includes stretching, physical manipulation, injury rehabilitation, stim treatment, dry needling, cupping, etc., performed at a facility or a training or competition venue must be conducted in an open and interruptible location. Any massage of a minor athlete must be done with at least one other adult present and must never be done with only the minor athlete and the person performing the massage or rubdown/athletic training modality in the room.

c. Written consent

Written consent by a legal guardian shall be provided before providing each massage or rubdown/athletic training modality on a minor athlete. Parents must be permitted to be in the room as an observer.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

a. Application

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Boccia;
- 2) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 3) Any adult authorized by USA Boccia to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 4) Adult staff and board members of USA Boccia.

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for purposes of this policy.)

b. Non-exclusive facility

If USA Boccia uses a facility not fully under our jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, Applicable Adults in categories 1 through 4 are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth herein.

c. Use of recording devices

Use of any device’s (including a cell phone’s) recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras in locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a facility under USA Boccia’s jurisdiction is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by USA Boccia and two or more Applicable Adults are present.

d. Undress

Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Applicable Adult at a facility under USA Boccia’s jurisdiction intentionally expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.

e. One-on-one interactions

- Except for athletes on the same team, at no time are unrelated Applicable Adults permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area when at a facility under USA Boccia’s partial or full jurisdiction, except under emergency circumstances.
- If USA Boccia is using a facility that only has a single locker room or changing area, we will designate separate times for use by Applicable Adults, if any.

f. Monitoring

- USA Boccia regularly and randomly monitors the use of locker rooms and changing areas at facilities under USA Boccia's jurisdiction to ensure compliance with these policies.
- To minimize the risk of bullying and hazing, USA Boccia recommends that locker room monitors be used at practices and events to ensure minor athletes are not left unsupervised in locker rooms and changing areas.
- Applicable Adults make every effort to recognize when a minor athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, will check on the minor athlete's whereabouts.

SOCIAL MEDIA & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

a. Application

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 2) Any adult authorized by USA Boccia to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 3) Adult staff and board members at USA Boccia.

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy.)

b. Content

All electronic communication originating from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

c. Open and transparent

- Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), another Applicable Adult or the minor’s legal guardian will be copied.
- If a minor athlete communicates to the Applicable Adult (with authority over the minor athlete) privately first, said Applicable Adult should respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another Applicable Adult or the minor’s legal guardian.
- When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to the entire team, said Applicable Adult will copy another adult.
- Minor athletes may “friend” or “follow” the organization’s official page.

d. Requests to discontinue

Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by USA Boccia or by the Applicable Adults subject to this policy. USA Boccia will abide by any such request that their minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

e. Hours

Electronic communications will generally only be sent between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., unless emergency circumstances exist, or while traveling internationally or during competition travel.

f. Monitoring

USA Boccia monitors its social media pages and removes any posts that violate the organization's policies and practices for appropriate behavior.

g. Prohibited electronic communications

Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes and such Applicable Adults are not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from amateur athletes who are minors, unless the Applicable Adult has a fan page, or the contact is deemed as celebrity contact vs. regular contact. Existing social media connections on personal pages with minor athletes shall be discontinued.

LOCAL TRAVEL

a. Application

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 2) Any adult authorized by USA Boccia to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 3) Adult staff and board members at USA Boccia.

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy.)

b. Transportation

- Applicable Adults who are not also acting as a legal guardian, shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and must have at least two minor athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor athlete’s parent/legal guardian in advance of each local travel.
- Parents/legal guardians-are encouraged to educate themselves on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their minor athlete to travel alone with an Applicable Adult who is subject to these policies

c. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

We encourage parents/legal guardians to pick up their minor athlete first and drop off their minor athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

TEAM TRAVEL

a. Application

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 2) Any adult authorized by USA Boccia to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 3) Adult staff and board members at USA Boccia.

(Collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy.)

b. Team/competition travel

When only one Applicable Adult and one minor athlete travel to a competition, the minor athlete must have his/her legal guardian’s written permission in advance and for each competition to travel alone with said Applicable Adult.

c. Hotel rooms

Applicable Adults shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor athlete (unless the Applicable Adult is the legal guardian, sibling, or is otherwise related to the minor athlete). However, a parent/legal guardian may consent to such an arrangement in advance and in writing. Furthermore, a parent/legal guardian may consent in advance and in writing to the minor athlete sharing a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an adult athlete.

d. Meetings

Meetings shall be conducted consistent with USA Boccia’s policy for one-on-one interactions (i.e., any such meeting shall be observable and interruptible).