



USA Table Tennis Safe Sport Policy

2023 US Open Table Tennis Championships

In preparation for the 2023 US Open Table Tennis Championships in Ontario, California (December 16 – 21, 2021). USATT takes this opportunity to remind all participants and patrons, staff, officials, and volunteers of USATT's Safe Sport Policy.

It is important to note that all persons holding certain positions of authority listed below must be fully Safe Sport Compliant to undertake these roles. Also, all Adult Participants who have regular contact with or authority over minor aged athletes, who are not their own children, (as defined below) must have completed SafeSport Training provided by the US Center for SafeSport within the last year.

ADULTS COACHING MINOR-AGED ATHLETES AT THE 2023 US OPEN

Each and every adult coaching a minor-aged athlete (i.e., an athlete under the age of 18) at the 2023 US Open Table Tennis Championships in Ontario, California, must be wearing a valid USATT Coaching Credential while coaching a match involving the minor-aged athlete.

There are three ways to obtain a valid USATT Coaching Credential:

1. USATT Certified Coaches, who are listed on the USATT Coaching Registry, receive a Coaching Credential free of charge. This Credential also allows for free entry into the Playing Venue.
2. Adults who are fully Safe Sport Compliant (SafeSport Trained and completed criminal background screen) can purchase a "Minor Athlete Coaching Credential" for a one-time fee of \$25.00 at the 2023 US Open Registration Desk. **Contact Tina Ren (Tina.Ren@USATT.org) for more information on becoming fully Safe Sport Compliant.** This Credential is good for the entire tournament. Please note that, unless the Adult is also playing in the 2023 US Open, the Adult must also purchase the daily (or weekly) pass to gain admittance into the Playing Venue.
3. Parents can obtain a "Parental Coaching Credential" (which permits a parent to coach his or her own child) free of charge. Please note that, unless the Parent is also playing in the 2023 US Open, the Parent must purchase the daily (or weekly) pass to gain admittance into the Playing Venue.

INFORMATION ON USATT SAFE SPORT POLICY

USATT maintains a page on the organization's website dedicated to the organization's Safe Sport Policy and the related education, training, and reporting for this Policy at: <https://www.usatt.org/athlete-resources/safesport>.

This page includes downloadable versions of:

1. USATT's SafeSport Policy;
2. The SafeSport Code for the Olympic and Paralympic Movements;
3. SafeSport Toolkit for Parents;
4. A List of Who Must be SafeSport Compliant and a Description of the Process of How Those Persons Become SafeSport Compliant; and
5. Frequently Asked Questions Regarding SafeSport Compliance.

This page also includes the contact information for USATT's Athlete Protection Officer, Mark Thompson (mark.thompson@usatt.org), and a link to the Reporting Hotline for the US Center for SafeSport, as well as a downloadable version of USATT's SafeSport Abuse Reporting Form. USATT encourages persons to report any and all suspected violations of the organization's Safe Sport Policy. Persons reporting such potential violations can request anonymity, which USATT will strive to the best of the organization's ability to protect.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF POTENTIAL SAFE SPORT VIOLATIONS

Please also note that there are certain circumstances where reporting of a potential Safe Sport Violation is mandatory. Instances of mandatory reporting under USATT's Safe Sport Policy include:

1. Child Abuse

An adult participant who learns of information and reasonably suspects that a child has suffered an incident of child abuse, including sexual abuse shall immediately make a report of the suspected abuse to: (i) Law Enforcement; (ii) the US Center for SafeSport; and the (iii) the USATT Athlete Protection Officer.

a. Law Enforcement

- i. The agency designated by the Attorney General, consistent with federal requirements set forth in Section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. Section 20341).
- ii. Applicable State Law Enforcement agency; learn more about this requirement by visiting <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/reporting>.

b. US Center for SafeSport

- i. Through the USCSS online reporting form: www.safesport.org.
- ii. By Phone at 833-587-7233 during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am MT – 4:00 pm MT.)

Reporting such conduct to the Center does not satisfy an Adult Participant's obligation to report to law enforcement or other appropriate authorities consistent with Section 226 of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. Section 20341).

2. Sexual Misconduct

USATT and the US Center for SafeSport encourages anyone who experiences or becomes aware of an incident of Sexual Misconduct to immediately report the incident to: (i) the Center; (ii) law enforcement if the matter involves possible criminal conduct; and (iii) the USATT Athlete Protection Officer.

If an Adult Participant reasonably suspects that an incident(s) of Sexual Misconduct has occurred, they must immediately report the incident(s) to the US Center for SafeSport and the USATT Athlete Protection Officer.

3. Emotional and Physical Misconduct

Adult Participants are required to report to the USATT Athlete Protection Officer any and all emotional and physical misconduct (including bullying, stalking, hazing and harassment) prohibited under the Code and/or the USATT SafeSport Policy.

4. Criminal Disposition

Adult Participants are required to report to the Center and the USATT Athlete Protection Officer Criminal Charge(s) and Disposition(s) involving sexual misconduct or misconduct involving Minors.

5. Misconduct Related to Process

Adult Participants are required to report to the US Center for SafeSport and the USATT Athlete Protection Officer any suspected incident(s) of:

- a. Aiding and Abetting;
- b. Abuse of Process; and/or
- c. Retaliation

USATT SAFE SPORT COMPLIANCE

USA Table Tennis is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment in which our members and athletes can train and compete. As a part of this effort, USATT Safe Sport Policy requires that persons holding positions of authority within our organization become **fully Safe Sport Compliant**, specifically:

1. All persons authorized, approved or appointed by USATT: (i) to a position of authority over athletes, or (ii) to have frequent contact with athletes;
2. All USATT office staff, members of the Board of Directors, and Committee Members;
3. All USATT Certified Coaches;
4. All persons acting in what could reasonably be considered a coaching capacity at a USATT Affiliated Member Club and/or a USATT Sanctioned Tournament;
5. All athletes USATT designates for the USADA required testing pool (RTP);
6. All athletes and alternates, training partners, guides, medical personnel, or other team leaders who are selected to participate in national or international competitions or Delegation Events;
7. All USATT National Team coaches, leaders and/or chaperones;
8. All tournament officials, including umpires and referees, at USATT Sanctioned Events;
9. All Tournament Directors for USATT Sanctioned Events;
10. All medical staff and/or persons serving as medical trainers at USATT Affiliated Clubs or USATT Sanctioned Events;
11. All persons in a position of actual, perceived or implied authority in a USATT Affiliated Member Club, including (but not limited to) owners, directors, and employees; and
12. All persons credentialed as a member of the working media for USATT Sanctioned Events.

Full Safe Sport Compliance is a two-part process: (i) successful completion of SafeSport Training presented by the US Center for SafeSport at SafeSportTrained.Org; and (ii) satisfactory completion of a criminal background check.

SafeSport Training must be successfully completed every year. The first time a person takes SafeSport Training, that person must complete the full initial Training Course. After that first year, that person may be eligible to take a “Refresher Course,” which presumes a certain level of knowledge and experience with SafeSport and, thus, requires less time to complete. Please see below on how to log into SafeSportTrained.Org.

The Criminal Background Check must be completed every two (2) years. There are certain rules and procedures related to criminal convictions that may disqualify an individual from holding certain roles at USATT, including membership. Please see the USATT SafeSport Policy for a description of possible disqualifying criminal convictions and the processes related to what is referred to as a “Red Light Review”.

All persons with questions on completing SafeSport Training and/or undertaking the criminal background check should contact Tina Ren (Tina.Ren@usatt.org) at USATT Headquarters.

MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

Under the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (“MAAPP”) as adopted by USATT, all adult members of USATT and/or a USATT Member Club (“Adult Participants”), who have **regular contact or authority over** with minor-aged amateur athletes, who are not their own children or for whom they are not the legal guardian, must successfully complete SafeSport Training every year at SafeSportTrained.Org.

Please note that, if such an Adult Participant is not undertaking one of the 12 roles set out above for full Safe Sport Compliance, that Adult Participant does NOT need to undergo a criminal background check.

For the purposes of USATT's MAAP Policy,

1. "regular contact" is defined as: "ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete(s)"; and
2. "authority" is defined as: "when one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. "

Please Note that the MAAPP is fully set out in Section IV of USATT's Safe Sport Policy deals with a number of issues, including: (i) one-on-one Interactions such as meetings and individual training sessions; (ii) massages and rubdowns/athletic training modalities; (iii) locker rooms and changing areas; (iv) social media and electronic communications; (v) Local travel; and (v) team travel.

It is a violation of the USATT Safe Sport Policy for a Participant to violate any provision of the MAAPP, which can be reported to the USATT Athlete Protection Officer and/or the US Center for SafeSport in the same manner as any other alleged SafeSport Violation.

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