

## **USA Table Tennis Safe Sport Policy**

### **2026 US National Table Tennis Championships**

In preparation for the 2026 US National Table Tennis Championships in San Jose, California (July 3 – July 9, 2026). 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 twelve months.

#### **USATT TOURNAMENT COACHING POLICY**

An adult (a person over the age of 18) must be fully Safe Sport Compliant to coach and/or provide tournament in-match playing advice from the coach's corner to a Minor Athlete (person under the age of 18).

A parent and/or legal guardian is permitted to coach his or her own child without being Safe Sport Compliant.

An adult is permitted to coach and/or provide tournament in-match playing advice from the coach's corner to another Adult Participant without being Safe Sport Compliant.

A minor is permitted to coach and/or provide tournament in-match playing advice from the coach's corner to another Minor Athlete without being Safe Sport Compliant. A minor is NOT PERMITTED to coach an Adult Participant (who is not the minor's parent or legal guardian), unless the Adult Participant has completed training offered by the US Center for SafeSport.

#### **2026 US NATIONALS – MANDATORY COACHING CREDENTIAL / COACHING STICKER / COACHING WRIST BAND**

All persons serving as a coach and/or providing tournament in-match playing advice from the coach's corner to another participant are required to properly display a Licensed Coach Credential or Coaching Sticker (properly displayed on a credential) or a coaching wrist band, indicating that such person has been approved by the Tournament Director, to serve in this capacity.

USATT Licensed Coaches will receive, free of charge, a credential which authorizes the Licensed Coach to coach and/or provide in-match playing advice from the coach's corner to all participants, including Minor Athletes, at the 2026 US Nationals.

Persons who are fully Safe Sport Compliant (but are not a USATT License Coach), can receive, upon request, a Coaching Sticker or Coaching Wristband authorizing them to coach and/or provide in-match playing advice from the coach's corner to all participants, including Minor Athletes, at the 2026 US Nationals.

Parents/Legal Guardians seeking to coach and/or provide in-match playing advice to their own child can receive, upon request, a Coaching Sticker or Coaching Wristband authorizing them to sit in the coach's corner for their child's matches.

Adults who are not Safe Sport Compliant but are seeking to provide in-match playing advice from the coach's corner to Adult Participants can receive, upon request, a Coaching Sticker or Coaching Wristband authorizing them to sit in the coach's corner for such matches.

Minors seeking to coach and/or provide in-match playing advice from the coach's corner to Minor Athletes can receive, upon request, a Coaching Sticker or Coaching Wristband authorizing them to sit in the coach's corner for such matches.

## **MISSION STATEMENT FOR USATT SAFE SPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

USATT is committed to building a Sport Community where participants can play, work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct.

## **THE SAFESPORT CODE FOR THE U.S. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC MOVEMENTS**

The USATT Safe Sport Policy [the “Policy”] is based on the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements [the “Code”], effective January 1, 2026, which is set out in its entirety on the USA Table Tennis website: <https://www.usatt.org/athlete-resources/safesport>.

## **APPLICATION OF THE SAFESPORT CODE AND USATT SAFE SPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The SafeSport Code and USATT Safe Sport Policy apply to “Participants” as defined by the Code. In order to protect all persons associated with USATT from all forms of abuse, USATT, in conjunction with the U.S. Center for SafeSport [the “Center”] must assess a Participant’s fitness and eligibility to be involved in amateur sport and USATT. Participation in the private associations making up the Olympic Movement is a privilege, not a right.

## **JURISDICTION**

USATT defers jurisdiction to investigate and resolve all matters in which the Center has been vested with exclusive jurisdiction under the Code and/or in those matters where the Center has exercised its discretionary jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations against a Participant. Prior to the Center expressly exercising jurisdiction over allegations against Participant, USATT has the authority to implement necessary and/or appropriate measures, up to and including a suspension, to address any allegations of misconduct.

When USATT has reason to believe that the allegations fall within the Center’s exclusive jurisdiction, USATT – while able to impose measures – will not investigate or resolve those allegations. When the allegations presented fall with the Center’s discretionary jurisdiction, USATT may investigate and resolve the matter unless and until such time as the Center expressly exercises jurisdiction over the particular allegations.

If and when the Center expressly exercises jurisdiction over a particular allegation regarding a particular Participant, USATT will not issue – in response to those allegations – a suspension or other restriction that may deny or threaten to deny a Respondent’s opportunity to participate in Sport. However, USATT may implement necessary Safety Plans or other Interim Measures.

Nothing contained in this USATT Safe Sport policy is intended to supersede, replace, or otherwise abrogate the USATT Bylaws, Athlete Handbook or Operations Manual, or the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

## **INFORMATION ON USATT SAFE SPORT POLICY**

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

This page includes downloadable versions of:

1. USATT’s Safe Sport 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 all 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**

There are certain circumstances where reporting 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](http://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 all persons holding Positions of Authority within our organization be 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 an official, regular coaching capacity for any other person (adult or Minor Athlete) at a USATT Affiliated Member Club;
5. All adults in any way coaching and/or providing playing advice of any type whatsoever to a Minor Athlete (who is not their own child) at a USATT Affiliated Member Club;
6. All adults serving as an in-tournament match coach for a Minor Athlete (who is not their own child) at a USATT Sanctioned Tournament;
7. All athletes designated for the USADA required testing pool (RTP);
8. All athletes and alternates, training partners, guides, medical personnel, or other team leaders 18 years of age or older who are selected by USATT to participate in national or international competitions and/or Delegation Events; and/or are selected by USATT to train at any Olympic and Paralympic Training Center, USOPC Training Center, or USATT Training Site;
9. All USATT National Team coaches, leaders and/or chaperones;
10. All tournament officials, including umpires and referees, at USATT Sanctioned Events;
11. All persons, including Tournament Directors and Competition Managers, placed in Positions of Authority for USATT Sanctioned Events;
12. All persons serving on a medical staff and/or serving as medical trainers at USATT Affiliated Clubs or USATT Sanctioned Events;
13. 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
14. All persons credentialed as a member of the working media for USATT Sanctioned Events;
15. All independent contractors and volunteers providing support to USATT which involves direct interaction with the USATT membership, as well as patrons and participants of USATT Affiliated Member Clubs or sanctioned events;
16. Assistants, or personal care assistants who are funded, have a contractual obligation with, or are credentialed by a NGB, or otherwise have regular contact with NGB athletes; and
17. All other adult members, including athletes, of USATT who could reasonably be considered as having regular contact athletes who are minors at a USATT Member Club and/or a USATT Sanctioned Tournament.

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 twelve (12) months. 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.

The Criminal Background Check must be completed every twenty-four (24) months. There are 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.

### **COACHING POLICY AT USATT SANCTIONED EVENTS**

All persons serving as an in-tournament match coach at a USATT Sanctioned Event must be cleared by the Tournament Director, Referee and/or Competition Manager to sit in the Coach’s Corner for their respective Participating Athlete’s match.

The following categories of coaching relationships shall be evaluated, monitored and enforced:

1. Adult Coaching a Minor Athlete
2. Adult Coaching an Adult Athlete
3. Minor Coaching a Minor Athlete
4. Parent/Guardian Coaching His/Her Own Minor Child

NOTE: A “Minor Athlete” is defined for the purpose of USATT Sanctioned Tournaments as a registered Participant Athlete, who is under the age of eighteen (18) as of the first day of the Sanctioned Tournament.

The following are the standards of review and enforcement for USATT Sanctioned Tournaments:

1. Adult Coaching a Minor Athlete
  - a. All Adults serving as an in-tournament match coach for a Minor Athlete (who is not their own child) must be fully SafeSport Compliant as of the first day of the Sanctioned Tournament.
2. Adult Coaching an Adult Athlete
  - a. Adults are permitted to serve as an in-tournament match coach for another Adult Participant at a USATT Sanctioned Tournament without being SafeSport Trained or fully SafeSport Compliant.
3. Minor Athlete Coaching a Minor Athlete
  - a. Minors are permitted to serve as an in-tournament match coach for another Minor Athlete Participant at a USATT Sanctioned Tournament without being SafeSport Trained or SafeSport Compliant.
4. Parent/Guardian Coaching His/Her Own Child
  - a. A Parent/Guardian is permitted to serve as an in-tournament match coach for his/her own minor-aged child at a Regional Championship without being SafeSport Trained or SafeSport Compliant.

For USATT operated events, including the US Nationals, the US Open, USATT Regional Championships and the USATT State Championships, all persons serving as an in-match tournament coach must wear an appropriate credential to sit in the Coach’s Corner. Furthermore, it is USATT’s Policy that for USATT-sanctioned tournaments not directly operated by USATT, where reasonably possible, persons sitting in the Coach’s Corner should wear an appropriate identifying credential.

## **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.

**End. 26 05-15c**