

Noteworthy Revisions

Section: Organization Requirements

1. **Requested Change: Clarify who is responsible for approving exemptions to the Center trainings for reasons other than survivor of abuse and misconduct and who is responsible for tracking those exemptions.**

Change Made: Updated language to exemption section:

1. Exemptions to the online training requirement may be requested by survivors of abuse and misconduct. Survivors of abuse can request an exemption by contacting their NGB or can choose to contact the Center directly to request an exemption at exemptions@safesport.org. All exemptions granted by the Center or the NGB in this category are considered indefinite and do not need to be re-requested every year.
2. Exemptions to the online training requirement for reasons other than survivor of abuse and misconduct are limited to cognitive or physical disability or language barrier. Requests for these exemptions must be made by the individual to the NGB. The NGB will determine whether to grant the exemption. If the NGB grants the exemption, it must track the exemption to ensure it is appropriately applied to the individual's membership status. The NGB must preserve documentation that the exemption was granted and for what duration.
3. The Center has several options available to assist individuals in completing the online training courses, including screen reader-compatible versions and course availability in several languages, including English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Russian, German, and Japanese. If none of the available options will fit the individual's needs, the NGB may determine whether to grant an exemption.

Rationale: Language added to the exemptions and accommodations section of the MAAPP to clarify how individuals should request exemptions and who should track the exemptions. Additionally, the language added clarifies that exemptions not listed within the policy, including religious exemptions, will not be permitted.

Section: Education & Training Policy

- 1. Requested Change: Clarify the timing of training after new membership or a new role subjecting the adult to the Education & Training Policy.**

Change Made: Addition of “whichever comes first” to the section “Timing of Training.”

Rationale: Adult Participants who have Regular Contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor must complete training prior to the Regular Contact occurring. Adult Participants required to take training but do not have Regular Contact have 45 days to complete training. The addition of this language clarifies that those with Regular Contact do not have a 45-day window and must immediately complete training. **Requested Change: Remove training requirement for staff and board at adult-only LAOs.**

Change Made: No Change.

Rationale: LAOs, including member clubs, should be safe spaces for all participants regardless of age. The online training modules, in addition to information about the MAAPP, discuss requirements of the SafeSport Code, including prohibited conduct and mandatory reporting requirements. Mandatory reporting is not limited to policy violations that involve minors. It is important for all individuals in leadership positions within sport to have a basic understanding of abuse and misconduct and how to respond when allegations arise. Athletic facilities are often shared spaces, with both adults and minors using the same locker rooms, athletic training facilities, or competition spaces. Additionally, adult-only programs frequently serve populations that are more vulnerable to misconduct, including those with physical or cognitive disabilities.

Section: Required Prevention Policies

- 1. Requested Change: Close-in-Age Exception: Provide clarifying information regarding how to determine the 4-year age difference in this exception.**

Change Made: Added “determined by birth date” to the policy.

Rationale: This language clarifies how the age difference is determined to ensure the policy is being implemented consistently across the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

- 2. Requested Change: Close-in-Age Exception: The 4-year age difference should be reviewed to determine if the age difference should be larger or smaller, and if the definition should match the SafeSport Code.**

Change Made: No Change

Rationale: The current 4-year age gap is commonly found in sport environments for high school aged athletes. The 4-year age difference allows for athletes to continue to interact normally as peers and allows for travel, lodging, and communication. This exemption does not supersede training requirements for recently turned 18- or 19-year-olds that have Regular Contact with an amateur athlete(s) who is a minor.

The SafeSport Code (3-year age difference) more closely aligns with laws that define consensual sexual relationships between young adults who are close in age and one of them is under the age of consent. Because the SafeSport Code addresses prohibited behaviors, it will remain at 3 years.

- 3. Requested Change: Meetings Policy: Include individuals who are completing a supervised practicum, internship, or field experience within the policy, permitting them to meet with a minor athlete one-on-one for treatment.**

Change Made: Added “or a student under the supervision of a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider” to the Meetings policy.

Rationale: It is considered common practice by medical providers to employ students completing a supervised practicum, internship, or field experience to provide health care treatment. With supervision, these students can provide necessary treatment to athletes. Additionally, the inclusion of these individuals will increase access to medical care at many sport organizations because of increased availability and lower cost.

- 4. Requested Change: Remove the phrase “rubdown” from the Athletic Training Modalities, Massages and Rubdowns Policy.**

Change Made: Removed the term “rubdown” and updated policy to “Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities.”

Rationale: “Rubdown” is no longer considered a current term in sports medicine. More inclusive and relevant language has replaced this term.

5. **Requested Change: Manual, Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities: Add the requirement that a provider must narrate the steps in the modality or manual therapy before executing them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.**

Change Made: Added requirement of narration.

Rationale: The narration of treatment is considered, at minimum, a best practice during medical care. Narration helps educate the individual about the care as it is provided, helps eliminate confusion or miscommunication about the care, and helps the Minor Athlete establish appropriate boundaries while receiving care. Those under 18 cannot consent to care without parent/guardian permission (as required elsewhere in the policy) but they can positively assent to their care as it occurs.

6. **Requested Change: Electronic Communication Policy: Align direct communication and team communication requirements.**

Change: Aligned policy so that the same individuals can be copied for both direct and team communication.

Rationale: By aligning the direct and team communication policy, the policy is easier to understand and implement while still minimizing risk to Minor Athletes.

7. **Requested Change: Transportation Policy: Clarify what is meant by the language of “at least two minors” in order for in-program transportation to be observable and interruptible.**

Change Made: Added an age requirement of 8 years old for minors.

Rationale: By adding an age requirement for the two minors in this section, the policy ensures that minors present are more likely to have the emotional and behavioral capacity to disclose concerning behavior or misconduct. The typical cognitive development of an 8-year-old is such that they could convey concerns to a trusted adult, whereas a younger child (such as a toddler) may not be able to convey the same information.

8. **Requested Change: Expand lodging arrangements to include other common residential environments used within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.**

Change Made: Addition of rentals and long-term residential environments to the lodging policy, including lodging at training sites and billeting.

Rationale: The addition of this language appropriately expands the policy to lodging arrangements that currently exist within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement but were not clearly understood as covered by the Lodging policy.

Section: Structure

- 1. Requested Change: Restructure the Required Prevention Policies by incorporating the previously separate One-on-One policy into other prevention policies.**

Similarly, remove the policy exception language from all Required Prevention Policies and instead incorporate it into a single section of the policy.

Change: One-on-One Policy removed by incorporating the language into the remaining Required Prevention policies. Added exception language, including the emergency exception, to the front of the Required Prevention Policy. All other references removed.

Rationale: Removes repetition from the policy and shortens the overall length of each section. The relocation of the exception language clarifies that the exceptions only apply to the Required Prevention Policies.

- 2. Requested Change: Restructure Required Prevention Policy by separating Meetings and Individual Training Policy into two separate policies.**

Change: Separated Meetings and Individual Training Policy into two individual policies. No changes to mandatory requirements made.

Rationale: Improves understanding of each policy.

Section: Definitions

The following definitions have been added to the MAAPP to further clarify Lodging and Residential Environment policy requirements:

- 1. Residential Environment:** A place in which participants live or stay temporarily. Residential environments include but are not limited to onsite housing at training facilities, billeting, hotel stays, or rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.).
- 2. Billeting:** A residential environment facilitated by an Adult Participant, NGB, LAO, the USOPC, or sanctioned event staff in which a Minor Athlete is temporarily housed in a private home with an adult or family who is not related to or known by the Minor Athlete. This lodging arrangement is in conjunction with an activity related to sport.