

## GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN/FAMILIES ACCOMPANYING PARENTS



**Effective Date:** November 3, 2023

### **Introduction**

Safety is the top priority for USA Bobsled/Skeleton (USABS), which includes providing a safe environment for athletes, staff, volunteers, officials, families, and spectators. The sports of bobsled and skeleton have inherent risks, not only for those participating but also for those in close proximity to training, competition, and equipment.

The goal of these guidelines is to provide a balance between providing a safe environment, creating a high-performance setting for training and competition, and providing reasonable accommodations for parents with young children.

### **Definitions**

The terms listed below have been identified as areas of focus.

**Athlete Spaces:** any space designated for performance and is used solely for the purpose of training or competition preparation. These spaces include but are not limited to the garage, team meeting spaces, the start house/changing room, Ice house, and starting area. (*Spaces that are otherwise common areas accessible to the general public but may be used by an athlete for warm-up, sprinting, etc., will not be designated as an athlete space.*)

**Garage:** The Garage is a space where sleds are stored and worked on. This includes garage space in Lake Placid, Park City or on tour.

**Team Meeting:** Formal designated meeting in which athletes and coaches will meet to discuss details regarding racing, training, etc.

**Start House:** An area where the athletes, staff, and/or friends and family are waiting before the start of the competition.

**Changing Area:** Space designated solely for athlete use in preparation for racing. This is a space where athletes change into their race gear and do final preparation for racing.

**Ice House:** Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) facility that athletes utilize to train for the start of the race.

**ORDA Facilities:** Any facility managed by the ORDA.

**UOP Facilities:** Any facility managed by the Utah Olympic Park.

### **U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center**

The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center (OPTC) includes all space on the property in Lake Placid or Colorado Springs.

## U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center

USABS will abide by the rules set by the OPTC while on site. These rules include:

### INFANT/TODDLER POLICY



To better support our Team USA athletes who train at the Olympic & Paralympic Training Centers and have recently become a parent, the following items are intended to support our new parents with a baby(s) 0-24 months of age:

- The OPTC will provide a lactation/feeding room on-site for athletes to utilize while training. We will make this room easily accessible and in a private area and at no cost to the athlete.
  - Please see the OPTC front desk for instructions.
- A caretaker may bring a baby on-site, but we ask that the caretaker & child respect the nature of our facility. Any child, 0-24 months of age, will have NO access to training venues when athletes are at work.
- Similarly, to protect athlete recovery at night, we ask that baby can visit throughout the day (between 7:00am-9:00pm) but may not stay overnight.
- To ensure the safety of our athlete population, caretakers will also need to complete OPTC paperwork, a background check and SafeSport training, just as any other adult using the facility.

Any child above 24 months of age will then abide by our guest policy guidelines (see above).

## MINORS

1. Guests of a minor (other than the designated parent/legal guardian) are restricted to visitation in the following areas:
  - Lake Placid – Front Desk Lobby only
  - Colorado Springs – Athlete Center Lobby only
2. Anyone under 12 years old of age shall not be allowed to reside at the OPTC in a dormitory unless permission is granted by the minor's parent or legal guardian and approved by the USOPC.
3. Required adult staff to minor athlete ratio staying onsite is as follows:
  - 12 years – 13 years old = 1 adult per 12 minors
  - 14 years + = 1 adult per 20 minors
  - \*At the discretion of the OPTC, higher or lower ratios may be advisable depending on the age of the participants and the nature of the activity.
4. Room Assignments:
  - The USOPC will not assign individuals of different gender to the same room unless the individuals are (i) a parent/legal guardian and the child of the parent/guardian or (ii) married.
  - Gender neutral rooms will be made available upon request.
  - An adult staff member must be housed on the same floor (or in the same building, if the floor is not available) as the program's minors

## On Tour/Training

### 1. Team Meetings

Team Meetings will be designated as an athlete space, only permitting athletes and coaches.

- Coaches will give notice for meetings, giving parents time to arrange childcare.
- In the event short notice is given and a parent is unable to arrange childcare, every effort to ensure the parent is accommodated within reason, will be given by the staff.
- The athlete will cannot attend the meeting due to lack of childcare will not be punished or penalized. Athletes will be permitted to attend virtually, if possible, or to meet with the head coach and staff after the conclusion of the meeting.

*Families may access team dining areas provided specific meals are not designated as team meetings.*

### 2. The Start House/Changing Area

USABS will adhere to the rules set forth by IBSF regarding credentialed athlete areas. In the event boundaries are poorly defined or designated, USABS will err on the side of creating an environment conducive to the highest levels of competition.

- In case of emergency, children accompanying parents or caretakers who access the Start House should keep visits brief if there are no other areas within the start house designated for spectators.
- At tracks where start houses and spectator areas overlap, children and caretakers will have access to these areas.
- The **changing area** should be for athletes only.

- Parents will not be punished by USABS in the event of an emergency when access to their child is needed. However, efforts by the parent **will** be made to ensure the changing area remains a space free of distraction.
- Children accompanying caretakers who are also providing a service to the team by filming will not be punished by USABS for entering the start house or changing area to warm up. All efforts will be made to ensure there will be no distraction to the competing athlete.

### **3. The Garage**

The Garage is a space where sleds are stored and worked on. This space is potentially dangerous for small children and should be kept free of children while the team is working.

- In the event a parent or caretaker needs to enter the garage with a child to meet with a coach, staff member or athlete, the accompanying child is to be under constant supervision and kept away from equipment. Ideally, the coach, staff member or athlete meeting should take place outside of the garage.
- In the event a child absolutely has to come into the garage with an athlete parent, the parent **will** ensure the child is with them at all times and not moving around the garage unsupervised.