ATHLETE PROTECTION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ATHLETE PROTECTION

The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) officially certified USA Football as the National Governing Body (NGB) for American football. This distinction marks a significant milestone as USA Football becomes the first NGB for the sport and the only organization to select, train, and lead the U.S. National Teams, including for the upcoming Olympic Games.

This role in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement brings new responsibilities that reinforce USA Football's commitment to providing athletes with a healthy and positive environment, particularly by protecting them from abuse in compliance with the USOPC and the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT CODE

The U.S. Center for SafeSport code establishes consistent standards for responding to and resolving abuse and misconduct in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

As a Member, United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, USA Football complies with the policies and procedures as defined by the U.S. Center for SafeSport code. The U.S. Center for SafeSport policies and procedures are among the strongest safeguards against athlete abuse that organizations serving athletes can adhere to.

RULES FOR REPORTING ABUSE

According to federal law, all adults who are authorized to interact with athletes are required to report any suspected incidents of abuse, including sexual abuse. If you learn any information that raises suspicion of child abuse, you must report it immediately, and in no event later than 24 hours, to law enforcement and to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. A report to USA Football, the USOPC, or the Center does not satisfy your obligation to report to law enforcement. It is the responsibility of USA Football and every adult participant to promptly report any incidents of abuse or sexual misconduct involving a USA Football athlete.

Reporting must occur promptly when someone has firsthand knowledge of misconduct or has received specific and credible information from a victim or an informed third party. Additionally, various state laws may require that reports be made to law enforcement or to a designated child protection agency. No USA Football adult participant shall retaliate against anyone who has made a report in good faith. False reporting of sexual misconduct, made with malicious intent, is prohibited. Additionally, there is no time limit for reporting sexual misconduct or child abuse to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, or for reporting misconduct to USA Football.

REPORTING AN ISSUE

The U.S. Center for SafeSport has exclusive jurisdiction for all issues dealing with:

- Sexual Misconduct
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexually Explicit/Inappropriate Communication through Social Media
- Child Abuse, including Child Sexual and Physical Abuse

For more information about reporting concerns to the U.S. Center for SafeSport visit their website or call (833)-5US-SAFE.

Report an Abuse: https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/

USA FOOTBALL

Report other forms of misconduct to USA Football regarding the following issues:

- Physical Misconduct
- Emotional Misconduct
- Bullying
- Hazing
- Harassment
- Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) Violations

Report An Abuse: https://www.cognitoforms.com/USAFootball/AbuseReportingForm

Email: abuse@usafootball.com

Call: 1-877-5-FOOTBALL or (317) 614-7750

For more information, see the USA Football Response and Resolution Policy.

CALIFORNIA CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING ACT: For USA Football adult participants in California, please be aware of your responsibilities under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

USA Football adheres to the U.S. Center for SafeSport policies and procedures to provide training and resources for coaches, athletes, and parents.

U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT CODE

Review the latest version of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

Access the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) for athlete safety and misconduct prevention guidelines.

SUSPENDED OR INELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS

View the list of individuals suspended, banned, or declared ineligible by the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

ATHLETE PROTECTION TRAINING

Learn more about the USA Football adult participants who are required to complete the Athlete Protection Training provided through the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Learn about background checks for athlete protection, including the USOPC requirements that took effect in 2026 and the criterion offenses listed in Appendix A of the USA Football MAAPP.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Explore more health and safety resources for athletes, parents, coaches and organization leaders.

REQUIREMENTS AND CATEGORIES

USA Football is working with the U.S. Center for SafeSport and the USOPC to provide updated training and resources for adult participants who have a role in the Olympic Movement.

ADULT PARTICIPANT CATEGORIES

An Adult Participant is any adult (18 years of age or older) authorized, approved or appointed by USA Football to have regular contact or authority over Minor Athletes. This definition applies to all Adult Participants who are included in one or more of the following categories:

- USA Football Board of Directors
- USA Football Committees and Councils
- USA Football Staff
- USA Football Volunteers
- USA Football Contracted Staff
- USA Football Medical Providers
- USA Football National Team/National Team Development Program Athletes
- USA Football National Team/National Team Development Program Coaches
- USA Football ID Holders

Regular Contact: Ongoing interactions within a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete.

This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

Adult Participants, who are medical providers, required to take training under the U.S. Center for SafeSport Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the SafeSport Trained Core Course.

ADULT PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

As an adult participant, you are required to complete training to help keep athletes safe within USA Football's role in the Olympic Movement. Requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Abide by the USA Football MAAPP policy
- Following guidelines for one-on-one interactions with minor athletes
- Completing training and education through the U.S. Center for SafeSport

- Participating in monitoring, supervision and mandatory reporting
- Adhering to additional required policies and best practice guidelines
- USOPC Approved Background Check for Select Individuals

These new requirements will help USA Football adult participants to:

- Recognize and learn about risks and red-flag behavior
- Respond and take necessary actions when an incident occurs
- Support Recovery to empower survivors with resources to aid with healing

The U.S. Center for SafeSport approved the USA Football MAAPP, effective February 25, 2026. The MAAPP, training links, and resources are available above.