


Fayette County Bar Association Bench & Bar CLE Virtual: Understanding SafeSport and the SafeSport Mindset

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Introductions

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About the Safe Sport Movement

Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017

- Mandatory reporting requirements
- Offer and provide training
- Establish reasonable procedures to limit 1:1 interactions
- Prohibit retaliation

Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act of 2020

- Codified 'Office of Compliance and Audit'
- Requires due process protections
- Increased protections from retaliation for reporting abuse or misconduct

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About the U.S. Center for SafeSport

- Independent nonprofit
- Headquartered in Denver
- First and only national organization of its kind
- Focus is on ending ALL forms of abuse in sport

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### Jurisdiction

**Exclusive Jurisdiction**

- Sexual Misconduct, including Child Sexual Abuse
- Criminal charges or dispositions involving Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct
- Misconduct related to Reporting
- Aiding and Abetting
- Misconduct related to the Center's process
- Other Inappropriate Conduct

**Discretionary Jurisdiction**

- Non-sexual Child Abuse
- Emotional and physical misconduct, including stalking, bullying behaviors, hating and harassment
- Criminal charges or dispositions not involving Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct
- Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy violation

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### Center's Responsibilities

Establishing	Establishing training and policy requirements for NGOs
Providing	Providing training and implementing educational programs for coaches, athletes and parents
Receiving	Receiving all sexual misconduct reports (which can be reported anonymously) from NGOs and anyone in the USOPC
Investigating	Investigating reports of sexual abuse in a confidential manner
Issuing	Issuing decisions if an individual did or did not violate the Center for SafeSport Code
Sanctioning	Sanctioning individuals found in violation of the Code, up to permanent ineligibility
Establishing	Establishing oversight mechanisms, including regular and random audits of the NGOs (Compliance)

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**National Governing Body**

National Governing Bodies (NGB) of Sports are non-profit, non-governmental organizations responsible for promoting and developing a particular sport within a nation. They control key assets such as national team brand, support youth and elite level national teams for both genders, develop Olympians, collaborate with International Federation of the particular sport, national Olympic Committee and IOC to qualify athletes and national teams to participate in international events.

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**Understanding the Differences**

**Center**

- Responds to and resolves all allegations of sexual misconduct
- Sets training requirements for NGBs
- Requires NGBs to implement abuse prevention policies
- Audits NGB's

**Safe Sport within a National Governing Body**

- Usually, a department within the NGB or misconduct reports are contracted to outside investigation services
- Responds to and resolves all allegations of non-sexual misconduct within their membership
- Enforces Center's policies, requirements, and sanctions
- Creates NGB-specific educational programming

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**Essential Center Documents**

The image shows two document covers. The left one is the 'SAFESPORT CODE FOR THE U.S. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT' with the U.S. Center for Safesport logo. The right one is the '2022 MAAPP AT-A-GLANCE' with the MAAPP logo.

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### MAAPP Overview

- The MAAPP is required of all Adult Participants in the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement at national, regional, or local levels, regardless of formal membership status.
- The MAAPP applies when there is "in-program contact"—meaning, these three conditions exist:
  - An Adult Participant
  - A Minor Athlete
  - Contact or activity related to sport participation
- Obligation under federal law
- Creates consistency across all Olympic and Paralympic organizations with policies and procedures

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### Types of Misconduct to Be Reported

Child Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Bullying
Hazing	Violations of the one-on-one policies	Arrests or criminal dispositions	Abuse of process

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### 7 Themes of the MAAPP

1. Observable and Interruptible
2. Meetings and Training Sessions
3. Medical Modalities
4. Locker Rooms and Changing Areas
5. Electronic Communications
6. Travel
7. Lodging

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### Regular Contact and Authority Over

**Regular Contact**

- 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).

**Authority Over**

- 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.

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### Examples of Regular Contact and Authority Over

Coaches	Club Owners	Volunteers that direct athlete movement
Event Directors	Event Officials	Athletic Trainers
Medical Personnel assigned to an event	Adult Athletes that practice with minors	

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**Centralized Disciplinary Database**

The U.S. Center for SafeSport's Centralized Disciplinary Database is a resource designed to keep the public informed when individuals connected with the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movements are either subject to certain temporary restrictions pending investigation by the Center or are subject to certain sanctions after an investigation found them in violation of the [SafeSport Code](#).

The database also contains certain eligibility decisions made by the National Governing Bodies (NGB), their Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO), or the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), including those rendered prior to the establishment of the Center.

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**Observable and Interruptible**

All interactions between an Adult Participant and minor must remain in an observable and interruptible environment at all times.

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**NGB Policies**

All NGB's of the Olympic movement must create policies that align with the MAAPP, but also policies that fit within their own sport and membership.

Example:  
 Gifting  
 Parents Right to Observe  
 Club Safety Champion

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# Observations from Working in the Movement

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**Power Imbalance**

**A Power Imbalance exists when:**

- A person has supervisory, evaluative, or other authority over another
- A person has control or influence over a situation or scenario

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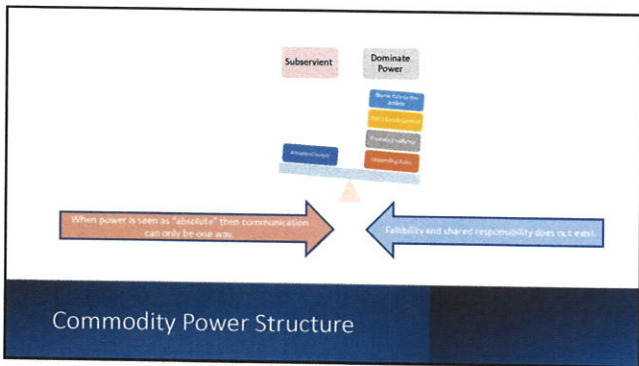
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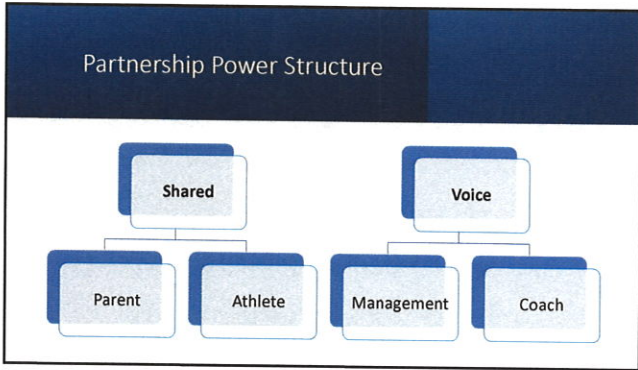
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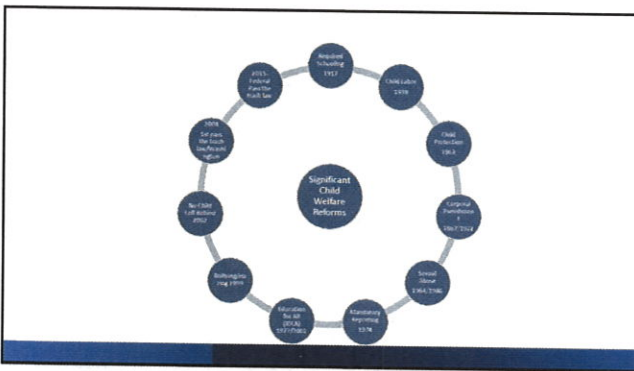
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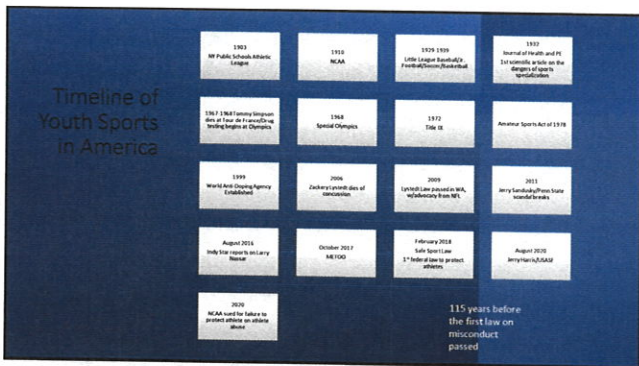
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**Common Safe Sport Trends**

FEAR!

- Communication problems between the parent, coach & club management
- Incomplete or missing documentation
- Parents waiting until "the right time" to make reports
- Fear of the coach
- Medical misunderstandings
- Environmental issues
- Punishment dominates over reward
- Limited documentation and policies that aren't clear
- Dated ideas about exercise used as a tool for punishment

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**Failed understanding of risk management planning**

Assessment of current risk	Written policies	Training for all stakeholders	Ongoing Communication
Documentation	Analysis	Survey	Evaluation

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**Accountability**

Management	Staff
Parents	Athletes

Accountability

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### Necessary Policies and Protocols are Often Missing

Employment Best Practices	1:1 Interactions	Parent/Coach Communication	Inclusion	Environmental Checklist
Required Professional Development	Injury Protocols	Documentation	Financial Policies	Reporting

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### Looking Ahead

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### Developing a Sport mindset?

- Stakeholder Awareness
- Focus on the athletic environment/environmental safety
- Professionalism
- Professional Development
- Communication
- Customer Service
- Risk focused



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### Stakeholder Development

- Coach**
  - Coaching certifications
  - Mental health training
  - Required first aid/CPR and concussion training
  - Coaching with transparency
  - Communication with parents
  - Coaching principles and philosophy
  - Boundaries
- Management**
  - Risk management
  - Communication
  - Business principles
- Parents**
  - Better understanding of abuse and misconduct
  - Communication with coach
  - Mental health
  - Role in sport
  - Better understand demanding vs. demeaning coaching practices
- Athlete**
  - Mental health
  - Boundaries
  - Recognition of unsafe practices
  - Better understand demanding vs. demeaning coaching practices

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### Managing the Fear



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### Thank you!

For more information

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