



USA
CLIMBING

MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

USA Climbing Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

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TERMINOLOGY

Adult Participant: An Adult Participant is any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

- USA Climbing Staff
- USA Climbing Introductory, Competitor, Paraclimbing, and Collegiate Members 18-years and older
- USA Climbing Interns
- USA Climbing Board Members
- USA Climbing Designated Committee Members (NGC, Audit, Judicial, Hearing Panel Pool, and Team Selection)
- USA Climbing National, Divisional, and Regional Coordinators
- USA Climbing Certified Coaches
- USA Climbing Certified Officials
- USA Climbing Certified Routesetters
- USA Climbing Covered Volunteers (i.e. volunteer coordinator, isolation coordinator, event organizers)
- USA Climbing Non-Covered Volunteers
- USA Climbing National Team Contracted Medical Personnel (i.e. doctors, trainers, etc...)
- USA Climbing Contracted Massage Therapists
- USA Climbing Contractors who have regular contact with minor athletes (i.e. official National Team Chaperones)
- USA Climbing National Team Athletes in USADA's Registered Testing Pool
- Any other individual within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Climbing
- Any other individual that USA Climbing formally authorizes, approves or appoints (a) to a position of authority over, or (b) to have regular contact with any athlete

Amateur Athlete: An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by the National Governing Body or paralympic sports organization for the sport in which the athlete competes.

Local Affiliated Organization (LAO): A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with an NGB or that is affiliated with an NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of said NGB. LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of an NGB. USA Climbing currently does not have any LAOs.

Minor Athlete: A Minor Athlete is an Introductory, Competitor, Paraclimbing, or Collegiate Member under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Climbing.

National Governing Body (NGB): A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body, Pan American Sport Organization, or Paralympic Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

Paralympic Sport Organization (PSO): an amateur sports organization recognized and certified as an NGB by the USOPC.

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Partial or Full Jurisdiction includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by USA Climbing or any facility that USA Climbing or a USA Climbing Gym or Team Member owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

Personal Care Assistant: An Adult Participant who assists an athlete requiring help with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation.

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

Authority: 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. Also see the [Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code](#).

U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC): A federally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States.

PART I TRAINING & SCREENING POLICY

A. Mandatory SafeSport Training for Adult Participants

1. Adult Participants Required to Complete Training
 - a. The following members must complete the *SafeSport Trained Core* Training through their USA Climbing account:
 - i. USA Climbing Staff
 - ii. USA Climbing Introductory, Competitor, Paraclimbing, and Collegiate Members 18-years and older
 - iii. USA Climbing Interns
 - iv. USA Climbing Board Members
 - v. USA Climbing Designated Committee Members (NGC, Audit, Judicial, Hearing Panel Pool, and Team Selection)
 - vi. USA Climbing National, Divisional, and Regional Coordinators
 - vii. USA Climbing Certified Coaches
 - viii. USA Climbing Certified Officials
 - ix. USA Climbing Certified Routesetters
 - x. USA Climbing Covered Volunteers (i.e. volunteer coordinator, isolation coordinator, event organizers)
 - xi. USA Climbing National Team Contracted Medical Personnel (i.e. doctors, trainers, etc.)
 - xii. USA Climbing Contracted Massage Therapists
 - xiii. USA Climbing Contractors who have regular contact with minor athletes (i.e. official National Team Chaperones)
 - xiv. USA Climbing National Team Athletes in USADA’s Registered Testing Pool
 - xv. Any other individual that USA Climbing formally authorizes, approves or appoints (a) to a position of authority over, or (b) to have regular contact with any athlete
 - b. See Appendix B for categories of Adult Participants subject to training requirements of USA Climbing’s Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy
2. USA Climbing National Team Contracted Medical Personnel (i.e. doctors, trainers, etc) required to take training under Section (a) can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport Trained Core*.
3. Timing of Training
Adult Participants must complete this training:
 - a. Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins; and
 - b. Prior to holding a current membership
4. Refresher Training
The above listed Adult Participants must complete a refresher course on an annual basis, beginning the calendar year after completing the *SafeSport Trained Core*. Every four years, Adult Participants will complete the *SafeSport Trained Core* training. Medical providers

can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport Trained Core* and are required to take the refresher courses on an annual basis if they meet the criteria for A(1).

B. Background Screen Policy

1. Certain members must complete a Background Screen on a biennial basis. For more information, see the USA Climbing Background Screen Policy.

C. Minor Athlete Training

1. Introductory, Competitor, Paraclimbing, and Collegiate members that are 17-years-old and will turn 18 during the course of the season are asked to complete the SafeSport Core training upon membership renewal with parental consent. If consent is not acquired, the member will be placed in an ‘action required’ status upon turning 18 until the SafeSport Core training is completed.
2. Members under the age of 18 subject to parental consent, may access youth-specific courses at athletesafety.org. USA Climbing members will be notified of the free available training upon annual registration.

D. Parent Training

1. Parents may access the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s parent training through a USA Climbing Account or at www.athletesafety.org. USA Climbing members will be notified of the free available training upon annual registration.

E. Optional Training

1. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity, who will not have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes, should take the Center’s brief Volunteer Course (or *SafeSport Trained Core*) before engaging or interacting with any Minor Athlete(s)

F. Exemptions and Accommodations

1. Exemptions from this Training & Screening Policy may be made on a case-by-case basis for victims/survivors. Requests may be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at exemptions@safesport.org

2. USA Climbing will provide reasonable accommodations and exemptions for individuals with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency. Requests may be made directly to USA Climbing at info@usacimbing.org

PART II

REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

Introduction

The following policies for one-on-one interactions are required for adult participants of USA Climbing for any activity that has been designated as In-Program Contact. Certain exemptions may apply as described below.

In-Program Contact

In-Program Contact includes sanctioned events and facilities, but it also applies more broadly to climbing-related interactions. The MAAPP defines “In-Program Contact” as:

Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in climbing.

Examples of in-program contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post competition meals or outings, team travel, review of competition film, team- or climbing-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or climbing-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

Policy Exceptions

1. A Close-in-Age Exception

This exception applies to certain policies and allows for In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

- a. The Adult Participant has no authority over the Minor Athlete; and
- b. The Adult Participant is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete

2. Exceptions for Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants Working with a Minor Athlete

3. Exceptions for Dual Relationships

This exception applies to certain policies when the Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete. The exception requires written consent of the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian at least annually.

ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

- a. All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except in emergency circumstances.
- b. The exceptions below may apply to specific policies, and if the exceptions apply, they are listed in the policy. These exceptions also apply to all one-on-one In-Program Contact not specifically addressed in other policies:
 - i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
 - ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
 - iii. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:
 - (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Climbing for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
 - (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the [USA Climbing Background Screen Policy](#) or
 - iv. In other circumstances specifically addressed in this policy that allow for certain one-on-one interactions if USA Climbing receives parent/ guardian consent

MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must follow the one-on-one interaction policy in all meetings and training sessions where Minor Athlete(s) are present.

2. Individual Training Sessions

a. One-on-one, In-Program, individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible except if:

- i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:
 - (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Climbing for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
 - (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USA Climbing Background Screen Policy

b. The Adult Participant providing the individual training session must receive advance, written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and

c. Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session

3. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers¹)

If a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider meets one-on-one with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event or a facility, which is partially or fully under USA Climbing's jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

- a. If the door remains unlocked; and
- b. Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete's identity needs not be disclosed; and

¹ Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the "Athletic Training, Physical Therapy, and Massages policy.

- c. USA Climbing is notified that the provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete;
and
- d. The provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards,
which can be withdrawn at any time

ATHLETIC TRAINING, PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND MESSAGES AND RUBDOWNS

A. Mandatory Components

1. Athletic training, physical therapy, and massages

All In-Program athletic training, physical therapy, and massages of a Minor Athlete must:

- a. Be observable and interruptible; and
 - b. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the athletic training, physical therapy, and massages; and
 - c. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (2) below; and
 - d. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
 - e. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing
 - f. The provider must narrate the steps of the athletic training, physical therapy, or massage seeking consent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process
1. Consent
 - a. Providers of athletic training, physical therapy, and/or massages or USA Climbing, when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any athletic training, physical therapy, and/or massage
 - b. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time
 2. Provider
 - a. Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, can not massage Minor Athletes

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is observable and interruptible, except if:

- a. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- b. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- c. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
 - i. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Climbing for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - ii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Training & Screen Policy; and
 - iii. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USA Climbing Background Screen Policy

2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing
- b. Adult Participants must not change clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groins, or genitals to a Minor Athlete
- c. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
 - i. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
 - ii. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear
- d. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. USA Climbing and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request

3. Personal Care Assistants

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they meet the requirements in subsection (1)(c)(iii) above.

4. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. USA Climbing must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Climbing's jurisdiction
- b. USA Climbing must monitor the use of locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Climbing's jurisdiction

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

A. Mandatory Components

1. Open and Transparent

- a. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be open and transparent except:
 - i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
 - ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
 - iii. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
 - (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Climbing for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Training & Screening Policy; and
 - (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USA Climbing Background Screen Policy.
- b. Open and transparent means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant
 - i. If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds
- c. Only platforms that allow for open and transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes

2. Team Communication

When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include another Adult Participant or the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians.

3. Content

All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s) must be professional in nature unless an exception in (1)(a) exists.

4. Requests to discontinue

Parents/guardians may request in writing that USA Climbing or an Adult Participant subject to this policy not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. USA Climbing and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

TRANSPORTATION

A. Mandatory Components

1. Transportation
 - a. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program travel, except if:
 - i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
 - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
 - iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant and:
 - (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Climbing for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
 - (2) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Training & Screening Policy; and
 - (3) the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USA Climbing Background Screen Policy; or
 - iv. The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian. This consent can be withdrawn at any time.
 - b. An Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors
 - c. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation sanctioned by USA Climbing at least annually. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time

LODGING

A. Mandatory Components

1. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

- a. All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, and an Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), except if:
 - i. A Dual Relationship Exists, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Climbing with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement;
 - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies, and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Climbing with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement; or
 - iii. The Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and:
 - (1) The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent to USA Climbing for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete and for the lodging arrangement;
 - (2) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Training & Screening Policy; and
 - (3) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the USA Climbing Background Screen Policy
- b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually

2. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If USA Climbing or team performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed and/or at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

3. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by USA Climbing

- a. Adult Participants traveling with USA Climbing must agree to and sign USA Climbing's lodging policy at least annually
- b. Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Center's Training & Screening Policy

APPENDIX A

ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING AND PREVENTION POLICIES

All NGBs, PSOs, LAOs, and the USOPC (the “Organization”) must implement proactive policies designed to prevent abuse. These organizational requirements are described below.

A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training

1. USA Climbing must track whether Adult Participants under its jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Part I.
2. USA Climbing must, on an annual basis, offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 - a. For training to Minor Athletes, the Organization must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to Minor Athletes.
 - b. USA Climbing is not required to track individual course completions of Minor Athletes.
3. USA Climbing must, on an annual basis, offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.

B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation

1. USA Climbing must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies that contain the mandatory components of the Center’s model policies in Part III. These model policies cover:
 - a. One-on-one interactions
 - b. Meetings and training sessions
 - c. Athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns
 - d. Locker rooms and changing areas
 - e. Electronic communications
 - f. Transportation
 - g. Lodging
2. The policies must be approved by the Center as described in subsection (C) below. The policies may include the recommended components in Part III and the recommended

policies in Part IV. Given the uniqueness of each sport, however, some recommended components or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. An Organization may choose to implement stricter standards than the model policies.

3. Each NGB, PSO, and USOPC must also require that its LAOs implement these policies within each LAO. USA Climbing does not have any LAO in its organization.
4. USA Climbing must implement these policies for all In-Program Contact.
 - a. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under its jurisdiction, the organization must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
 - b. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside USA Climbing's sanctioned event or facilities, implementing these policies means:
 - i. Communicating the policies to individuals under its jurisdiction;
 - ii. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies;
 - iii. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.
5. USA Climbing must have a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating USA Climbing's minor athlete abuse prevention policies. USA Climbing must appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report. This requirement is in addition to requirements to report abuse under the SafeSport Code.

C. Policy Approval and Submission Process

1. Each NGB, PSO, and the USOPC may adopt the MAAPP as-is or adapt it to fit their needs. Regardless, each Organization must submit their policies to the Center at compliance@safesport.org for review and approval by January 31, 2021. The Center will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the policies. If the Center denies the proposed policy, the mandatory components of Part III become the default policy until the Center approves the policy.
2. An NGB may, in its discretion, require its National Member Organizations (NMO) to implement these policies.
 - An NGB that chooses to require its NMOs to implement the Education & Training Policy must obtain advanced, written approval from the Center to expand the

training access to additional persons. Requests must be submitted to ngbservices@safesport.org.

3. The mandatory components of Part III will serve as the default policy for any organization that fails to develop its own policy as required by this section.

APPENDIX B

CATEGORIES OF ADULT PARTICIPANT SUBJECT TO TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF USA CLIMBING’S MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

Adult Participants	Regular Contact	Authority
USA Climbing Staff	X	X
USA Climbing Introductory, Competitor, Paraclimbing, and Collegiate Members 18-years and older	X	
USA Climbing Interns	X	X
USA Climbing Board Members		X
USA Climbing Designated Committee Members (NGC, Audit, Judicial, Hearing Panel Pool, and Team Selection)		X
USA Climbing National, Divisional, and Regional Coordinators	X	X
USA Climbing Certified Coaches	X	X
USA Climbing Certified Officials	X	X
USA Climbing Certified Routesetters	X	
USA Climbing Covered Volunteers (i.e doctotrs, trainers, etc..)	X	
USA Climbing Contracted Massage Therapists	X	
USA Climbing Contractors who have regular contact with minor athletes (i.e. official National Team Chaperones)	X	X
USA Climbing National Team Athletes in USADA's Registered Testing Pool	X	
Any other individual that USA Climbing formally authorizes, approves or appoints (a)	X	X

to a position of authority over, or (b) to have regular contact with any athlete		
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