



## Arizona Region of USA Volleyball SafeSport Program Document 2023-2024 Season



The US Olympic and Paralympic Committee, USA Volleyball and the Arizona Region of USA Volleyball are committed to creating a safe and positive environment for its participants' physical, emotional and social development and ensuring it promotes an environment free from abuse and misconduct. As part of this program, the above have implemented policies intended to reduce, monitor and govern the areas where potential abuse and misconduct might occur.

It is understood that the discussion of this subject matter with minor participants can vary greatly depending on the age of the child. Please age appropriately discuss each of these items with your child who is applying for membership. NOTE: It is now a requirement that all junior players that are 18 or will be turning 18 during the current season take SafeSport Core Training prior to being placed on a team roster.

For better understanding of abuse and misconduct in sport, the following definitions are being used:

### **Bullying, Threats and Harassment**

Bullying is the use of coercion to obtain control over another person or to be habitually cruel to another person.

Bullying involves an intentional, persistent or repeated pattern of committing or willfully tolerating physical and non-physical behaviors that are intended to cause fear, humiliation or physical harm in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish or isolate another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal or electronically transmitted expression or by means of a physical act or gesture. Bullying behavior is prohibited in any manner in connection with any USAV/AZ Region sanctioned activity or event.

Another glaring example of bullying, threats and harassment is bad parent/spectator behavior at tournaments or practices. Yelling at, belittling or harassing junior players, line judges/scorers/officials, harassing officials, harassing coaches, disobeying site directors and facility personnel, physically aggressive language and behavior towards junior players, coaches, or other parents and trashing team camps or facilities is not acceptable behavior. This behavior is not "part of the game" - it is abuse. For articles on how to be a better sports parent visit <https://loudounelitevb.com/page/show/7667661-sports-parents>. This behavior must be removed from our game. Parent behavior is the number one reason we are losing officials and facilities to host events.

### **Hazing**

Hazing includes any conduct which is intimidating, humiliating, offensive or physically harmful. The hazing conduct is typically an activity that serves as a condition for joining a group or being socially accepted by a group's members. Activities that fit the definition of hazing are considered to be hazing regardless of a person's willingness to cooperate or participate.

Hazing does not include group or team activities that are meant to establish normative team behaviors or promote team cohesion so long as such activities do not have reasonable potential to cause emotional or physical distress to any participant.

### **Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment**

Harassment in sport includes any pattern of physical and/or non-physical behaviors that are intended to cause fear, humiliation or annoyance; offend or degrade; create a hostile environment; or reflect discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority or power over an individual participant or group based on gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual expression or mental or physical disability.

Sexual Harassment is a form of harassment. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature may constitute sexual harassment, even if the harasser and the participant being harassed are the same sex and whether or not the participant resists or submits to the harasser. Any conduct of a sexual nature directed by a minor toward an adult or by an adult to a minor is presumed to be unwelcomed and shall constitute sexual harassment.

### **Emotional Misconduct**

Emotional misconduct involves a pattern of deliberate, non-contact behavior that has the potential to cause emotional or psychological harm to a participant. These behaviors may include verbal acts, physical acts or acts that deny attention or support.

Examples of emotional misconduct, without limitation include: a pattern of verbal behaviors that attack a participant (e.g. calling them worthless, fat or disgusting); repeatedly and excessively yelling at a participant(s) in a manner that serves no productive motivational purpose; by physically aggressive behavior (e.g. throwing sport equipment, water bottles or chairs; punching objects).

### **Physical Misconduct**

Physical misconduct means physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes or has the potential to cause the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury. Physical misconduct also includes a physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury. Physical misconduct may also include intentionally hitting or threatening to hit an athlete with objects or sports equipment. In addition, physical misconduct also includes providing alcohol to a participant under age of consent and the providing of illegal drugs or non-prescribed medications to any participant.

### **Sexual Misconduct**

Sexual misconduct of a minor occurs when an adult employee, volunteer, independent contractor, support staff or other participant (hereafter known as "the adult") touches a minor for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either the minor or "the adult", if the touching occurs at the request or with the consent of "the adult".

Sexual misconduct may also occur between adults or to an adult. Sexual misconduct includes sexual interactions that are nonconsensual or accomplished by force or threat of force, or coerced or manipulated, regardless of the age of the participant.

Neither consent of the minor to the sexual contact, mistake as to the age of the participant or the fact that the sexual contact did not take place at a volleyball function are defenses to a complaint of sexual misconduct.

Sexual misconduct may also include non-touching offenses including but not limited to: sexually harassing behaviors; an adult discussing his/her sex life with a minor; an adult asking a minor about his/her sex life; an adult requesting or sending nude or partial dress photo to a minor; exposing minors to pornographic material, sending minors sexually explicit electronic message or photo (e.g. "sexting"); deliberately exposing a minor to sexual acts; or deliberately exposing a minor to inappropriate nudity.

### **Reporting**

All USA Volleyball/Arizona Region member programs are required to have a SafeSport Contact person identified in their club. The Arizona Region has an identified SafeSport contact. USA Volleyball has a SafeSport Director. The USOC has opened the US Center for SafeSport for reporting sexual misconduct. Depending on the actual or perceived violation of SafeSport policies contact the person you would feel most comfortable reporting the violation to. In all cases involving suspicions of child physical or sexual misconduct the report will also involve local law enforcement. Out of respect for the importance of this issue and to encourage honest and effective reporting, knowingly making a false or vindictive report will not be tolerated and may be a violation of USA Volleyball's Code of Conduct.

Arizona Region Contact: Cindy Kirk - [SafeSport@azregionvolleyball.org](mailto:SafeSport@azregionvolleyball.org) or call 480-993-6176.

To Report Sexual Abuse or Misconduct: <https://usavolleyball.org/safesport/> or contact Cindy Kirk

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*USA Volleyball and the Arizona Region have adopted the USOPC's SafeSport Training Materials.*

*These training materials, which include a series of online training videos and other resources, can be found on*

*<https://usavolleyball.org/safesport/> or <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/nqb-services/training/>*

*Everyone is encouraged to take the SafeSport Training and "Make the Commitment to Stop Abuse in Sport".*

*USA Volleyball has created a dedicated webpage of Resources for Athletes*

*<https://usavolleyball.org/safesport/for-athletes/>*

*Be a better sports parent/spectator*

*visit <https://www.loudounlitevb.com/page/show/7667661-sports-parents>*

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Print only this page, sign and submit to the Region

Arizona Region of USA Volleyball  
SafeSport Parent/Participant Form  
2023-2024 Season



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The policies that are currently part of the SafeSport Program are defined on the Arizona Region of USA Volleyball SafeSport Program document and in the USAV SafeSport Handbook and Resource page of the USAV website <https://usavolleyball.org/safesport/>. Those policies include:

- Bullying, Threats and Harassment
- Hazing
- Harassment, including Sexual Harassment
- Emotional Misconduct
- Physical Misconduct
- Sexual Misconduct

While other team members may often be the perpetrator of abuse and/or misconduct, it is a violation of these policies if a coach or other responsible adult knows or should have known of the abusive behavior but takes no action to intervene on the behalf of the targeted participant(s).

Parent education is one of the keys to keeping a program safe from abuse and misconduct. Parents can assist by helping to avoid situations in which misconduct can occur, by being aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and by reporting suspected abuse. Parent Resources can be found at <https://usavolleyball.org/safesport/for-parents/>

Parent/spectator behavior has become a major issue at tournaments. Aggressive language or behavior, belittling and harassing junior players, line judges, scorers, R2 officials, R1 officials, site directors or other tournament personnel is not "part of the game". It is abuse. Visit <https://loudounelitevb.com/page/show/7667661-sports-parents> on how to be a better sports parent. Parent behavior is the number one reason we are losing officials and facilities to host.

USA Volleyball and the Arizona Region have adopted the USOPC's SafeSport training materials. These training materials which include a series of online training videos and other resources can be found on <https://usavolleyball.org/safesport/safesport-training/>. Everyone is encouraged to take the SafeSport Training and Make the Commitment to Stop Abuse in Sport. The SafeSport Training course for credit as a coach/official/chaperone is available after registering through the Member Management System and then accessed through the USAV Academy. USA Volleyball has created a dedicated webpage for Athlete Resources. This can be found at <https://usavolleyball.org/safesport/for-athletes/>

If your chosen club does not talk to you about SafeSport and let you know who their SafeSport Contact is for the club, ASK THEM for their SafeSport policies and the SafeSport Contact for the Club.

Depending on the type of issue, report all actual or perceived violations to your club's SafeSport contact, the Arizona Region SafeSport Contact, USA Volleyball SafeSport and/or local law enforcement.

My signature below indicates that I have read the Arizona Region SafeSport Program document and discussed it with my child who is applying for membership. I understand that this signed form (page 3 of this document) is required to complete my child's membership with the Arizona Region of USA Volleyball.

NOTE: It is now a requirement for all junior players that have turned 18 or will be turning 18 during the current season to take the SafeSport Core Training prior to being placed on a team roster.

**Print Participant Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_