



Background

Congress recently passed the Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, which authorizes the U.S. Center for SafeSport to develop training to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any athlete. Federal law also authorizes the Center to develop policies and procedures (including policies to limit one-on-one interactions) for implementation by national governing bodies (NGBs) to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any athlete. As a part of these policies and procedures, USA Cycling (USAC) and other NGBs and paralympic sport organizations must implement reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interaction between a minor athlete and an adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility under the jurisdiction of an NGB or paralympic sport organization without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult, except under emergency circumstances.

The U.S. Olympic Committee, USA Cycling and NGBs (collectively, "Covered Organizations") are required to follow these Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). USA Cycling is responsible for implementing and monitoring compliance with these policies.

These policies and procedures are promulgated by the Center to assist Covered Organizations in meeting their obligations under federal law.

Required Prevention Policies

1. One-On-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions
2. Massages and Rubdowns/Athletic Training Modalities
3. Locker Room/Changing Facilities
4. Social Media and Electronic Communications
5. Local Travel
6. Team Travel

All six of the policies have direct implications for **USA Cycling coaches who have regular contact with minor athletes** (i.e., athletes under 18 years of age) and **must be followed when you are interacting with minor athletes in conjunction with USA Cycling activities.**

Here is an overview of key policy points.

One-On-One Interaction

- One-on-one interactions **between a minor athlete and Applicable Adult** must be **observable and interruptible** by another adult
- **Meetings between a minor athlete and Applicable Adult** may only occur when **another adult is present** (except for in emergency circumstances)
 - Interactions must be **observable and interruptible** by another adult
 - If in an office or room, **door must remain unlocked and open**
- **Meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers** and a minor athlete may occur in a closed-door setting to protect patient privacy provided that: **(1) the door remains unlocked; (2) another adult is present, (3) the other adult is aware of the meeting, and (4) written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance** by the mental health and/or health care provider, with a copy provided to USA Cycling.

Commented [KE1]: This must be obtained (and provided to USA Cycling) by the mental health/health care provider.



- **Individual training sessions** between an Applicable Adult and minor athlete are permitted if the **training session is observable and interruptible by another adult**. The Applicable Adult is responsible for obtaining legal guardian permission in advance of the session if a training session is not observable and interruptible by another adult. *Permission must be obtained at least every six months*. Parents, guardians and other caretakers must be allowed to observe training sessions.

RECOMMENDED

Applicable Adults should refrain from interacting one-on-one with unrelated minor athletes when such interactions are not observable by another adult.

Massages and Rubdowns/Athletic Training Modalities

Any massage or rubdown/athletic training modality performed on a minor athlete must be (a) conducted in an **open and interruptible location** and (b) have **at least one other adult present**.

RECOMMENDED

Written consent by a legal guardian should be obtained before providing each massage/athletic training modality to a minor athlete and parents should be permitted to observe.

Locker Room/Changing Facilities

- **The use of a recording device's recording capabilities** (including voice recording, still cameras, video cameras) in any changing area **is prohibited**. *Exceptions can be made for media and championship celebrations if approved by USA Cycling and two or more Applicable Adults are present.*
- **Under no circumstances** shall an Applicable Adult **expose** his/her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.
- **Except for athletes on the same team, at no time are Applicable Adults permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a changing facility** (except under emergency circumstances).
- Changing facilities must be **regularly and randomly monitored**

Commented [KE2]: This refers to the situation whereby a team has athletes under 18 and 18+; in this situation, "adults" (athletes 18+) and minors (athletes under 18) may be in the in the changing facility together.

Commented [KE3]: Designate two applicable adults to do this jointly.

RECOMMENDED

Applicable Adults make every effort to recognize when a minor athlete goes to a changing facility and if they do not return in a timely fashion, will check on the minor athlete's whereabouts. Also, parents are discouraged from entering changing facilities.



Travel

Local Travel

- Applicable Adults who are not also acting as a legal guardian **shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete** (absent an emergency) and must have **2+ minor athletes or another adult at all times**, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor's legal guardian in advance to each local travel.

RECOMMENDED

Parents/legal guardians should pick up their minor athlete first and drop them off last in a carpool and parents/legal guardians should complete SafeSport training before providing consent for their minor to travel alone with an Applicable Adult.

Team Travel

Update: Meetings shall be conducted consistent with USA Cycling's policy for one-on-one interactions (i.e., meetings will be observable and interruptible).

Social Media & Electronic Communications

- **All electronic communication** originating from an Applicable Adult to minor athletes **must be professional in nature**
- Open and transparent
 - If an **Applicable Adult with authority over a minor athlete** needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications, **another Applicable Adult will be cc'd in** (this does not have to be the parent; e.g., it can be another adult coach).
 - If a minor athlete communicates with an Applicable Adult privately first, said Applicable Adult will **reply with another Applicable Adult cc'd in**.
 - When an **Applicable Adult communicates electronically to an entire team**, said Applicable Adult will **copy another adult**.
 - Minor athletes may "friend" the organization's official page.
- **Legal guardians may request in writing** that their minor athlete **not be contacted through electronic communication** by the organization or by the Applicable Adults.

Commented [KE4]: The additional "applicable adult" can be an athlete on the team 18+ years of age.

RECOMMENDED

Electronic communication should only occur between 8am-8pm and Applicable Adults should not maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes or accept new personal page requests from minor athletes. Existing social media connections on personal pages with minor athletes should be discontinued.
