

## SafeSport and USA Hockey Policy

### For Players

If you are a 2005 birth year or earlier, you will be required to take the Safe Sport Core Training or Refresher Course prior to participation for the 2022-2023 season.

This link will take you to the website to access required training (you will need a USA Hockey registration to access the course) [SafeSport Program Training \(usahockey.com\)](https://www.usahockey.com/safesport). Select the Core training if you have never taken the initial Core training. If you have already taken the Core training, select the refresher training.

### For Parents/Volunteers

**NEW FOR THE 2022-2023 SEASON!** At least one parent from each household will also complete the SAFESPORT training module. This change is an attempt to help educate parents on policies that players/parents/volunteers/coaches are expected to follow.

Any individual who volunteers for positions at tournaments/home games, also needs to complete the SAFESPORT training. You will need to register on USA Hockey first to receive a confirmation # that is required to access the SAFESPORT training modules.

*See the other attachment in this email for detailed instructions on how to obtain a USA Hockey confirmation # and how to access the SAFESPORT training modules.*

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The official USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook can be found at the following link:  
<https://portal.usahockey.com/forms/usah-safesport-handbook.pdf>

## USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy

USA hockey is committed to creating a safe and fair environment for all participants. Respect for the game, the opponents, coaches, and officials is a critical part of the environment that is created. This Zero Tolerance Policy summarizes required actions to be taken when violations occur.

All players, coaches, officials, team officials, administrators, and parents/spectators must maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games. Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all USA Hockey participants and spectators.

**Players:** A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

- 1) Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- 2) Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.

3) Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

**Coaches:** A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- 1) Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- 2) Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- 3) Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, he/she shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

In addition, any player/coach who uses language that is offensive, hateful, or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game shall be penalized under Rule 601(e.3) resulting in a Match Penalty. Such behavior is reprehensible and has absolutely no place in our game. The offender shall be immediately suspended until a hearing is conducted by the governing USA Hockey Affiliate or Junior League.

**Parents/Spectators:** Parents are expected to be a positive role model by treating all players, coaches, officials and fellow spectators with respect and support. The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/ spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/ spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- 1) Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- 2) Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- 3) Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

### **Reminders**

- **Out-of-program contacts:** Coaches are prohibited from interacting one-on-one with unrelated minor Participants in settings outside of the program that are not observable and interruptible (including, but not limited to, one's home and individual transportation). **All other Applicable Adults are prohibited from interacting one-on-one with unrelated minor Participants** in settings outside of the program that are not observable and interruptible (including, but not limited to, one's home and individual transportation),

unless parent/legal guardian consent is provided in advance. Nonetheless, such arrangements may raise risks of actual or perceived misconduct, and are strongly discouraged.

- **Locker Room Policy:** It is the policy of USA Hockey that all USA Hockey Member Programs must have at least one responsible screened and trained adult (which may include coaches, managers or other volunteers) present at all times and monitoring the locker room during all team events (this includes practice sessions).

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, which includes voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras, increase the risk for some forms of abuse or misconduct. As a result, **the use of any device's recording capabilities in the locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a facility is prohibited.**

- **Social Media and Group Chats Among Players:** Minor hockey players often create group chats through texting or other social media applications. Such group chats are concerning because Minors may engage in bullying behavior, sexual misconduct, harassment, threats, discriminatory and other inappropriate conduct that may violate policies of USA Hockey. **Group chats among Minor hockey players should be supervised by an adult to mitigate these risks.**

It is recommended that all players, parents, volunteers, and coaches review the USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook <https://portal.usahockey.com/forms/usah-safesport-handbook.pdf>