



NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

Effective: April 20, 2020

Updates Approved: August 29, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) joins with the U.S. Center for SafeSport (“The Center”) in its commitment to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct. The policies set forth below are adopted by the NWBA and approved by the U.S. Center for SafeSport. The NWBA requires these policies be adopted and followed by the entire organization which includes its related Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO) (i.e., Programs, Teams, Local Organizing Committees, Sanction Holders, etc.).

EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

A. Adults Required to Complete Mandatory Training

The following adults affiliated with the NWBA (collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of this policy) are required to complete the appropriate U.S. Center for SafeSport Training (i.e., “Core”, “Refresher 1”, “Refresher 2”, or “Refresher 3”) which provides the required child abuse prevention training mandated by federal law:

- All NWBA members that are 18 years or older;
- All NWBA members that are 17 years old must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s “Core” training, with required parental/legal guardian consent, before their 18th birthday;
- All adults engaged in any activities with NWBA members that are minor athletes
 - These adults include, but is not limited to, board of directors, employees, staff, contractors, interns, etc.

1. Core Center for SafeSport Training

All Applicable Adults are required to:

- complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s “Core Center for SafeSport Training” and/or the appropriate Refresher Training in subsequent years.
- complete the training within 10 days of submitting their NWBA Individual Membership Registration and prior to engaging in any activities with the NWBA.
 - Each SafeSport training is valid for the NWBA Individual Membership Registration season in which it is completed.
 - For example, John Smith completes the Center’s “Core Center for SafeSport Training” on September 2, 2020 as part of the 2020-2021 NWBA Membership Registration so his training is valid through the season, and he will be required to complete his 2021-2022 NWBA Membership Registration before September 1, 2021 and take the “Refresher 1” Training in order to remain compliant with SafeSport requirements.

2. Refresher Training(s)

The year following the completion date of the “Core Center for SafeSport Training”, all Applicable Adults are required to complete a refresher training. “Refresher 1” is required to be completed no later than one year following the completion date of the “Core Center for SafeSport Training”. “Refresher 2” is required to be completed no later than one year following the completion date of “Refresher 1”. The U.S. Center for SafeSport will provide “Refresher 3” in September 2020 and then the training cycle will repeat beginning with the “Core Center for SafeSport Training” then “Refresher 1”, etc.

3. Access

The Center’s online training or the Center’s approved in-person training can be accessed upon completion of a NWBA Individual Membership Registration for the current season.

- Adult Athlete Individual Membership Registration

National Wheelchair Basketball Association: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

These members can directly access the Training by clicking the SafeSport "Complete Certification" button provided in the eligibility/welcome email received within 24 hours after submitting an NWBA membership registration.

- **Junior Athlete and Non-Athlete Individual Membership Registration(s)**
These members will receive an email within 24 hours of submitting their membership registration with the instructions and the access code to complete the training.

All NWBA members will be encouraged to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport training as part of the NWBA membership registration process as not to impact ability to compete/participate, due to non-compliance.

4. Fees

The fees associated with completing the U.S. Center for SafeSport's "Core Center for SafeSport Training" (i.e., the Center's online training or the Center's approved in-person training) as well as the "Refresher Training(s)" are currently included with the annual NWBA Membership Dues.

B. Minor athletes who become adult athletes

Minor Athletes who reach the age of majority (i.e. 18 years of age) must adhere to the provisions found in these MAAP policies when interacting with minor athletes who are 14 years of age or younger.

Minor Athletes who reach the age of majority and then obtain a position of authority that presents a power imbalance, such as becoming a coach or official, must also comply with these MAAP policies regardless of the age of the minor athletes with whom they will interact.

C. Information for Minor/Youth Athletes

The U.S. Center for SafeSport provides training for Youth Athletes. These free online age-appropriate trainings are designed as an introduction for minor athletes and their parents/legal guardians to understand the importance of positive, welcoming environments in sports, where misconduct like bullying or abuse is less likely to happen, and to know where to report abuse, should it occur.

[Click here for the SafeSport Training for Minor/Youth Athletes Information flyer](#)
[Click here to access the SafeSport Training for Minor/Youth Athlete options](#)

D. Information for Parents/Legal Guardians

To best protect athletes from abuse or misconduct in our sport, it is critical that parents/legal guardians of minor athletes are familiar with the SafeSport Policies and help to ensure that interactions between their children and adults involved with NWBA programs are in compliance with the MAAPP. The NWBA strongly encourages parents/legal guardians to make their children aware of the SafeSport Policies. Parents/Legal guardians should not permit their children to participate in interactions that are not in compliance with SafeSport Policies.

National Wheelchair Basketball Association: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

The U.S. Center for SafeSport provides a Parent Toolkit as well as a free online parent training titled, “Parent’s Guide to Misconduct in Sport”.

[Click here for the Parent Toolkit](#)

[Click here to access the “Parent’s Guide to Misconduct in Sport” training](#)

E. Exemptions

Exemptions from this Education & Training 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, ngbservices@safesport.org, or (720) 531-0344.

The Center will work with the NWBA regarding appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities to satisfy the training requirements herein.

REQUIRED PREVENTION POLICIES

The majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations. By reducing such interactions between children and adults, programs reduce the risk of child sexual abuse. However, one-on-one time with trusted adults is also healthy and valuable for a child. Policies concerning one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships.

All of the Policies outlined in this section shall apply to the following adults affiliated with the NWBA (collectively “Applicable Adult” for the purposes of these policies):

- All NWBA members that are 18 years or older;
- All NWBA members that are 17 years old must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s “Core” training, with required parental/legal guardian consent, before their 18th birthday;
- All adults engaged in any activities with NWBA members that are minor athletes
 - These adults include, but is not limited to, board of directors, employees, staff, contractors, interns, etc.

The NWBA requires these policies be adopted and followed by the entire organization which includes its related Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO) (i.e., Programs, Teams, Local Organizing Committees, Sanction Holders, etc.). For the purposes of these policies this is collectively outlined as the “NWBA and/or LAO” throughout this section.

ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

A. Observable and interruptible

- One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the NWBA and/or LAO’s jurisdiction are permitted if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult.
- One-on-one interactions between minor athletes and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the NWBA and/or LAO’s jurisdiction are prohibited, except in the circumstances described in “C” of this section below and under emergency circumstances.

B. Meetings

- Meetings between Applicable Adults and minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under the NWBA and/or LAO’s jurisdiction may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult.
- If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office at a facility partially or fully under the NWBA and/or LAO’s jurisdiction, the door to the office must remain

unlocked and open. If available, it will occur in an office that has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.

C. Meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers

If a mental health care professional and/or health care provider meets with minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under the NWBA and/or LAO's jurisdiction, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy provided that: (1) the door remains unlocked; (2) another adult is present at the facility; (3) the other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring; and (4) written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance by the mental health care professional and/or health care provider, with a copy provided to the NWBA and/or LAO.

D. Individual training sessions

Individual training sessions between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted at a facility partially or fully under the NWBA and/or LAO's jurisdiction if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. It is the responsibility of the Applicable Adult to obtain the written permission of the minor's legal guardian in advance of the individual training session if the individual training session is not observable and interruptible by another adult. Permission for individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.

MASSAGES AND RUBDOWNS/ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES

A. Massage or rubdown/athletic training modality

Any massage or rubdown/athletic training modality performed at a facility or a training or competition venue must be conducted in an open and interruptible location. Any massage of a minor athlete must be done with at least one other adult present and must never be done with only the minor athlete and the person performing the massage or rubdown/athletic training modality in the room.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

A. Non-exclusive facility

If using a facility not fully under the NWBA and/or LAO's jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, Applicable Adults are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth herein.

B. Use of recording devices

Use of any device's (including a cell phone's) recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras in locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a facility under the NWBA and/or LAO's jurisdiction is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by the NWBA and/or LAO and two or more Applicable Adults are present.

C. Undress

Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Applicable Adult at a facility under the NWBA and/or LAO's jurisdiction intentionally expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.

D. One-on-one interactions

- Except for athletes on the same team, at no time are unrelated Applicable Adults permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area when at a facility under NWBA and/or LAO partial or full jurisdiction, except under emergency circumstances.
- If the NWBA and/or LAO is using a facility that only has a single locker room or changing area, separate times will be designated for use by Applicable Adults, if any.

E. Monitoring

The use of locker rooms and changing areas at facilities under the NWBA and/or LAO's jurisdiction will be regularly and randomly monitored to ensure compliance with these policies.

SOCIAL MEDIA & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

A. Content

All electronic communication originating from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

B. Open and transparent

- Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), another Applicable Adult or the minor's legal guardian will be copied.
- If a minor athlete communicates to the Applicable Adult (with authority over the minor athlete) privately first, said Applicable Adult should respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another Applicable Adult or the minor's legal guardian.
- When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to the entire team, said Applicable Adult will copy another adult.
- Minor athletes may "friend" the NWBA and/or LAO's official page.

C. Requests to discontinue

Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by the NWBA and/or LAO or by the Applicable Adults subject to this policy. The NWBA and/or LAO will abide by any such request that their minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

LOCAL TRAVEL

A. Transportation

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

TEAM TRAVEL

A. Team/competition travel

When only one Applicable Adult and one minor athlete travel to a competition, the minor athlete must have his/her legal guardian's written permission in advance and for each competition to travel alone with said Applicable Adult.

B. Hotel rooms

Applicable Adults shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor athlete (unless the Applicable Adult is the legal guardian, sibling, or is otherwise related to the minor athlete). However, a parent/legal guardian may consent to such an arrangement in advance and in writing. Furthermore, a parent/legal guardian may consent in advance and in writing to the minor athlete sharing a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an adult athlete.

C. Meetings

Meetings shall be conducted consistent with the NWBA and/or LAO's policy for one-on-one interactions (i.e., any such meeting shall be observable and interruptible).

REPORTING POLICY

An effective reporting policy is a key part of the SafeSport program and crucial to preventing abuse.

A. Response & Resolution Process

The U.S. Center for SafeSport Response & Resolution Process is posted on the SafeSport page of the NWBA website: <https://www.nwba.org/safesport>

B. Duty to Report

All individuals, regardless of membership with the NWBA, are encouraged to report suspected SafeSport violations. All NWBA directors, officers, employees and members are REQUIRED to report a suspected SafeSport violation. Suspected child abuse and/or sexual misconduct is required to be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport AND local law enforcement. Individuals should not attempt to conduct their own investigation. There are no fees for filing a SafeSport report with the U.S. Center for SafeSport or the NWBA.

1. U.S. Center for SafeSport Jurisdiction and Reporting

The U.S. Center for SafeSport handles all reports of sexual misconduct. Reports to the U.S. Center for SafeSport should include suspicious or alleged situations of sexual misconduct, such as child sex abuse, non-consensual sexual conduct, sexual harassment or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power (i.e., an inappropriate relationship between a Coach and an Athlete, regardless of age). Reports to the U.S. Center for SafeSport may be made anonymously.

- ONLINE: Go to uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/ to submit an alleged violation report involving sexual abuse or misconduct to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
- OR
- PHONE: Call the U.S. Center for SafeSport at: (720) 531-0340 to submit an alleged violation report involving sexual abuse or misconduct.

2. Local Law Enforcement Reporting

Pursuant to federal law, reports to local law enforcement should include suspicious or alleged situations of sexual misconduct, such as child sex abuse, non-consensual sexual conduct, sexual harassment or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power (i.e., an inappropriate relationship between a Coach and an Athlete, regardless of age). Reports of the suspected or alleged abuse should be made to local law enforcement and/or the state's designated agency within 24 hours.

State reporting laws:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws/policies/can/reporting/>

3. National Wheelchair Basketball Association Jurisdiction and Reporting

All questions or concerns regarding possible SafeSport violations other than sexual abuse

National Wheelchair Basketball Association: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

or misconduct, such as failure to comply with the policies (i.e., MAAPP and/or the SafeSport Code), emotional or physical misconduct, bullying, hazing or harassment should be made directly to the NWBA. Reports to the NWBA may be made anonymously.

- ONLINE: Go to www.nwba.com/safesport to submit a SafeSport alleged violation report for anything other than sexual abuse or misconduct to the NWBA.
OR
- PHONE: Call the NWBA at: (719) 266-4082 to submit a SafeSport alleged violation report for anything other than sexual abuse or misconduct.

Reporting as outlined in the NWBA Policies and Procedures will be implemented as part of this policy and can be found at: <https://www.nwba.org/about>.