



Athlete Safety Procedures for USA Fencing Division Event Organizers

USA Fencing is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for athletes' physical, emotional and social development, and to ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct. It takes a team effort to accomplish this mission. Accordingly, USA Fencing has developed procedures to be implemented by division event organizers to ensure a safe environment for our fencers. It is the responsibility of each event organizer to monitor and enforce these requirements, with support from USA Fencing as needed. This procedural document details athlete safety requirements as well as resources, strategies and additional information to help event organizers meet the requirements.

1. **Education and Training:** All individuals who are part of the division event and who have regular contact and/or authority over minor athletes must hold a current SafeSport training certification and have passed the background screen process. SafeSport training must be completed annually and is for the duration of a season, which ends on July 31 annually. Background screens are valid for two years. These individuals include event officials such as referees, staff, volunteers, armorers and sports medicine staff.

Implementation: All individuals working or volunteering at the event should be current in the following:

- 1) USA Fencing membership (Coach, +CheckEd or +Coach)
- 2) SafeSport training
- 3) Background screen

To ensure all individuals working or volunteering are compliant, their status must be confirmed in the SafeSport database. To do so, enter the member's name into the [SafeSport member list](https://member.usafencing.org/search/safesport) at <https://member.usafencing.org/search/safesport>. If the individual's name is not found, he or she is NOT SafeSport compliant and may not work at the event (Please Note: Minors do not need to be SafeSport trained).

2. **Communication and Reporting:** Prior to each event, communication must go out to all participants and event officials informing them of the MAAPP requirements. This communication must include protocol for reporting MAAPP violations.

Implementation: Event organizers must communicate to all participants and officials, no earlier than 30 days prior to the start of the event, that they must adhere to the USA Fencing MAAPP for the duration of the event. This communication must contain a link to the [MAAPP](#). Event organizers must be able to provide proof of this communication if requested by USA Fencing.

The communication also should contain a link to the SafeSport reporting form as this is the means for members to report MAAPP, SafeSport Policy or Code of Conduct violations ([USA Fencing SafeSport Reporting Form](#) and [USA Fencing Code of Conduct Violation Form](#)).

Additionally, event organizers must post the MAAPP to the public tournament page on AskFred for each event.

3. **Quality Control System:** Event organizers will be required to ensure any participants or event officials are not currently listed as suspended or banned from USA Fencing.

Implementation: Any banned or suspended members must be prevented from registering for the event as he or she will not have a current USA Fencing membership. To confirm a member's status, a current Suspended and Banned Members List can be found [here](#) or by clicking on the Current Member List located under current members in the membership section of the USA Fencing website. This list should be referenced if there are any questions or concerns.

4. **MAAPP Risk Assessment:** Event organizers should proactively complete a risk assessment related to MAAPP criteria and take steps to eliminate vulnerabilities.

Implementation: Event organizers should complete a risk assessment prior to the event to eliminate and/or lessen risk related to (where applicable):

- One-on-one interactions
- Medical treatment
- Locker rooms and changing areas
- Social media and electronic communications
- Local and team travel

Event organizers are encouraged to post around the competition venue downloadable signage of the MAAPP and Codes of Conduct that can be found on the [USA Fencing SafeSport page](#).