



September 28, 2018

North Texas Soccer Member Associations:

This is a follow-up to our classroom session at the 2018 North Texas Soccer AGM. **Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017** was signed into law and became effective immediately. The legislation is available for download [HERE](#) and the U.S. Center for SafeSport has released a fact sheet about the legislation, which can be found [HERE](#).

We wanted to provide additional details on the specific mandatory reporting of child abuse requirements included in the new legislation:

The bill amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 to **extend the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to all adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes**. These individuals are called “covered individuals” in the new legislation.

- Child abuse is defined as physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent treatment of a child.
- Per current federal regulations, reports of child abuse should be made to the local law enforcement agency or local child protection services agency that has jurisdiction to investigate reports of child abuse or to project child abuse victims or to the FBI. These regulations have not yet been updated to reflect the recent change to the law. Until such time as the regulations are updated, North Texas members will make reports to (1) local law enforcement where any alleged incident took place to the extent it can be determined and the incident occurred in the United States, (2) local law enforcement where the victim resides if different than (1), and (3) the FBI.
- An individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child sexual abuse is subject to criminal penalties including fines and up to one (1) year in jail.
- These obligations are in addition to any State law requirements that an individual may have in a particular jurisdiction.

If you make a report of child abuse to local law enforcement, as stated above, you must also communicate this report to [Child Protective Services](#), [U.S. Soccer integrity hotline](#) or 312-528-7004, [U.S. Center for SafeSport](#), North Texas Soccer at safesportreport@ntxsoccer.org and your Member Association and/or Club Risk Manager.

US Soccer has been working closely with various congressional offices, the USOC and the National Governing Bodies of other sports. We expect US Soccer to continue to provide direction to all of their membership. When they do, we will be sure to share this information with all of the NTSSA membership too. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the North Texas State Soccer.

Thank you,

Janet Campbell
President

Thank you,

David Messersmith
Executive Director