

USA FENCING SAFESPORT HANDBOOK

April 15, 2019 Update

As a member National Governing Body of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”), and pursuant to federal law, USA Fencing is required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the USOPC and of the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the “Center”), which has promulgated its “SafeSport Code for the US Olympic and Paralympic Movement” (the “Code”). Pursuant to USA Fencing’s Bylaws as amended effective July 31, 2017, the Code superseded and replaced the USA Fencing SafeSport Policy.

Effective April 15, 2019, the U.S. Center for SafeSport issued a revised Code, which can be found [here](#) and supersedes and replaces previous versions of the Code.

June 3, 2019 Update

Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy replaces Proactive Policies

Dec 31, 2019
Updates to BGS

April 15, 2021
Move Disciplinary Proceedings to Athlete Handbook

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement is committed to creating and maintaining a sport community where all persons who participate in sport programs and activities can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of misconduct. As a member National Governing Body of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”), and pursuant to federal law, USA Fencing is required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the USOPC and of the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the “Center”), which has promulgated its “SafeSport Code for the US Olympic and Paralympic Movement” (the “Code”). Pursuant to USA Fencing’s Bylaws as amended effective July 31, 2017, the Code superseded and replaced the USA Fencing SafeSport Policy, which has been amended and restated as set forth herein (the “Handbook”). This handbook includes additional SafeSport related policies, procedures and requirements that are important to creating and maintaining a SafeSport environment. 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. USA Fencing is committed to improving the development and safety of athletes and participants involved in sport.

I. WHAT TO REPORT, AND TO WHOM

Every Adult Participant *shall* report:

1. Observed violations of this Policy, the Code and the MAAPP.
2. Observations or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse.

Every constituent *may* report: suspected violations of this Policy or the Code,

A. Sexual misconduct

1. Conduct by an Adult Participant that could constitute sexual misconduct must be reported to the Center as set forth in the *SafeSport Practices and Procedures for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement* (Appendix A to the Code). USA Fencing will also accept reports of Sexual Misconduct and pass them along to the Center.
2. If an allegation involves child abuse or neglect, the matter must also be referred to the appropriate legal authorities.

B. Other misconduct

1. Emotional and Physical Misconduct

Conduct by an Adult Participant that could constitute Emotional or Physical Misconduct under this Policy, including Bullying Behaviors, Hazing and Harassment, should be reported to USA Fencing.

2. Proactive Policies

Conduct by an Adult Participant that could violate a proactive policy should be reported to USA Fencing.

C. Retaliation

1. Sexual misconduct

Retaliation related to an allegation of sexual misconduct should be reported to the Center. If reported to USA Fencing, then USA Fencing shall report the alleged retaliation to the Center.

2. Other misconduct

Retaliation related to an allegation of other misconduct— Emotional Misconduct, Physical Misconduct, Bullying Behaviors, Hazing, Harassment or proactive policies as contained in the MAAPP— should be reported to USA Fencing.

II. USA FENCING SCREENING AND BACKGROUND CHECK PROGRAM

A. Screening and Background Check Program

The purposes of USA Fencing’s Background Check Program are as follows:

- Protect USA Fencing athletes and participants from known offenders so that such known offenders do not have access to USA Fencing members in connection with USA Fencing sanctioned events or activities.
- Deter offenders that have not been caught from joining USA Fencing programs.
- Protect USA Fencing’s reputation as a sport where participants are protected against abuse.
- Help protect USA Fencing, USA Fencing Clubs and their respective employees and volunteers from liability that could arise from allowing a previous offender to have access to athletes and participants.

1. USA Fencing Screening Policies

USA Fencing’s policy includes set criteria for which a person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or volunteer of USA Fencing or USA Fencing Clubs. Under the policy, USA Fencing will not authorize or sanction any employee or volunteer who has routine access to athletes and participants unless that person consents to be screened and passes a criminal background screen conducted by USA Fencing through the Coach, +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade Member programs.

USA Fencing shall conduct screening of its employees, member volunteers and independent contractors as follows:

- All members of the USA Fencing Board of Directors, each member of a USA Fencing committee/task force and division officers shall be screened through the Coach, +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade Member programs upon their election or appointment to the position and then shall be re-screened every two (2) years. This includes a Supplement background check after one year.
- All USA Fencing employees shall be screened as a condition of their employment and then shall be re-screened every two (2) years. This includes a Supplement background check after one year.
- All coaches, instructors and other staff for any USA Fencing National Team event shall be screened as a condition of being selected for such position or shall have been screened by USA Fencing within the past two (2) years.
- All individuals who are acting as coaches or instructors of athletes or participants at USA Fencing clubs, their events or activities, or at USA Fencing sanctioned events or activities, shall be screened through the Coach Member, or +Coach upgrade, Member programs.
- All persons acting as officials or administrative personnel at USA Fencing sanctioned events shall be screened through the Coach, +Coach or +CheckEd upgrade Member programs.
- All volunteers at USA Fencing sanctioned events who will have frequent contact with

athletes and participants shall be screened through the Coach , +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade Member programs program.

2. USA Fencing Club Screening Policies

As a condition of its affiliation with USA Fencing, each Member and Affiliate Club must be in compliance with the requirements set forth below:

All Club employees and independent contractors, including but not limited to coaches and instructors, must be USA Fencing Coach, +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade prior to such individuals having access to athletes and participants

In addition, all Club owners, directors, managers, and program administrators, and all other affiliated persons having frequent contact with athletes or participants at the Club or its events or activities, must be USA Fencing Coach, +Coach upgrade or +CheckEd upgrade.

An approved screen of Club personnel through those programs shall be valid for two years. All previously screened persons must complete a new background screen every two (2) years. This includes a Supplement background check after one year.

3. Search Criteria

- a) Social Security Number validation;
- b) Name and address history records;
- c) Two independent Multi-Jurisdictional Criminal Database searches covering 50 states plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico;
- d) Federal District Courts search for each name used and district where the individual currently lives or has lived during the past seven years, going back the length of time records are available and reportable;
- e) County Criminal Records for each name used and county where the individual currently lives or has lived during the past seven years, going back the length of time records are available and reportable for each county searched;
- f) National Sex Offender Registry database search of all available states, plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico;
- g) Multiple National Watch Lists;
- h) SafeSport Disciplinary Records;
- i) Comprehensive International Records search U.S. citizens who have lived outside of the United States for six consecutive months in any one country, during the past seven years;
- j) Motor Vehicle Records of at least a 3-year history in the state of licensure; (if driving is required for position).

4. Supplemental Background Checks. All supplemental off-year background check screens will be conducted using at least the following search components:

- a) Multi-Jurisdictional criminal database covering 50 states plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico
- b) Sex Offender Registry database searches of all available states, plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico; and
- c) SafeSport Disciplinary Records.

5. USA Fencing Criminal Background Check Disqualification Criteria

Any background check that results in a report of a disposition or resolution of a criminal proceeding, other than an adjudication of not guilty, for any of the below criminal offenses will be issued a red light determination:

- a. Any felony (any crime punishable by confinement greater than one year)
- b. Any misdemeanor involving:
 - i. All sexual crimes, criminal offenses or a sexual nature to include but not limited to; rape, child molestation, sexual battery, lewd conduct, possession and distribution of child pornography, possession and distribution of obscene material, prostitution, indecent exposure, public indecency, and any sex offender registrant (any participant that has been convicted of, received an imposition of a deferred sentence for, or any plea of guilty or no contest for any sexual crime, criminal offense of a sexual nature, and/or sex offender registrant must be reported);
 - ii. Any drug related offenses;
 - iii. Harm to a minor and vulnerable person, including, but not limited to, offenses such as child abandonment, child endangerment/neglect/abuse, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and DUI with a minor;
 - iv. Violence against a person (including crimes involving firearms and domestic violence);
 - v. Stalking, harassment, blackmail, violation of a protection order and/or threats;
 - vi. Destruction of property, including arson, vandalism, and criminal mischief; and
 - vii. Animal abuse or neglect.

Secondary Review of Responsible Sport Organization Determinations: USA Fencing will comply with the USOPC Background Check Policy and Procedures as it relates to situations under which a secondary review of USA Fencing's determination will be conducted by the USOPC. ([USOPC BG Policy](#) and [USOPC BG Procedures](#))

6. USA Fencing Background Check Appeal Procedures

All appeals of "red light" or "adverse action letter" background checks shall be referred to the SafeSport Coordinator (SSC) for initial evaluation, and when appropriate, for further action in accordance with USA Fencing policies and procedures. In the discharge of these duties, the SSC shall consult with the Chief Executive Officer and USAF legal counsel as he or she deems appropriate. If the SSC is the subject of the complaint, the President shall serve the functions assigned by this policy to the SSC.

Any member of the USAF or applicant for USAF membership who is denied admission or appointment to any position on the basis of a "red light" background check or an "adverse action letter" predicated

on the results of a background check shall have a right to seek review of that decision in accordance with the procedures here specified.

1. Should any individual receive a "red light" finding or an "adverse action letter" based on a USAF required background check and wish to contest any resulting USAF decision to deny his or her application for membership or to deny him or her any USAF position or appointment, that individual has a right to a review of the denial. The person who seeks review is referred to herein as "the appellant." The appellant may act on his or her own behalf during the appeal or may be assisted by a representative.
2. Unless otherwise notified by the USAF that a shorter period is required because of nomination deadlines dictated by the USAF, the USOPC, the FIE or by prevailing circumstances, the appellant shall have 10 business days from the date that he or she is informed of the decision from which the appeal is being taken to notify the Safe Sport Coordinator of the appeal.
3. The SSC shall review any evidence and arguments submitted by the appellant or on his or her behalf and shall undertake such additional investigation as the SSC believes necessary to make an initial determination of the merits of the appeal. Upon reaching that determination, the SSC may inform the appellant thereof and shall ascertain from the appellant whether he or she wishes to proceed to a hearing by the Board of Directors.
4. If the appellant wishes to proceed, and the Board has previously provided for the hearing of background check appeals by a committee of the Board, and has constituted and populated such a committee, the SSC shall refer the matter to that committee and shall forward to them, his/her file in the matter, including (a) all statements, documents and other evidence obtained by him, including the background check findings; (b) the arguments and evidence submitted by the appellant or on his behalf, and (c) the SSC's recommendation whether the decision being appealed should be upheld or overruled and the reasons underlying that recommendation. If the committee is not in place, the matter will be referred directly to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.
5. The designated committee shall review the file. The decision shall be reversed if a majority of the members of the Board (or of the designated committee) present and voting concludes either (a) by a preponderance of the evidence that the background check results were based on erroneous information; or (b) that to a reasonable degree of certainty the applicant does not pose a danger to the individuals with whom he or she is expected to come into contact by virtue of the class of membership, the position or the appointment that was denied on the basis of the "red light" or "adverse action letter." If the designated committee is not unanimous in their ruling, the review will be done by the USA Fencing Board of Directors.
6. The SSC shall communicate the results of the appeal to the appellant with copies to the CEO, legal counsel and any other person or organization necessary to effect any change in the appellant's status resulting from the decision on appeal.
7. If the appellant disagrees with the outcome of the appeal, he or she may file a demand for arbitration with the American Arbitration Association as provided in the Bylaws. The award obtained in the arbitration shall be final and binding on all parties.

8. The intentional submission of false information or evidence in connection with any proceeding provided herein shall be grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with USAF disciplinary procedures.

III. USA Fencing and U.S. Center for SafeSport Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) and USA Fencing are committed to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct.

Authority: prevention training and policies

Federal law authorizes the Center to address the risk of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. See [Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017](#).

Prevention Training

Federal law authorizes the Center to develop training to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete. At a minimum, USA Fencing *must offer and give this training related to the prevention of child abuse to: (1) adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors and (2) subject to parental consent, to members who are minors.*

Prevention Policies

Federal law also authorizes the Center to develop policies and procedures for implementation by USA Fencing to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete. As a part of these policies and procedures, USA Fencing must implement *reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult, except under emergency circumstances.*

Application and implementation

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and national governing bodies (collectively, “Covered Organizations”), including USA Fencing, are required to follow these Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies that have been developed by the Center. USA Fencing is responsible for implementing and monitoring compliance with these policies.

TERMINOLOGY

Covered Organizations: The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and a national governing body.

Jurisdiction: Authority or control.

Local Affiliated Organization (LAO): A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with a NGB or that is affiliated with a NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of a NGB. A LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of a NGB.

Minor, child or minor athlete: An amateur athlete under 18 years of age.

National Governing Body (NGB): An amateur sports organization affiliated with a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games, which is also recognized by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur

Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501-220529. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management and/or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

PART I

EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

A. Adults Required to Complete Mandatory Training

The following adults at USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs shall complete training concerning child abuse prevention:

- Adult members at USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
- An adult authorized by USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor
- Adult staff and board members of USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs.

To satisfy the training obligations, USA Fencing shall adhere to parts A.1, A.2, and B, below, of this Education & Training Policy. The Center's "Core Center for SafeSport Training" provides the required child abuse prevention training mandated by federal law.

1. Core Center for SafeSport Training

The above listed adults are required to complete training concerning child abuse prevention. No later than March 23, 2019, the above listed adults at USA Fencing who are not currently in good standing with their NGB due to failure to complete required training must complete 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).

- Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins; or
- Within the first 45 days of initial membership, or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy.

Training other than the Core Center for SafeSport Training does not satisfy this policy. USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs may provide training *in addition* to the Core Center for SafeSport Training. However, if an organization provides additional training, it shall not refer to such training as "SafeSport" Training.

2. Refresher Course(s)

A refresher course is required on an annual basis (e.g., membership year) effective the calendar year following the completion of the Core Center for SafeSport Training for each of the above listed adults at USA Fencing. Policies, procedures and/or communications to said adults concerning refresher course requirements must be updated by September 1, 2019.

B. Minor Athletes

USA Fencing shall, subject to parental consent, annually offer and give training to members who are minors regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse. USA Fencing shall track:

- A description of the training(s);
- The date the training(s) was offered and given; and
- A description of how the training(s) was offered and given.

C. 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 to USA Fencing.

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

PART II

REQUIRED PREVENTION POLICIES

USA Fencing is required to implement the following athlete prevention policies:

- A. One-on-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions: Covered
Organizations are required to establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions, as set forth in federal law.
- B. Medical Treatment
- C. Locker rooms and changing areas
- D. Social media and electronic communications
- E. Local travel
- F. Team travel.

These policies shall apply to:

- 1) Adult (age 18 or older) USA Fencing members at any facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs;
- 2) Adult USA Fencing members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors;
- 3) Adults authorized by USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor; and
- 4) Adult staff and board members of USA Fencing.
 (“Applicable Adults”)

Minor athletes who become adult athletes

- With the exception of athletes who are members of the same team, minor Athletes who reach the age of majority (i.e. 18 years of age) must adhere to the provisions found in the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies when interacting on a regular basis 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 prevention policies regardless of the age of the minor athletes with whom they will interact.

A. ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

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.

1. 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 that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs are permitted if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult unless meeting with a Mental Health Care Professional and/or Health Care Provider (see 3 below) or under emergency circumstances.

2. Meetings

- Meetings between Applicable Adults and minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed by, and at an interruptible distance from, another adult.
- If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office at a facility under the jurisdiction of USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs, 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.

3. 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 jurisdiction of USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs, 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 USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, as the case may be.

4. Individual training sessions

Individual training sessions between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted at a facility under the jurisdiction of USA Fencing or any of its divisions or member clubs 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 athlete's legal guardian in advance of the individual training session **if** the individual training session will not be observable and interruptible by another adult. Such written permission for such individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe all training sessions of their related minor athletes.

B. MEDICAL TREATMENT

- 1) Only Applicable Adults (as defined above) who hold a current license or certification as a healthcare provider (such as MD, DO, DC, certified athletic trainer (ATC), physical or occupational therapist (PT, OT) or massage therapist (LMT, CMT)) may provide medical treatment to USA Fencing members at events or activities conducted or sanctioned by USA Fencing or its divisions or member clubs. "Treatment" includes but is not limited to: manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, splinting, taping, massage and emergency response care.
- 2) Persons who do not meet the licensure and/or certification requirements set forth above shall not, at any time or place, provide Treatment to USA Fencing members, in connection with any competition, club, camp or training activity conducted or sanctioned by USA Fencing or its divisions or member clubs. Organizers of any such competition, club, camp or training activity, including but not limited to owners or managers of USA Fencing member clubs, shall not authorize or knowingly allow Treatments to be given, except in accordance with this Policy.
- 3) At a minimum, individuals receiving Treatment will wear athletic shorts, and females will also wear a bra or top. In all cases, individuals will be appropriately draped during any Treatment.

- 4) It is recommended that all Treatments, with the exception of rubdowns and massage (see below), be conducted in an observable and interruptible public area. When this is not possible at least one individual age 18 or older, in addition to the person administering Treatment, must be present to observe.
- 5) Any massage or rubdown of a minor athlete performed at a facility or a training or competition venue must be conducted in an open and interruptible location and must be performed with at least one other adult present to observe.
- 6) Nothing in this Policy on Medical Treatments shall prohibit minor Treatments of athletes (such as rubdown or application of band-aids) by related persons (such as a family member, coach or teammate) in exigent circumstances (such as to alleviate a muscle cramp, abrasion or blister) in a public setting when a person designated in Section 1 of this Section B is not immediately available. Any such massage must be conducted in an open area in the presence and view of other individuals age 18 or older.

C LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

1. Non-exclusive facility

This policy applies to all USA Fencing members, including but not limited to Applicable Adults and minor athletes, at any competition, club, camp, training or other activity conducted or sanctioned by USA Fencing or its divisions or member clubs, whether or not the facility is under the exclusive jurisdiction of USA Fencing or one of its divisions or member clubs (e.g., training, camp or competition venues), or is also used by non-fencing constituents.

2. 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, restrooms, changing areas, or similar spaces is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by USA Fencing or the relevant division or member club, and two or more Applicable Adults are present.

3. Undress

Under no circumstances shall an Applicable Adult at a Club facility under our organization's jurisdiction intentionally display his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to an unrelated minor athlete.

4. 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, except under emergency circumstances.
- If there are instances in which an Applicable Adult and a minor athlete may be in a single locker room or changing area alone at the same time, separate times will be designated for use by Applicable Adults, if any, to ensure an Applicable Adult is not alone with a minor athlete.

5. Monitoring

All USA Fencing members, clubs and divisions shall, in conducting any competition, club, camp, training or other activity subject to these policies, regularly and randomly monitor the use of locker rooms and changing areas to ensure compliance.

D. SOCIAL MEDIA & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

1. Content

All electronic communications from Applicable Adults to unrelated minor athletes, over whom they have authority, must be professional in nature.

2. Open and transparent

- Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult having authority over minor athletes wishes to communicate directly with such minor athlete via electronic means (including social media), then he or she must copy another Applicable Adult or the minor's parent(s) or legal guardian on all such communications.
- If a minor athlete initiates private electronic communication with an Applicable Adult who has authority over the minor athlete, then, on any response and follow-up communication, the Applicable Adult must copy to another Applicable Adult or the minor's parent(s) or legal guardian.
- When an Applicable Adult having authority over a group of minor athletes communicates electronically to the group or any number thereof, then said Applicable Adult must copy another Applicable Adult.
- Nothing herein shall prohibit minor athletes from joining, following or "friending" the official page of USA Fencing or any affiliated organization or Applicable Adult, nor shall it prohibit or restrict any affiliated organization or Affiliated Adult from posting otherwise appropriate messages or information to the entire membership or following of the page.

3. Requests to discontinue

Any parent or legal guardian of a minor athlete may request in writing that his or her minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by any organization or Applicable Adult subject to this policy. The relevant organization or Applicable Adult, as the case may be, must abide by any such request, absent emergency circumstances.

4. Monitoring

Each organization and Applicable Adult subject to these policies shall monitor his, her or its social media pages and remove any posts that violate USA Fencing's policies, practices or codes of conduct.

E. LOCAL TRAVEL

Local travel consists of travel to training, practice, competition or other fencing-related activity that occurs within driving distance and does not include related overnight stay(s).

Except in an emergency, an Applicable Adult shall not travel locally, alone with an unrelated minor athlete, i.e., one for whom the adult is not a parent or legal guardian. In addition to the unrelated minor, the Applicable Adult and unrelated minor must be accompanied by at least one other minor athlete or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the unrelated minor athlete's parent/legal guardian in advance of each local travel. The parent waiver can be in the form of text, email or written document.

- In traveling locally with one or more minor athletes, Applicable Adults shall abide by the above policies on one-on-one interactions, medical treatment, locker rooms and changing, and electronic communications.
- Applicable Adults who travel locally with unrelated minor athletes must first successfully pass the screening and training (e.g., Safe Sport) requirements required by the policies of USA Fencing.
- Parents/legal guardians must receive education concerning child abuse prevention before providing consent for their minor athlete to travel alone with an Applicable Adult who is subject to these policies.

F. OVERNIGHT AND TEAM TRAVEL

Overnight travel consists of travel to training, practice, camp, competition or other fencing-related activity that includes overnight stay(s).

Except in an emergency, an Applicable Adult shall not travel overnight, alone with an unrelated minor athlete, i.e., one for whom the adult is not a parent or legal guardian. In addition to the unrelated minor, the Applicable Adult and unrelated minor must be accompanied by at least one other minor athlete or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the unrelated minor athlete's parent/legal guardian in advance of each overnight and team travel. The parent waiver can be in the form of text, email or written document, transmitted in advance of each such overnight travel. Parents/legal guardians must receive education concerning child abuse prevention before providing consent for their minor athlete to travel alone with an Applicable Adult who is subject to these policies

1. Hotel rooms

Applicable Adults shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping quarters with an unrelated minor athlete (unless the Applicable Adult is a parent, legal guardian, sibling, or other family member of the minor athlete).

2. Other interactions

In traveling overnight with one or more minor athletes, Applicable Adults shall abide by the above policies on one-on-one interactions, medical treatment, locker rooms and changing, and electronic communications.

3. Club or team travel

Applicable Adults who travel overnight with minor athletes in conjunction with a USA Fencing affiliated club, team or other organization must first successfully pass the screening and training (e.g., Safe Sport) requirements of USA Fencing and the relevant club or team.