



# Missouri Youth Soccer Association

## Safe Soccer Policies

The majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations. By reducing such interactions between children and adults, you 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.

### 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, you 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.

This policy shall apply to all In-Program Contact between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes.

a. Observable and interruptible

One-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible.

Isolated, one-on-one interactions between Minor Athletes and Adult Participants are prohibited, except under emergency circumstances, unless:

o A Dual Relationship Exists; or

o The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or

o A Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant (“PCA”), and:

The Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Amateur Organization Member for the Adult Participant PCA to work with the Minor Athlete; and

The Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member’s education and training policy; and the Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member’s screening policy.

b. Meetings and Training Sessions

Adult Participants must follow the one-on-one interaction policy in all meetings and training sessions where Minor Athletes are present.

c. Meetings with mental health care professionals

If a mental health care professional meets with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event or a facility, which is partially or fully under our jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except if: (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, although the minor's identity need not be disclosed; (4) the organization is notified that the provide will be meeting with a Minor Athlete, and (4) written legal guardian consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards is obtained by the mental health care professional, with a copy provided to our organization.

d. Individual training sessions

One-on-one, In-Program, individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible except if:

o A Dual Relationship Exists; or

o The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or

o A Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant ("PCA"), and:

The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Amateur Organization Member for the Adult Participant PCA to work with the Minor Athlete; and

The Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member's education and training policy; and The Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member's screening policy.

The Adult Participant providing the individual training must obtain the written permission of the minor's legal guardian at least annually, which may be withdrawn at any time. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.

e. Monitoring

When one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes occur at a facility partially or fully under the organization's jurisdiction, another Adult Participant will monitor each meeting or training session. Monitoring includes reviewing the parent/guardian consent form, knowing that the meeting or training session is occurring, knowing the approximate planned duration of the interaction, and dropping in on the meeting or training session.

f. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to have a meeting or training session with an Adult Participant subject to these policies.

## **B. ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES, MESSAGES AND RUBDOWNS**

The following is a model massages and rubdowns policy, provided to assist Amateur Organization Members in developing their own policies. Any policy developed by an Amateur Organization Member must include the Mandatory Components.

Mandatory components

Amateur Organization Members must include components a through c.

a. Application

This policy shall apply to all In-Program training athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns of Minor Athletes.

b. Licensed, certified professional

Any athletic training modality, massage or rubdown performed by an Adult on a minor athlete at our facilities or a training or competition venue is prohibited unless such Adult is a licensed massage therapist.

Any athletic training modality, massage or rubdown performed at our facilities or a training or competition venue by a licensed professional must be observable and interruptible. 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 licensed massage therapist in the room.

Even if a coach is a licensed massage therapist, the coach shall not perform a rubdown or massage of an athlete under any

circumstances.

c. Written consent

Written consent by a legal guardian shall be obtained at least annually before providing any athletic modality, massage, or rubdown on a minor athlete. This consent may be withdrawn at any time. Parents must be permitted to be in the room as an observer.

d. Parent training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their

Minor Athlete to receive an athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown.

e. The provider should narrate the steps in the massage, rubdown, or athletic training modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.

## C. LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

a. Application

This policy shall apply to:

1) All In-Program Contact between Adult Participants and Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space 2) Staff and board members of an Amateur Organization Member

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, rest rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a facility under our organization's jurisdiction is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that: parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained, such exceptions are approved by the Amateur Organization Member, everyone is fully clothed, and two or more Adult Participants are present.

c. Isolated one-on-one interactions

All one-on-one, In-Program contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete in a locker room, rest room, or changing area must be observable and interruptible, except if:

o A Dual Relationship Exists; or

o The Close-In-Age Exception applies; or

o A Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant ("PCA"), and:

The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Amateur Organization Member for the Adult Participant PCA to work with the Minor Athlete; and

The Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member's education and training policy; and The Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member's screening policy.

If our organization is using a facility that has access to a single set of such facilities, we will designate times for use by Adult Participants, if any.

d. Undress

Under no circumstances shall an Adult Participant shower with Minor Athletes or otherwise be undressed (disrobed or partially or fully unclothed where private body parts are exposed) in front of minor athletes unless: a Dual Relationship exists, the Close-In-Age Exception applies, or a minor athlete requires a Personal Care Assistant (“PCA”) and the PCA requirements set forth in above have been fulfilled.

e. Monitoring

Our organization regularly and randomly monitors the use of locker rooms, rest rooms, and changing areas at facilities under our jurisdiction to ensure compliance with these policies. Our organization will provide a private or semi-private place for minor athletes to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events that include locker rooms and/or changing areas for athlete use.

f. Non-exclusive facility

If our organization uses a facility not under its jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, Adult Participants are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth here.

g. Adults make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the athlete’s whereabouts.

h. We discourage parents from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent. If this is necessary, parents should let a coach or administrator know about this in advance.

## **D. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

a. Application

This policy shall apply to:

1) Adult Participants who have regular contact with Minor Athletes 2) Staff and board members at an Amateur Organization Member

b. Content

All electronic communication originating from Adult Participants to Minor Athletes must be open and transparent, and professional in nature.

c. Open and transparent: All electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be open and transparent except if:

A Dual Relationship Exists; or

The Close-in-Age Exception Applies; or

A Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant (“PCA”), and:

oThe Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Amateur Organization Member for the Adult Participant PCA to work with the Minor Athlete; and

oThe Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member’s education and training policy; and oThe Adult Participant PCA has complied with the

Organization’s screening policy.

Electronic communications include, but are not limited to phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting and social media.

d. Open and transparent means:

If an Adult Participant needs to communicate directly with a Minor Athlete via electronic communications, another Adult Participant or the minor’s legal guardian will be copied.

If a Minor Athlete communicates to the Adult Participant privately first, the Adult Participant should respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another Adult Participant or the minor’s legal guardian.



An Adult Participant communicating electronically to the entire team will copy another Adult Participant.

Minor Athletes may “friend” the organization’s official page.

Only platforms that allow for open and transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.

e. Prohibited electronic communications

Adult Participants are not permitted to communicate privately via electronic communications with amateur athletes who are minors, except under the exceptions above.

Adult Participants are not permitted to “private message,” “instant message,” “direct message”, or send photos via Snapchat or Instagram to a minor athlete privately, except under the exceptions above.

Adult Participants are not permitted to maintain social media connections with minors; such adults are not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from Minor Athletes and existing social media connections with Minor Athletes shall be discontinued, except under the exceptions above.

f. Prohibited electronic communications

Legal guardians may request in writing that their child not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by the organization or by the organization’s Adult Participants. The organization will abide by any such request that their child not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

Recommended components

g. Hours

Electronic communications will only be sent between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

h. Monitoring

The organization monitors its social media pages and removes any posts that violate the organization’s policies and practices for appropriate behavior.

The organization will inform the legal guardian of a minor athlete of any prohibited posts, as well as the organization's administrator.

i. Social Media Connections

Adult Participants are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with minor athletes and should discontinue existing social media connections with minor athletes.

## E. TRANSPORTATION

Amateur Organization Members must include components a through d. "Transportation" consists of travel to training, practice, and competition that occurs locally and does not include coordinated overnight stay(s).

a. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program travel, except if:

A Dual Relationship Exists; or

The Close-in-Age Exception Applies; or

A Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant ("PCA"), and:

o The Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Amateur Organization Member for the Adult Participant PCA to work with the Minor Athlete; and

o The Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member's education and training policy; and oThe Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member's screening policy.

The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian.

b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

c. Adult Participants may transport Minor Athletes if accompanied by at least one other Adult Participant or at least two minors.

d. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation arranged by the Amateur Organization Member.

e. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

We encourage parents/legal guardians to pick up their minor athlete first and drop off their minor athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

f. Parent Training

Parents/legal guardians receive education concerning child abuse prevention before providing consent for their minor to travel alone with an Adult Participant.

## F. LODGING

Amateur Organization Members must include components a through e. "Lodging" is team travel to a competition or other team activity that the organization plans and supervises, and that requires an overnight stay or use of a hotel.

a. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements: All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, and an Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), except if:

A Dual Relationship Exists; or

The Close-in-Age Exception Applies; or

A Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant (“PCA”), and:

- o The Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Amateur Organization Member for the Adult Participant PCA to work with the Minor Athlete; and
- o The Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member’s education and training policy; and
- o The Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Amateur Organization Member’s screening policy.

The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian.

b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually

c. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel: If the Amateur Organization Member, club, or team performs room checks

during In-Program lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

d. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by the Amateur Organization Member

Any Participating Adult traveling with the organization must agree to and sign the organization’s Lodging policy at least annually.

Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athletes are assumed to have authority of Minor Athletes and thus must comply with the Amateur Organization Member’s education and training policy.

e. Meetings

Meetings shall be conducted consistent with the organization's policy for one-on-one interactions – i.e., any such meeting shall be observable and interruptible.

Meetings shall not be conducted in a hotel room.

Recommended Components

f. Adult Participants who travel with the organization must successfully pass a criminal background check and other screening requirements consistent with the organization's policies.

g. Parents/legal guardians receive education concerning child abuse prevention before providing consent for their minor to travel alone with a Participating Adult.