



Missouri Youth Soccer Resolution Process for Reports of Misconduct and Abuse

Purpose and scope

Missouri Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) resolves every report of abuse or misconduct through three stages modeled on the U.S. Center for SafeSport: **Reporting and Intake, Investigation, and Resolution**. The goal is the same as the Center's: resolve reports fairly and efficiently, while protecting the people involved.

This process applies to all MYSA participants: players, coaches, referees, administrators, staff, volunteers, board members, and member clubs and leagues. It covers conduct at MYSA and affiliated events, and conduct away from soccer that affects a participant's fitness to be involved in youth soccer.

Three roles appear throughout, using the Center's terms:

- **Claimant** — the person alleged to have experienced abuse or misconduct.
- **Respondent** — the person alleged to have committed it.
- **Witness** — a person who may have seen or knows about the reported conduct.

Jurisdiction: who handles the report

The U.S. Center for SafeSport handles all sexual misconduct and criminal child abuse; MYSA never investigates those itself. The Center has jurisdiction when the SafeSport Code prohibits the conduct **and** the Respondent is a member or participant in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement, which includes MYSA members through U.S. Soccer, the sport's National Governing Body (NGB). The Center refers most physical and emotional misconduct to the NGB, which may resolve it directly or through its affiliated organizations under their own policies.

Type of report	Who resolves it	MYSA's role
Sexual misconduct (any age)	U.S. Center for SafeSport	Report to the Center within 24 hours; cooperate; enforce any Temporary Measures

Type of report	Who resolves it	MYSA's role
Child abuse, including sexual abuse	U.S. Center for SafeSport and law enforcement	Report to law enforcement and the Missouri child abuse hotline, then the Center
Physical or emotional misconduct, bullying, hazing, harassment	Usually referred by the Center to U.S. Soccer, then to affiliated organizations	Investigate and resolve under this process when the matter is referred to or retained by MYSA
Violations of MAAPP (Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies)	Center, U.S. Soccer, or MYSA depending on severity	Investigate and resolve lower-severity MAAPP violations; escalate anything sexual
Retaliation against anyone who reported or took part	Body that handled the original report	Report and act on it immediately
Conduct outside the Code (e.g., general code-of-conduct issues)	MYSA, member club, or league	Handle under MYSA disciplinary rules

MYSA and its member clubs keep the right to make their own safety plans and membership, rostering and employment decisions at any point, as the Center recognizes for all affiliated organizations.

Open question: confirm with U.S. Soccer and US Youth Soccer the exact referral path for cases they send back to MYSA.

How to report

Anyone may report a concern, and every adult MYSA participant must report suspected child abuse or sexual misconduct without delay, and in all cases within 24 hours. Reporting to MYSA, a club, or a coach does **not** replace the duty to report to the authorities below. A reporter does not need proof, only a reasonable suspicion.

- 1. If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.**
- 2. Suspected child abuse or neglect (any kind):** call the Missouri Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline at **1-800-392-3738** (24/7), or mandated reporters may file online through the Missouri Department of Social Services. Also report to local law enforcement.

3. **Sexual misconduct or child sexual abuse:** report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport online at safesport.i-sight.com/portal or by phone at **833-5US-SAFE (587-7233)**.
4. **Physical or emotional misconduct, bullying, hazing, harassment, MAAPP violations, or retaliation:** report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport as above, and notify the MYSA Safe Sport Coordinator.
5. **All reports:** notify the MYSA Safe Sport Coordinator at [name, email, phone — to be filled in by MYSA] so MYSA can take any needed safety steps.

A report should include, where known: names of the Claimant, Respondent and any Witnesses; the club, team and age group; what happened, when and where; and how the reporter learned of it. Reporters may remain anonymous to MYSA, though anonymity can limit what can be investigated.

The Missouri hotline offers Relay Missouri for hearing- or speech-impaired callers at 1-800-735-2466 (voice) or 1-800-735-2966 (text).

Stage 1: Intake and initial assessment

Within 2 business days of receiving a report, the MYSA Safe Sport Coordinator logs it, confirms the required outside reports were made, and answers the three intake questions the Center asks of every report:

1. **Is MYSA the right body to handle this?** If the matter belongs to the Center or law enforcement, MYSA confirms it was reported there and stops its own fact-finding so it does not interfere. MYSA takes up the matter only if it falls outside the Center's jurisdiction or the Center or U.S. Soccer refers it back.
2. **Is there enough information to proceed?** The Coordinator contacts the Claimant (or the Claimant's parent or guardian for a minor) to gather basic facts. If information is missing, the Coordinator seeks it before deciding how to proceed.
3. **Are interim measures needed now?** If the information suggests the Respondent may pose a risk, MYSA may impose interim measures before the matter is resolved.

Interim measures

Interim measures protect participants while a matter is pending; they are not a finding that anyone did anything wrong. Examples include:

- Changes to practice or game schedules, or to team assignments
- No-contact directives between the Respondent and the Claimant or Witnesses

- Required supervision by another approved adult at all activities
- Suspension from some or all MYSA activities pending resolution

MYSA also enforces any Temporary Measures imposed by the Center or U.S. Soccer. The Respondent is notified in writing of any interim measure and may ask the MYSA Safe Sport Review Panel to review it; the measure stays in effect during that review.

Stage 2: Choosing a pathway and investigating

After intake, the Coordinator decides how the matter will proceed, choosing from the same pathways the Center uses. A formal investigation is the default for any disputed allegation that could lead to suspension.

Pathway	When it is used	What it means
Formal investigation	Disputed facts or a possible serious sanction	A trained investigator gathers evidence and a decision follows (below)
Informal resolution	Respondent accepts responsibility and the agreed consequences	No formal investigation; the outcome is final and cannot be appealed
Conditional resolution	Respondent was under 13 at the time, or is an adult with an intellectual or developmental disability	Respondent agrees to safety conditions or education without admitting misconduct
Alternative resolution	Respondent was 13 to 17 at the time, or is an adult with an intellectual or developmental disability	Respondent acknowledges the behavior may have broken the rules; no violation is found; conditions or education may apply
Administrative hold	Not enough information to continue, or the Claimant cannot be identified or does not wish to take part and other evidence is insufficient	The matter pauses and can be reopened if new information arrives
Jurisdictional hold	Respondent is no longer an MYSA participant	The matter is held until the Respondent rejoins

Pathway	When it is used	What it means
Administrative closure	Conduct does not violate MYSA policy, or the Respondent is deceased; or low-severity conduct suited to an educational conversation	Closed; low-severity cases may end with a letter of admonishment (adults) or concern (minors)

Formal investigation

1. MYSA assigns an impartial investigator with no conflict of interest in the matter.
2. The investigator interviews the Claimant, the Respondent and Witnesses and gathers documents, messages, video and other evidence. Interviews of minors are conducted with a parent or guardian's consent and in a trauma-informed way.
3. The investigator compiles the evidence into an **Opportunity to Review and Respond** document.
4. The Claimant and Respondent have **14 days** to review it and submit additional information.
5. The investigator issues an **Investigation Report** that includes any responses received.

Timelines vary with the number of people to interview, the availability of information, the Claimant's needs and the complexity of the case. MYSA aims to move each matter as quickly as a thorough review allows and keeps both parties updated on status.

Stage 3: Decision, sanctions and appeal

A violation is found only if it is **more likely than not** that the misconduct occurred: the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard the Center uses. The MYSA Safe Sport Review Panel reads the Investigation Report and decides whether MYSA policy was violated and, if so, what sanction fits.

Notice of Decision

MYSA sends a written Notice of Decision to the Respondent and the Claimant (or their parents or guardians if minors). It states the finding, the reasons, any sanction, and the Respondent's right to appeal. MYSA also informs the Respondent's club and, where

required, U.S. Soccer and US Youth Soccer. The Claimant's name is left out of documents shared with other organizations; initials may appear where needed, such as in a no-contact directive.

Sanctions

Sanctions are proportionate to the conduct and consider its severity, any pattern, the ages involved and the Respondent's history. They may include, from least to most serious:

- Formal written warning or letter of apology
- Required SafeSport or other education
- Probation with conditions such as supervision or no-contact terms
- Suspension from some or all MYSA activities for a set period
- Permanent ineligibility to participate in MYSA

Appeal

A Respondent who disagrees with a formal decision may appeal in writing to the MYSA Appeals Committee within 10 days of the Notice of Decision (*proposed deadline; MYSA to confirm*). Appeal members must have had no part in the original decision. Informal resolutions cannot be appealed. Decisions made by the U.S. Center for SafeSport follow the Center's own process: the Respondent may accept the decision or request private, independent arbitration, and the arbitrator's decision is final.

Once a decision is final, MYSA enforces it and honors all Center and U.S. Soccer sanctions, including those listed in the Center's public [Centralized Disciplinary Database](#). Sanctions against minors are not made public.

Rights, support and protections

Every party is treated fairly, kept informed, and protected from retaliation throughout the process.

- **Advisor and support person.** Claimants, Respondents and Witnesses may have an advisor and/or a support person present at any meeting or interview. A minor may always have a parent or guardian present.
- **Notice and a chance to respond.** The Respondent is told of the allegations and both parties may review the evidence and respond before a decision is made.

- **Process questions.** The MYSA Safe Sport Coordinator answers process questions for all parties. For Center cases, the Center's [Process Navigators](#), who are not involved in investigations, can explain the process and connect parties with mental health, legal and other resources.
- **No retaliation.** Retaliation against anyone who reports a concern or takes part in an investigation is prohibited and is itself a violation subject to sanctions.
- **Confidentiality.** MYSA shares information only with those who need it to protect participants, investigate, or carry out a decision. Parties may speak about their own experience, accurately and carefully, but may not share confidential documents such as the Investigation Report or Notice of Decision.
- **False reports.** Knowingly making a false report is a violation; a report made in good faith that is not substantiated is not.

Records and contacts

The Safe Sport Coordinator keeps a secure, confidential file for every report: the report, intake notes, interim measures, investigation materials, the decision and any appeal. Access is limited to people with a role in the matter. MYSA keeps records of sanctions so they can be enforced if a Respondent moves to another club or league.

Contact	How to reach
Emergency	911
Missouri Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline	1-800-392-3738 (24/7)
U.S. Center for SafeSport	Online report or 833-5US-SAFE (587-7233)
MYSA Safe Sport Coordinator	<i>[name, email, phone — MYSA to fill in]</i>

Sources

- [Response and Resolution Overview](#) — U.S. Center for SafeSport
- [Response and Resolution Process Flowchart](#) — U.S. Center for SafeSport
- [SafeSport Code](#) — U.S. Center for SafeSport
- [Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline](#) — Missouri Department of Social Services