

FAQs Regarding Abuse Prevention Requirements

I completed abuse prevention training for work/school/another volunteer position. Can I substitute that for the training provided by the U.S. Center for SafeSport?

No. Training other than the three U.S. Center for SafeSport training modules does not satisfy this requirement.

I already completed online SafeSport training through USA Curling, do I need to repeat the course?

Check with USA Curling regarding the date you completed the training. If the training was completed more than a year ago, you will need to complete the refresher course, which can be found online.

How do I know if I am participating adult?

Participating adults include adult members who have regular contact with or authority over amateur athletes (participants) who are minors; and adults authorized by a club, state, region, or national curling association to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete (participant) who is a minor. This includes members, volunteers (including parents whether or not they are members), and others who may be contracted to work with minors. It also includes staff and board members of clubs, states, regions, the national organization and other organizations associated with USA Curling, such as the USWCA.

What if I am still not sure if I need to take the training?

The U.S. Curling Association encourages all adults to complete the child abuse prevention training. As such, if you are not sure if you need to complete the training, it is best to do so. If you still have questions about specific groups or individuals, contact Kim Nawyn at kim.nawyn@usacurl.org.

We are not concerned about potential abuse at my club. Why do we need to bother with training?

It is important for individuals who work with youth to be educated about issues of abuse and harassment whether or not an incident has taken place in your club. In addition, this is the law. Clubs will be in violation of federal law if they do not require participating adults to take the training. Training also helps adults not to put themselves in situations where well-intentioned actions can be misconstrued by others.

I don't have a lot of free time. How long is the training?

It takes about 90 minutes to complete the training. However, it can be broken up into much shorter intervals.

I'm still not sure how this law reaches down to local curling clubs. Could you explain?

On February 14, 2018, a new law went into effect, S.534, the "[Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017](#)." The Act designates the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the

Center) as the independent national safe sport organization responsible for delivering education and resolving allegations of certain types of misconduct within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic movements; additionally, the law requires the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and Olympic national governing bodies (NGBs) to report child abuse to law enforcement. It also includes reporting, training, and other requirements that apply directly to amateur sports organizations. Amateur sports organizations include, but are not limited to, clubs, youth teams, leagues, tournament hosts, sports camps, and facilities that participate in interstate and/or international competition. The law specifically references application to “members of national governing bodies.” In curling, that encompasses any organization that is a member of the U.S. Curling Association. As Congress recognizes all amateur sports organizations are not members of a national governing body of an Olympic sport, they expanded coverage of the law to “other amateur sports organizations.” While the required training through the U.S. Center for SafeSport is provided free to all members of the U.S. Curling Association, curling clubs that are not members are required to pay fees directly to the Center to meet this requirement.

Should my club also conduct background checks?

While not required, USA Curling recommends conducting background checks on all individuals who have regular contact with or authority over minors. Background checks on board members, especially those who are handling finances, are also recommended. Please see attached information on the background check provider used by USA Curling.

My club invites teams for home stays with local families during bonspiels or other events. That practice was not addressed in the email. What should we do?

While the federal law and U.S. Center for SafeSport policy do not expressly forbid youth staying overnight with host families, home stays are particularly high risk situations for youth. Should a club continue with this practice, all adults in the household should complete the SafeSport training and pass background checks well in advance of the home stay. At least two athletes must be billeted in each home. Athletes who are 18 and over cannot stay in the same room with athletes who are 15 and younger. Please note that more information about one-on-one interactions, including interactions between athletes who are minors and those 18 and over who are competing on the same team will be forthcoming.

Parents who allow their children to stay with host families are encouraged to reach out to those families prior to the home stay. They are also encouraged to speak with their children about how to prevent and report abuse and harassment. Online SafeSport training programs geared toward youth will be available from the U.S. Center for SafeSport in spring of 2019. Resources developed specifically for parents are currently available on the [USA Curling website](#).

I am having technical issues with accessing the online training. What do I do?

See the document entitled, “Online SafeSport Training Technical Questions.” Based on experience with the program, it tends to work best in Chrome.

I've noticed that the *USA Curling SafeSport Handbook* does not include all of the requirements discussed in this email. Why not?

The *USA Curling SafeSport Handbook* is the USCA's abuse and harassment prevention and response policy. It is currently in the process of being revised and will include requirements mandated by the "[Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017](#)" and the subsequent Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies published by the [U.S. Center for SafeSport](#).

I have a bunch of other questions not addressed here. Who would I contact?

Questions should be directed to Kim Nawyn at kim.nawyn@usacurl.org. If she cannot provide you with answers, she will contact the liaison for national governing bodies of Olympic sports at the U.S. Center for SafeSport.