



SAFE SPORT

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

USA Track & Field (USATF) is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment and up-to-date information for all members. While cross country season is in full stride, we're excited to share the latest updates to the Safe Sport Program, focusing on ensuring secure and supportive environments for athletes, coaches, and participants.



Here's what's new in November:

### Safe Sport All Stars



For the month of November, we want to take a moment to remind everyone on how to nominate and recognize our Safe Sport All Stars!

#### What is Safe Sport All Stars?

Safe Sport All Stars allows the USATF National Office to show appreciation and recognize anyone who embodies the values and principles of Safe Sport.

#### Who can be nominated as a Safe Sport All Star?

Anyone or any group who has shown to promote and encourage Safe Sport policies and initiatives. These people are the reason our athletes, coaches, and officials can feel safe and supported while competing!

#### How do I nominate a Safe Sport All Star?

To nominate a Safe Sport All Star, please email [usatfsafesport@usatf.org](mailto:usatfsafesport@usatf.org).

# Upcoming USATF Events



## USATF Cross Country Championships



December 06, 2025



Glendoveer Golf Course  
Portland, OR

*\*\*Registration closes December 1 at  
3:00 a.m. ET/12:00 a.m. PT*



## 2025 USATF National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships



December 13, 2025



Blue River Cross Country Course  
725 Lee Blvd. Shelbyville, IN 46176

*\*\*Registration opens November 23  
at 9 a.m. ET & Closes December 5*

**CLICK HERE** to receive real-time updates, safety notifications, and important event information throughout the **2025 USATF Junior Olympics XC Championships** with **RealResponse**.

## REUNIFICATION PROCESS

The reunification system helps keep Minor Athletes safe by making sure every child is released only to their approved guardian after a race. This process helps prevent confusion or separation and aligns with SafeSport child safety standards.

### **Here's how it works:**

1. After finishing their race, athletes 10 and under will go directly to the Reunification Tent.
2. A parent, coach, or approved adult (18+) must pick them up.
3. The adult must present the official pickup wristband, distributed at packet pickup. If a replacement is needed, a government-issued ID is required.
4. Security staff will be on-site to support the process and ensure athlete safety.

# NOVEMBER FOCUS

## Leading with Gratitude & Respect

*As a coach, it is important to create an environment for your athletes to feel supported and encouraged. Here are 3 tips on how to lead with gratitude and build a culture of respect on your team.*

### **TIP #1**

**Always give praise before criticism.**

*When giving feedback to an athlete or team, always start by saying something they're doing well. Then, offer a gentle critique of what they could improve on.*

*Finish with another positive piece of feedback.*



### **TIP #2**

**Model appropriate and respectful behavior.**

*No matter who you're interacting with, always treat them with respect and kindness. Modeling appropriate behavior shows your athletes how to engage with those around them in a respectful way.*



### **TIP #3**

**Be consistent.**

*Remain consistent in how you communicate with athletes and how you hold everyone accountable to team values, expectations, and policies.*





# What is the One-On-One Interaction Policy?

**MAAPP**  
MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE  
PREVENTION POLICIES

A key part of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) is ensuring *all one-on-one interactions between adults and Minor Athletes are observable and interruptible*. When athletes feel safe, teams get stronger both on and off the field.

## OBSERVABLE

For an interaction to be **observable**, it must occur in a location that is easily seen by another person (adult or minor).

## INTERRUPTIBLE

For an interaction to be **interruptible**, it must occur in a location where another person can step in and stop the interaction if necessary.



## OBSERVABLE & INTERRUPTIBLE IN ACTION

A coach pulls an athlete aside during practice to give feedback, but stays in view of the rest of the team.



A coach is waiting for its team to meet in the lobby of a team hotel. When a Minor Athlete arrives before the others, the coach waits in a public area until more team members or parents arrive.

## Reporting Policy Reminder

All Adult Participants are mandatory reporters and required to report any allegations of sexual misconduct or child abuse immediately to **both local law enforcement and/or CPS, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport.**

Report issues such as sexual misconduct, harassment, or child sexual abuse to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.



[uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern](https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern)



833-5US-SAFE (587-7233)

Report bullying, hazing, physical or emotional misconduct, or other Safe Sport violations directly to USATF.



[usatfsafesport@usatf.org](mailto:usatfsafesport@usatf.org)



317-713-4688



833-9-USATF (987-2834)

# Myth vs Fact: SafeSport Code Edition



The SafeSport Code helps to keep everyone protected: athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers! It sets clear expectations for conduct and accountability.

Even with regular training, there are still a few common misconceptions.

**Let's set the record straight!**

Myth	Fact
<b><i>"The SafeSport Code applies only to coaches and staff."</i></b>	<i>The Code applies to all <u>Adult Participants</u> (coaches, officials, volunteers, medical staff, administrators, etc.) anyone who has regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.</i>
<b><i>"Only serious criminal conduct has to be reported."</i></b>	<i>All forms of misconduct — including emotional abuse, bullying, hazing, and retaliation — are prohibited under the Code and must be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport or USATF.</i>
<b><i>"The SafeSport Code doesn't apply outside of practice or competition."</i></b>	<i>SafeSport principles apply to all In-Program Contact, including travel, team meals, and celebrations. This means, maintaining professional boundaries and open communication at all times.</i>

*The USOPC, all NGBs, and all LAOs must comply with the policies and procedures within the Code.*

# Safety Starts Here: Get SafeSport Trained



SAFE SPORT

Creating a positive, respectful, and safe experience starts with education, and USATF makes it easy for everyone to get involved.

Through your **USATF Connect profile**, you can access free, age-appropriate SafeSport courses under the "Center for SafeSport Training" tab. Just click "Access Additional Trainings" to get started!

Here's a quick look at the available courses designed to educate parents and athletes of all ages:

## **PARENT'S GUIDE TO MISCONDUCT IN SPORT**

Perfect for parents of youth athletes, this course helps families recognize, respond to, and prevent abuse or misconduct in sport. Hear from experts and advocates as they share guidance on fostering positive, supportive environments both on and off the field.



## **SAFESPORT FOR YOUTH ATHLETES (AGES 13-17)**

This quick, interactive training focuses on preventing bullying and hazing, supporting friends who experience misconduct, and understanding how to report concerns.

*Parental consent is required for registration.*



## **SAFESPORT FOR KIDS (AGES 5-12)**

Tailored for young athletes, this course helps kids understand the difference between discipline and abuse, encourages them to speak to a trusted adult, and promotes teamwork, good sportsmanship, and fun in a safe environment.

*Parental consent is required for registration.*



**Use the link below to see more available trainings:**

[U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT ONLINE TRAINING  
CATALOG](#)



# Report a Concern

USATF prioritizes participant health and safety. Report sexual misconduct to the U.S. Center for SafeSport using their online form.

For concerns of bullying, hazing, harassment, physical misconduct, or emotional misconduct, you may report to USATF via our online form, email [safesport@usatf.org](mailto:safesport@usatf.org), call (317) 713-4688, or text 833-9-USATF (987-2834).

We want all of our members to feel comfortable and safe. Your report can remain anonymous if you would prefer, but we encourage you to report incidents to us so we can continue to maintain a safe and encouraging environment for our sport.

## Contact Us:

Email: [usatfsafesport@usatf.org](mailto:usatfsafesport@usatf.org)

Phone: (317) 713-4688

Website: [www.usatf.org/safesport](http://www.usatf.org/safesport)



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