

# USA Volleyball & SafeSport

What is SafeSport?

Athletes will perform better, soar higher, and get more from sport if they feel safe. SafeSport seeks to create a healthy, supportive environment for all participants. Through education, resources, and training, we help members of the sport community recognize, reduce, and respond to misconduct in sport.

Unfortunately, sports, including volleyball, can also be a high-risk environment for misconduct, including physical and sexual abuse. All forms of misconduct are intolerable and in direct conflict with the values of USA Volleyball.

The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball has ZERO TOLERANCE for abuse and misconduct.

## USA Volleyball is Committed to Safety for All Participants

This includes not only on-court safety, but also off-court safety in any part of USA Volleyball's programs. USA Volleyball is committed to creating safe and fun environments for youth. This includes, but not limited to, providing training, educational materials and resources for our regions, clubs, coaches, parents and athletes.

As part of the SafeSport Program, USA Volleyball has developed a **SafeSport Handbook** intended to be a central location for all of the policies and procedures that are designed to protect its youth participants from all types of misconduct and abuse. It also includes information and education for adults on how to be proactive, to recognize areas of concern and signs of abuse. The SafeSport Handbook includes the various policies that apply to all USA Volleyball member programs and address the following areas: sexual abuse; physical abuse; emotional abuse; bullying, threats and harassment; and hazing.

The SafeSport program includes training, educational materials and resources for our regions, clubs, coaches, parents and athletes. The components are: 1) Policies and guidelines; 2) Education and awareness training; 3) Background screening of adult staff; 4) Reporting and responding to abuse; 5) Monitoring and supervision; 6) Grassroots engagement and feedback.

For more information and to start a SafeSport Program in your club, go to [https://www.volleyballreftraining.com/SafeSport/safesport\\_home.html](https://www.volleyballreftraining.com/SafeSport/safesport_home.html)

SafeSport training has been added as a component of USA Volleyball Coach's IMPACT training. Any registered USA Volleyball/Great Plains member can complete the free SafeSport Training module located on the website above. Per USA Volleyball, completion of this training is not required at this time, but could be mandatory in the next 2 – 3 years.