



2025 USA Cheer MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES (MAAPP)

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USA Federation for Sport Cheering: USA Cheer

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INTRODUCTION

USA Cheer is committed to building a community where Participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct. This document is modeled on the US Center for Safe Sport MAAPP. Throughout this document the most commonly used terms are defined in the Terminology section in the back of this document.

USA Cheer requires these policies be adopted and followed by related Local Affiliated Organizations (LAOs), including its local programs and clubs. USA Cheer requires employees, contractors, athletes, members, and certain volunteers and parents of athletes to follow the policies set forth below.

What is the MAAPP?

The US Center for Safe Sport (the Center) has developed the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP). The MAAPP is a collection of proactive prevention and training policies for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. It has four primary components:

1. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training and Prevention Policies;
2. An Education & Training Policy that requires training for certain Adult Participants within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement;
3. Required Prevention Policies, focused on limiting one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes, that Organizations within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement must implement to prevent abuse;
4. Recommended Prevention Policies.

The Center developed the MAAPP to assist National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Paralympic Sport Organizations (PSOs), Local Affiliated Organizations (LAOs), the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and other individuals to whom these policies apply in meeting their obligations under federal law (*note*: implementing these policies does not guarantee that an organization or individual fully complies with federal law or all applicable legal obligations). These organizations should share these policies with all Participants and with parents/guardians of minor athletes. Those implementing these policies should consider the physical and cognitive needs of all athletes.

The MAAPP focuses on just two important aspects of a much larger comprehensive abuse prevention strategy. These policies address training requirements and limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and minor athletes. These policies are intended to be enforceable

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and reasonable, acknowledging, for example, that when a 17-year-old athlete turns 18, they become an adult athlete, and a complete prohibition of one-on-one interactions may not be necessary or practical. Additionally, there may be other instances when one-on-one interactions could occur, and in those cases, these policies provide strategies so parents/guardians can provide informed consent if they choose to allow a permitted interaction. **The Center and USA Cheer recommend that parents first complete training on abuse prevention to be informed about potential boundary violations and concerns before consenting to the interaction.**

While the MAAPP will help organizations implement these policies to greatly improve minor athlete safety, in no way can they guarantee athlete safety in all circumstances, especially when the policies are not fully implemented, followed, or monitored. These policies are not comprehensive of all prevention strategies, nor are they intended to be. These policies should be implemented alongside the [USA Cheer Safe Sport Code](#). Additionally, other resources are available that may assist organizations in improving athlete safety.¹

USA Cheer has adopted the MAAPP for its members and member organizations. Adult Participants (as defined below) are required to comply with the MAAPP and member organizations are required to implement the MAAPP at the local level, including informing and training coaches, parents, and athletes and all Applicable Adults of the policies. Violations of these provisions can result in sanctions under USA Cheer's Safe Sport Code as well as the Center's SafeSport Code.

Is the MAAPP Different from the USA Cheer Safe Sport Code?

Yes. The [USA Cheer Safe Sport Code](#) works alongside the MAAPP to prevent abuse. The MAAPP includes proactive prevention policies for organizations and individuals, while the USA Cheer Safe Sport Code contains misconduct policies for individuals. However, violations of the MAAPP can violate the USA Cheer Safe Sport Code, and violators can be sanctioned.

¹ Saul, J., & Audage, N. C. (2007). *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection. (2014). *Child Sexual Abuse: It Is Your Business*. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

The Australian Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. (2017). *Final Report*.

What is the Scope of the MAAPP?

USA Cheer’s MAAPP imposes requirements at sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under USA Cheer’s jurisdiction or any Organization’s jurisdiction as well as on Adult Participants under USA Cheer’s jurisdiction or any Organization’s jurisdiction when the Adult Participant is having “In-Program Contact” (as defined below). For example, USA Cheer and local member organizations must monitor locker rooms at their facilities and sanctioned events and Adult Participants cannot have one-on-one meetings with a Minor Athlete unless it is observable and interruptible. This MAAPP defines “**Organization**” as any regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with USA Cheer; that is affiliated with USA Cheer by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of USA Cheer; or run, operated or supervised by a USA Cheer Member. This definition shall also apply to USA Cheer for the purposes of this MAAPP.

What is In-Program Contact?

In-Program Contact includes sanctioned events and facilities, but it also applies more broadly to sport-related interactions. This MAAPP defines “**In-Program Contact**” as:

Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

Examples of activities related to participation in sport that could be identified as In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post-game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

Who is a Minor Athlete?

A **Minor Athlete** is an amateur athlete under 18 years of age who is (a) a USA Cheer Member; (b) participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Cheer, OR (c) who is in direct supervision of an Adult Participant.²

² This term shall also include any minor who participates in, or participated within the previous 12

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by USA Cheer or a local member organization, or any facility that USA Cheer or a local member organization owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

Who is an Adult Participant?

An **Adult Participant** is any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

1. A member or license holder of USA Cheer or a local member organization ;
2. An employee or board member of USA Cheer or a local member organization ;
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Cheer or a local member organization ;
4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Cheer or a local member organization to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.³

months in, a non-athlete role partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Cheer or a local member organization. Examples include, but are not limited to: officials, coaches, or volunteers.

³ This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

PART I EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY

A. Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult and Minor Participants

1. Adult Participants Required to Complete Training

a. The following Adult Participants must complete USA Cheer's online athlete protection training:

- i. Adult Participants who have regular contact with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
- ii. Adult Participants who have authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor; and
- iii. Adult Participants who are an employee or board member of USA Cheer.

For clarity, this includes all adults with a Cheer Coach, Youth Coach, Professional, Dance Coach, STUNT Coach, STUNT Coach & Athlete, or STUNT Official membership; and all adult Athlete members.

2. Minor Participants Required to Complete Training

a. The following Minor Participants must complete USA Cheer's online athlete protection training:

- i. All Minors with a Junior Cheer Coach/Athlete or STUNT Athlete membership.

3. Timing of Training

Adult Participants and Minor Participants required to complete training under Section A.1 or A.2 must complete this training before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins or within the first 45 days of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy, whichever comes first.

4. Refresher Training

Adult Participants and Minor Participants required to complete training under Section A.1 or A.2 must complete this training annually. Medical providers are required to take the refresher courses on an annual basis if they meet the criteria for Section A.1.a.

5. Optional Training

a. Minor Athletes

- i. USA Cheer offers, subject to parental consent, training to minor athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse available [here](#).

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- ii. The Center offers youth courses, located at safesporttrained.org, as well.
- b. Parents
 - i. USA Cheer offers training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse available [here](#).
 - ii. The Center offers a parent course, located at safesporttrained.org, as well.
 - iii. Parents of minor athletes are provided free online access to the Center’s parent course and are encouraged to take the training.
- c. Volunteers
 - i. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity, who will not have regular contact with or authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor should take USA Cheer’s online athlete protection training before engaging or interacting with any minor athlete(s).

B. Exemptions and Accommodations

USA Cheer’s and the Center’s online training courses contain information about various forms of abuse. The courses do not include graphic descriptions of abuse or show violent images or video. The content may be uncomfortable or trigger trauma for some participants.

1. Exemptions to the online training requirement may be requested by survivors of abuse and misconduct. Survivors of abuse can request an exemption by contacting USA Cheer directly to request an exemption at membership@usacheer.org. All exemptions granted by USA Cheer in this category are considered indefinite but do not need to be re-requested every year.
2. Exemptions to the online training requirement for reasons other than survivor of abuse and misconduct are limited to cognitive or physical disability or language barrier. Requests for these exemptions must be made by the individual or their guardian to USA Cheer at membership@usacheer.org. Supporting documentation may be requested.

PART II POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

The U.S. Center for SafeSport and USA Cheer recognize that youth-adult relationships can be healthy and valuable for development. Policies on one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships. As child sexual abuse is often perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations, it is critical that organizations limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be *observable and interruptible*, except in emergency circumstances or with a documented exception.

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EXCEPTIONS

There are certain relationships and situations in which one-on-one interactions may be allowed or necessary. This section identifies policy exceptions for close-in-age relationships, Personal Care Assistants, dual relationships, and emergencies.

The following exceptions are applicable within all Required Prevention Policies unless otherwise noted.

A. Mandatory Components

1. A Close-in-Age Exception

The purpose of this exception is to allow for continued relationships among athletes on the same team.

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

- a. The Adult Participant has **no** authority over the Minor Athlete; and
- b. The Adult Participant is not more than 4 years older (determined by birth date) than the Minor Athlete.

Note: This exception is different than the close-in-age exception in [USA Cheer Safe Sport Code](#) and the Center's [SafeSport Code](#) pertaining to misconduct.

2. Exceptions for Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants Working with a Minor Athlete

This exception exists for Adult Participants who also assist an athlete with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation.

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if the following requirements are met:

- a. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to the Organization for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
- b. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
- c. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Organization's screening policy.

3. Exceptions for Dual Relationships

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact when the Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete that is outside of the sport program. The exception requires written consent of the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian at least annually. The consent must identify for which Required Prevention Policies the parent/guardian is allowing the one-on-one In-Program Contact.

4. Emergency Exception

This exception applies to all Required Prevention Policies for situations where an Adult Participant must violate requirement(s) of the MAAPP due to an emergency. Adult Participants must carefully consider whether specific circumstances meet the threshold of “emergency.” Adult Participants should document emergency situations in accordance with their Organization’s protocols.

USA Cheer recommends parents take training on child abuse prevention before providing consent to the above exceptions. USA Cheer offers a free Parent Course at usacheer.org. The Center also offers a free Parent Course at safesporttrained.org.

MEETINGS

Sexual abuse often happens when children are alone with their abusers. This section provides policies for meetings to limit one-on-one interactions between children and adults, including mental health care professionals and licensed health care providers.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

- a. Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program meetings with Minor Athletes be observable and interruptible, unless an exception exists.

2. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers⁴)

If a licensed mental health care professional, licensed health care provider, or a student under the supervision of a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider, meets one-on-one with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event or a facility, which is partially or fully under the Organization’s jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

- a. If the door remains unlocked; and

⁴ Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the “**Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities**” policy.

- b. Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete's identity needs not be disclosed; and
- c. The Organization is notified that the professional or provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and,
- d. The professional or provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive USA Cheer's Parent Course and/or the Center'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.

INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SESSIONS

Some abusers will single out athletes for special one-on-one instruction. This kind of isolation provides opportunities for abuse to occur. This section establishes rules for individual training sessions to protect youth athletes from uncomfortable or unsafe situations.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program individual training sessions with a Minor Athlete be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.

2. Consent

The Adult Participant providing the individual training session must receive advance, written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and

3. Parent Observation

Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session.

B. Recommended Components

1. Monitoring

If a permitted meeting or training session takes place between an Adult Participant(s) and a Minor Athlete(s) at a facility partially or fully under the Organization's jurisdiction,

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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 meeting or training session, and dropping in on the meeting or training session.

2. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive USA Cheer's Parent Course and/or the Center'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.

MANUAL THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC AND RECOVERY MODALITIES⁵

Many athletes require therapies to prevent or treat injuries. However, these treatment sessions can place children in vulnerable positions, especially if they involve physical contact with adults. This section establishes standards for therapeutic and recovery modalities and manual therapy to reduce the risk of inappropriate contact between youth and adults.

A. Mandatory Components

Note: Only the emergency exception applies within this policy.

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during manual therapy and therapeutic modalities and recovery modalities with Minor Athletes must be observable and interruptible.

2. Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities Requirements

Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities meet the following requirements:

- a. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the modality or manual therapy; and
- b. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (4) below; and
- c. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
- d. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing; and

⁵ Manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities can be different for each sport. They can include, but are not limited to: first aid, massage, taping, cupping, stretching, cryotherapy, neuromuscular stimulations, electrical stimulation, or other modalities within the scope of a Healthcare Provider's credentials.

- e. The provider must narrate the steps in the modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.

3. Consent

- a. Providers of manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities or the Organization, when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.
- b. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive USA Cheer's Parent Course and/or the Center's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to receive a manual therapy, therapeutic modality, or recovery modality.

- 2. When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.
- 3. Only licensed providers should administer manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.
- 4. Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, should not massage Minor Athletes.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

Young athletes may be especially vulnerable to abuse in changing areas where they are undressing and possibly showering. Appropriate monitoring is necessary in these areas to prevent abuse and other inappropriate conduct. This section outlines policies for locker rooms and changing areas to ensure privacy and safety.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is observable and interruptible, unless an exception exists.

2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing.
- b. Adult Participants must not remove their clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete in a locker room or changing area.
- c. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
 - i. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
 - ii. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- d. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. The Organization and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.

3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms

The Organization may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:

- a. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
- b. The Organization approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
- c. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and
- d. Everyone is fully clothed.

4. Personal Care Assistants

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they meet the requirements detailed on page 14.

5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

- a. The Organization must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under the Organization's jurisdiction.
- b. The Organization must monitor the use of locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under the Organization's jurisdiction.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS⁶

Technology has made it easier for teams to communicate and share information. Unfortunately, it also makes it easier for abusers to contact children without supervision or share inappropriate images and video. This section sets standards for appropriate electronic communications between youth and adults.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Open and Transparent

- a. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent, unless an exception exists.
- b. "Open and Transparent" means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant on every communication.
 - If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.
- c. Only platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.

2. Team Communication

When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians, another adult family member of the Minor Athletes, or another

⁶ Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: email, phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, social media, or through any other electronic medium.

Adult Participant.

3. Content

All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s) must be professional in nature unless an exception exists.

4. Requests to Discontinue

Parents/guardians may request in writing that the Organization or an Adult Participant not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. The Organization and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

B. Recommended Components

1. Hours

Electronic communications should generally be sent only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time for the location of the Minor Athlete.

2. Social Media Connections

Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age Exception, are not permitted to have private social media connections with Minor Athletes and should discontinue existing social media connections with Minor Athletes.

TRANSPORTATION

Athletes are often carpooling or traveling without the supervision of their parent/guardian to practices and competitions. This can place them in vulnerable positions where they are susceptible to abuse. This section establishes policies for adults transporting children to or from sport activities.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during Transportation is Observable and Interruptible unless an exception exists or:

- a. The Adult Participant has advanced, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one, obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
- b. The Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors who are at least 8 years of age.

2. Additional Requirements for Transportation Authorized or Funded by an Organization

- a. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation authorized or funded by an Organization at least annually.
- b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

The Organization encourages parents/guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

2. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive USA Cheer's Parent Course and/or the Center's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to travel one-on-one with an Adult Participant.

LODGING AND RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS

Youth athletes traveling overnight face greater risk of sexual abuse if they are traveling without their parent/guardian. Abusers can take advantage of the situation by trying to have unsupervised time alone with children. This section sets rules for sleeping arrangements and room monitoring to protect athletes during overnight travel.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

All In-Program Contact during lodging must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.

- a. Lodging arrangements covered under this policy include, but are not limited to, hotel stays, rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.), and long-term residential environments, including lodging at training sites and billeting.

2. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

- a. An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), unless an exception exists **and** the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided the Organization or Adult Participant with advance, written consent for each specific lodging arrangement.
- b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In-Program lodging at least annually.
- c. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

3. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If the Organization 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.

4. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by the Organization

Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Education and Training policy outlined in Part II, unless the Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age exception.

B. Recommended Components

Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive USA Cheer's Parent Course and/or the Center's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for lodging arrangements under this policy.

PART III

RECOMMENDED POLICIES FOR KEEPING YOUNG ATHLETES SAFE

A. Out-of-Program Contact

Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not have out-of-program contact with Minor Athlete(s) without legal/parent guardian consent, even if the out-of-program contact is not one-on-one.

B. Gifting

1. Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not give personal gifts to Minor Athlete(s).
2. Gifts that are equally distributed to all athletes and serve a motivational or educational purpose are permitted.

C. Photography/Video

1. Photographs or videos of athletes may only be taken in public view and must observe generally accepted standards of decency.
2. Adult Participants should not publicly share or post photos or videos of Minor Athlete(s) if the Adult Participant has not obtained the parent/guardian and Minor Athlete's consent.

TERMINOLOGY

Adult Participant: Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

- a. A member or license holder of USA Cheer or a local membership organization;
- b. An employee or board member of USA Cheer or a local membership organization;
- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Cheer or a local membership organization;
- d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Cheer or a local membership organization to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.⁷

Amateur Athlete: An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by USA Cheer for the sport in which the athlete competes.

Authority: When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. Also see the Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code. *Note: NGBs and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition, including specific volunteer designations.*

Close-in-Age Exception: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does not have authority over a Minor Athlete *and* is not more than 4 years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., a 19-year-old and a 16-year-old). *Note: This exception only applies within the prevention policies and not regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.*

Dual Relationships: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete outside of the sport program and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent at least annually authorizing the exception.

In-Program Contact: Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

Examples of In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post-game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

⁷ This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

Minor Athlete: An Amateur Athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Cheer or an Organization.⁸

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by USA Cheer, or any facility that USA Cheer owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

National Governing Body (NGB): A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body or Pan American Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

Organization: Any regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with USA Cheer; that is affiliated with USA Cheer by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of USA Cheer; or run, operated or supervised by a USA Cheer Member. This definition shall also apply to USA Cheer for the purposes of this MAAPP.

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant: An Adult Participant who assists a parasport athlete who requires help with activities of daily living (ADL) and preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication administration, and toileting. Personal Care Assistants are different for every athlete and should be individualized to fit their specific needs. When assisting a Minor Athlete, Adult Participant PCAs must be authorized by the athlete's parent/guardian.

Regular Contact: Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor. *Note: NGBs and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition, including specific volunteer designations.*

Residential Environment: A place in which participants live or stay temporarily. Residential environments include, but are not limited to, onsite housing at training facilities, billeting, hotel stays, or rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.).

⁸ This term shall also include any minor who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, a non-athlete role partially or fully under the jurisdiction of an NGB, USOPC, or LAO. Examples include, but are not limited to: officials, coaches, or volunteers.

Billeting: A residential environment facilitated by an Adult Participant, USA Cheer, an Organization or sanctioned event staff in which a Minor Athlete is temporarily housed in a private home with an adult or family who is not related to or known by the Minor Athlete. This lodging arrangement is in conjunction with an activity related to sport.

U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC): A federally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States.