



Date: April 10, 2018
To: Minnesota Swimming Board of Directors
From: Rebecca Binder, Safe Sport Chair
Re: Safe Sport Report for Year Ended April 2018

The media has carried multiple stories of abuse and misconduct across the world of sports the past few months. To me, this highlights the need for Safe Sport awareness and education across our membership. Athletes, coaches, officials and parents need to be provided with the knowledge and resources to keep our sport safe and fun.

Safe Sport is not just about keeping athletes safe from sexual predators. The mission of Safe Sport is safeguarding the well-being of all the members of USA Swimming. Well-being encompasses much more than just being safe from sexual predators. The values - being part of a team, working hard, integrity, setting goals as well as boundaries, consent, respect for self and others - that we as adults, whether coach, official or parent, can impart to the kids we interact with provide an opportunity to be positive influences into much more of a swimmer's life than just the time they spend on a pool deck. All of us need to work at helping each other and holding each other accountable. We need to be better than what we see in the media for ourselves and, most importantly, for the child athletes involved in Minnesota swimming.

An easy way to start as a coach is to have conversations with your athletes. The monthly Safe Sport Monday scenarios are a good way to get the conversation going. If you can take 5 minutes out of practice once a month, you can equip your swimmers with knowledge on how to handle situations like bullying, locker room behavior, consent, team culture and values and so much more. The knowledge and skills that they learn talking about Safe Sport can carry over into other aspects of their lives. Officials and parents can also help by reading the monthly scenarios. I'd like to challenge the officials to add a Safe Sport topic to their next pre-meet briefing! Please let me know if I can help you in any way to get those conversations going.

The Safe Sport Committee has worked towards our goals of increasing awareness of Safe Sport and educating our membership in the following ways over the past 12 months:

- **Committee Membership:** The committee has added two additional members – one athlete and one coach. We expect to add one more athlete at the next Board meeting. A continuing goal is to add additional members from across the athlete, parent, coach and official groups. Please contact me if you are interested.
- **Athlete Safe Sport Liaison:** Clubs completed registration this past fall and included contact information for the new athlete liaison role. A welcome email was sent inviting athlete liaisons to attend the House of Delegates and join the committee for a question and answer social. The role of the Safe Sport Athlete Liaison is assisting at the club level to:
 - Spread the Safe Sport message and raise awareness – swimming is fun, inclusive and safe for all.
 - Help the coach or even lead the team discussion of the monthly Safe Sport scenarios.
 - Participate on Safe Sport committee calls and join the committee if they are interested.
 - Help with Safe Sport at a meet if they are able – put up posters, hand out Safe Sport activity books or other items, etc.
- **Safe Sport Activity Books:** Handed out over 400 activity books and crayons at the 2017 Summer state meet. Additional books were provided to clubs that asked for them (Rochester Swimming and Foxjets) to hand out at their meets for their younger participants and guests. Additional books are being ordered with a second version expected soon from USA Swimming.

- Posters: Provided laminated, reusable posters to host teams of the 2018 Winter championship meets to post in locker rooms and behind the blocks to increase awareness of expected behavior. Please let me know if you would like to add these to your meet hosting kit. Artwork is at the end of this report.
- Bag Tags: Provided over 3,500 Safe Sport bag tags to swimmers at the 2018 Winter MAC and MRC meets. Extra bag tags are available for clubs that would like to hand them out to additional swimmers! See the art work below.
- Legislation: Spoke to coaches and officials at both the 2018 Senior State and the Age Group State championship meets regarding legislation passed by the Senate on February 14, 2018. Bill S. 534 – Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 – was signed into law and became effective immediately. The legislation requires USA Swimming and its adult members to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to local or federal law enforcement or to a child-welfare agency designated by the Justice Department within 24 hours. A failure to report is subject to criminal penalties. Additionally, and pursuant to Article 306 of USA Swimming’s Rules, all USA Swimming Covered Individuals must report to the United States Center for SafeSport conduct that could constitute (a) sexual misconduct, (b) misconduct that is reasonably related to the underlying allegation of sexual misconduct and (c) retaliation related to an allegation of sexual misconduct. Please let me know if you have questions on this legislation and what it means for you.

Our next committee call will be scheduled in the first two weeks of May. Please join us as we continue our planning of fun items and activities to bring to a meet near you and find ways to educate the Minnesota Swimming membership. All are welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

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 Safe Sport Chair
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Bag Tags:



Posters:

