Date: September 16, 2018

To: Minnesota Swimming Board of Directors

From: Rebecca Binder, Safe Sport Chair

Re: Safe Sport Report as of September 2018

Minnesota Swimming has become aware of recent media reports regarding charges against a swimming coach. We do not have additional information on the incident at this time. There is an investigative process that is being followed. In the meantime, inquiries or concerns can be directed to [safesport@mnswim.org](mailto:safesport@mnswim.org).

The safety of our athlete members is a foremost priority. If you have questions on the Safe Sport program and the resources available to you or your team, please contact [safesport@mnswim.org](mailto:safesport@mnswim.org). Please see below for examples of the educational resources that are available.

To report an incident, go to [USA Swimming Safe Sport Report A Concern](https://www.usaswimming.org/articles-landing-page/2017/05/08/safe-sport-report).

For survivors of abuse, assistance is available through SwimAssist at: [USA Swimming SwimAssist](https://www.usaswimming.org/news-landing-page/2018/08/03/what-is-swimassist)

As a reminder to all MSI members, if you are a USA Swimming member, you are a mandatory reporter. Additionally, in the state of Minnesota, you are a mandatory reporter if your job involves working professionally with children. What does this mean? It means that if you suspect a child is being abused, you must report it. I have included information on the USA Swimming and Minnesota mandatory reporting rules at the end of this report.

Examples of Safe Sport educational and training materials available to you or your club:

* PowerPoint presentations that are targeted to a variety of audiences – coaching staff, parents, swimmers, officials, etc.
* Online training for USA Swimming members and non-athlete members
* In person or webex type training/education
* SafeSport Mondays resource book – scenarios covering a wide variety of situations
* SafeSport Mondays monthly email sent to each club contact and athlete liaison

Please contact me at [safesport@mnswim.org](mailto:safesport@mnswim.org) for any of the above resources, to set up training or for any questions or concerns you may have regarding Safe Sport.

The latest committee meeting was held on September 6th. Items discussed were:

* The committee discussed policy proposal process (see attached process map) and created a proposal for the Board to add language to all meet information that photography behind the blocks is not allowed. The Safe Sport model photography policy states:
  + All photographs must observe generally accepted standards of decency in particular:
    - Action shots should be a celebration of the sporting activity and not a sexualized image in a sporting context.
    - Action shots should not be taken or retained where the photograph reveals a torn or displaced swim suit.
    - Photographs should not be taken from behind swimming blocks at the start of a race or exhibit a child climbing out of the swimming pool.
    - Photographs should not be taken in locker‐rooms or bathrooms.
* Reviewed research on MSI clubs’ public websites. Analysis and options to assist clubs in including required information on their public sites to be presented at October Board meeting.

The next Safe Sport Committee call will be on October 4th at 8:00 PM. Conference call information is posted on the MSI website. Please join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Binder (she, her, hers)

Safe Sport Chair

[SafeSport@MNSwim.org](mailto:SafeSport@MNSwim.org)

612.810.4789

**USA SWIMMING - MANDATORY REPORTING RULE**

**ARTICLE 306**

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

 .1 It is every member’s responsibility to promptly report any incident regarding sexual misconduct by a member as described in Article 304.3.8  to USA Swimming’s Director of Safe Sport.  Reporting must occur when an individual has firsthand knowledge of misconduct or where specific and credible information has been received from a victim or knowledgeable third party.  Various state laws may also require reporting to law enforcement or to a designated child protection agency.

.2 No member shall retaliate against any individual who has made a good faith report under 306.1.

.3 False reporting of sexual misconduct made in bad faith is prohibited.

.4 Neither civil nor criminal statutes of limitation apply to reports of cases of sexual abuse.”

**MINNESOTA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**- Mandatory Reporter:  Minnesota law requires that any person whose job involves working professionally with children and who knows or has reason to believe that a child is being neglected or physically or sexually abused **shall**report suspected abuse.  
- Minnesota law requires reporting by mandated reporters who know or have reason to believe that a child is being abused or has been abused within the past three years. A mandated reporter who fails to make a report under those circumstances is guilty of a misdemeanor.  
- When to call 911 to report suspected abuse:

* If you believe a child is in imminent danger of injury, death or sexual abuse, call 911 and describe the situation to the operator with as much detail as you can. The police have the ability to remove a child from a dangerous situation while a child protection investigation is completed.
* If you believe that a child has injuries that need medical attention, call 911 and provide as much information as possible. The operator may dispatch paramedics and the police to insure that the child receives needed medical care.
* If you believe that the child would not be safe returning or remaining at home, call 911. The police can make arrangements for the temporary care of a child when his home is unsafe.
* If a child has disclosed a sexual assault incident that occurred within the last 72 hours, call 911 for the police to respond. The officers will make a report and arrange for a medical exam to collect any physical evidence of the assault. It is very important to alert the police promptly because as time passes, the chance of obtaining physical evidence diminishes. In the case of a sexual assault that occurred outside of the 72-hour window, calling 911 for a police response is still appropriate as the officers will take the report to begin an investigation.

- In Hennepin County, you can also call [Hennepin County Child Protection](https://www.hennepin.us/residents/human-services/child-protection-services) at 612-348-3552. An intake worker is available 24 hours a day to take reports. However, if you feel there is imminent danger to the child, you need to call 911.