**Proposal for Re-Organization of**

**Safe Sport Education and Training**

**For Wisconsin Swimming**

The current effort to promote Safe Sport education and training in Wisconsin Swimming has been lacking due to a coordinator structure instead of a committee structure, and the inability of one individual to complete the necessary duties. An infusion of enthusiasm and organization is required on behalf of our Athletes. The concepts and lessons of Safe Sport are not isolated to swimming and sports. They have the ability to protect our Athletes in all aspects of their lives.

This proposal is to fortify the efforts of the Wisconsin Swimming Safe Sport Coordinator and Wisconsin Swimming to enhance the awareness of training and education for Athletes and Parents. USA Swimming Non-Athlete members are required to complete online Athlete Protection Training. For Athletes and Parents, the online training is voluntary, and the response has been tepid. It is for their benefit primarily that this effort exists.

One of the most effective ways to increase awareness and training is to provide live, in person training for Clubs at their location. Live, in person training provides the opportunity to reach a large number of athletes or parents at one time in an interactive and dynamic fashion. Individual online training shall be encouraged for those not comfortable with a live environment. New parent meetings are another opportunity to raise awareness.

Recommended steps:

1. Convert the Safe Sport Coordinator position to a Chair position.
2. Recruit a 5 person Committee:
   1. Composition: one athlete, one coach and three non-athlete members.
   2. All members of the committee appointed by the General Chair, with the advice of the LSC Safe Sport Coordinator/Committee Chair and the Board of Directors.
   3. Title of Safe Sport Coordinator to change to Safe Sport Committee Chair.
   4. If possible, members to have experience working professionally with youth or with agencies that function in protective services, such as Educators, Coaches, Social Workers, Health Professionals, Law Enforcement, Law, Religion.
   5. All Committee members shall be an Athlete or Non-Athlete Member of USA Swimming.
   6. All Committee members hall be willing to travel within their region of the LSC to provide in person training to clubs
3. LSC to support Safe Sport training for Safe Sport Committee members
   1. Financial support to hold a training clinic to be given by a member of the USA Swimming Safe Sport Office, to include training for live, in person club training
   2. Invite attendance by other Safe Sport Committee Chairs/Coordinators, and Committee members from surrounding LSCs such as Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, etc.
   3. Invite attendance by any existing Club Safe Sport Directors
   4. Invite attendance by the Central Zone Safe Sport Chair
4. Request a line item in the LSC Quad Budget for ongoing Safe Sport initiatives in the LSC to support:
   1. Mileage compensation for LSC Safe Sport Committee members traveling in the LSC in the performance of their duties/in-person training.
   2. Purchase of materials to create Safe Sport Tables at major competitions
      1. LSC Championships
      2. Central Zone Championships held within Wisconsin Swimming (pool and open water)
      3. Speedo Championships held within Wisconsin Swimming
      4. Other meets held within Wisconsin Swimming, upon request
5. Promote the Safe Sport Certified Club program currently under development by USA Swimming.
6. LSC Safe Sport Committee to support the efforts of Club Safe Sport Directors within Wisconsin Swimming.
7. Create innovative ideas, methods and programs to promote Safe Sport awareness and share these with the National Safe Sport office and other LSCs, as well as investigating successful efforts in other LSCs.

Initial Draft September 29, 2015

Revised October 12, 2015

George Geanon, Wisconsin Swimming Safe Sport Coordinator