



## Safe Sport Chair Report Illinois Swimming June 2020

---

Congratulations to Academy, BNCS, GILS, MAVS, MMSA, OFSA, PAC, SSSC, NASA for achieving SSRP.

On Saturday May 30th I attended a virtual safe sport chairs workshop. Below are some of the topics we discussed.

1. Coaching Boys Into Men and Athletes as Leaders: These two programs give our members the opportunity to use evidence based curricula to spark meaningful conversations with their athletes about healthy relationships, strengthening values and open productive communication channels. You can find all the information at [www.usaswimming.org/safesportteamtalk](http://www.usaswimming.org/safesportteamtalk) The two videos about these programs can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TT6LXPpV3B8> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRblRuClyhM>
2. Safe Sport Activity Books: We have two new Activity Books available; one for athletes ages 5-11 and 12-18. These Activity Books have similar activities as before however, all of them now connect back to the purpose of Safe Sport which is abuse prevention. These books will teach kids about boundaries, how to recognize them, how to report, and identifying who they can report to. They will be available on the website very soon.
3. Training of Trainers: This resources includes a full training guide and PowerPoint presentations for Athletes 11 and younger, Athletes 12+, Coaches, Parents and Officials. The goal is to make it easy for you all who are providing training to teams. This also makes the Safe Sport message consistent. You can use just the guide or use the PowerPoint slides that have all the speaking notes in them. I realized that we needed to add information about how to do trainings virtually so we are making that change and will send you the revised product when that is added.
4. Meet 360: This is an information resource guide intended to assist meet administrators in creating a healthy and positive environment free from abuse for athletes. This guide includes steps for Meet Directors to take, briefing sheets, and the new art work for posters, heat sheet ads and meet announcements. We had much discussion on this resource and it was noted we need to have consistency with meet sanctioning and things in this guide.

Second, we reviewed the plan of how our Safe Sport Program will spend the \$2M awarded by the Keeping Athletes First Initiative in order to reach the goal of getting every USA Swimming member club Safe Sport Recognized. The proposal was broken down into these areas:

Technology Improvements: A commonly cited bottleneck for clubs is difficulty in using the Club Portal. Specifically, the Club Portal, in its current state, only permits one password user to access a club's account. In many cases, the club head coach will not grant user access to the individual assisting the club through

the recognition application process. The use of funds for technology improvements would permit for an additional login with limited access capabilities for the sole purpose of Safe Sport Club Recognition. IT is already working on this upgrade with a hopeful release date of mid-June.

**Promotion and Communications:** The first use of funds is to produce a professional promotional video featuring recognizable coaches and athletes discussing the importance of clubs achieving Safe Sport Club Recognition. Further funds will be used to create and mail to each USA Swimming athlete member household a Safe Sport resource guide containing information on the Safe Sport Club Recognition program, education and training opportunities and other Safe Sport resources. This will be a direct touchpoint to all athlete member households. Additional promotion of the program is planned through existing USA Swimming communication and social media channels.

**Education and Training:** A virtual training program will be conducted, training 3 individuals per LSC (approximately 180 individuals total) whom will become recognized as approved trainers who can conduct in-person, facilitator-led trainings in their LSC. Additional funds will be directed to the trainers to reimburse their expenses locally.

**Staffing:** With the goal of recognizing 2,900 clubs by the end of 2021, additional staffing help is necessary. Four contract workers will be hired to assist clubs within an assigned zone with achieving recognition. The contractors will work in conjunction with the USA Swimming Safe Sport staff, the Zone Safe Sport chair and the LSC Safe Sport chairs.

**Future Program Peer Review Phase:** To further engrain Safe Sport into the fabric of our sport, after achieving recognition, clubs will participate in a peer review process with club representatives evaluating other clubs. This will not only allow clubs to learn from other clubs, but will also provide USA Swimming Safe Sport staff with an internal feedback mechanism. This internal feedback mechanism will inform the USA Swimming Safe Sport staff on what messaging and which resources are resonating at the local level and permit the staff to adjust priorities accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melissa Healy  
Safe Sport Chair