

July 17, 2019

Utah Swimming LSC,

I first want to thank you for your ongoing commitment to the USA Swimming Safe Sport efforts as well as your very thoughtful consideration of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP).

By way of background, the U.S. Center for SafeSport ("the Center") released MAAPP as a result of a mandate from Congress in the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act. The Act directed the Center to establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is not the minor athlete's legal guardian. The Center created MAAPP as a baseline for acceptable safety standards and urged National Governing Bodies to add restrictions tailored to fit the sport. All National Governing Bodies were directed to implement MAAPP not later than June 23, 2019.

Given that organizational policies are an operational staff function, USA Swimming staff drafted the USA Swimming MAAPP. The Center mandated that it approve each National Governing Body MAAPP and the USA Swimming draft MAAPP was submitted to the Center for approval. Upon receiving the Center's approval, USA Swimming presented to the Board of Directors proposed emergency legislation to align USA Swimming rules with MAAPP to ensure the organization could comply with the required implementation date. For example, where Rule 305.6.4 has required clubs to develop their own travel policies, MAAPP Section III supplants that rule requirement.

Any alterations to the USA Swimming MAAPP would require Center approval. Being three weeks from the required implementation date does not lend the organization to changing the USA Swimming MAAPP. We anticipate the Center releasing changes to the baseline MAAPP in 2020 and will then take the opportunity to amend the USA Swimming MAAPP as appropriate. We will take the Center's lead on its baseline changes as well as membership feedback at that time to consider further amendments to the USA Swimming MAAPP.

As you have astutely observed, parts of the USA Swimming MAAPP are more restrictive than the Center's baseline MAAPP. This is because USA Swimming is committed as an organization to do more and to continue to do more, as Tim Hinchey told Congress during his testimony and in his letter to the USA Swimming membership. In areas where existing USA Swimming rules, best practice guidelines and model policies required and recommended more than the Center's MAAPP guidelines, USA Swimming committed to do more than the Center's baseline. By way of an example, Rule 305.6.1 has prohibited coaches from sharing a hotel room or sleeping arrangement with an athlete unless the coach is the parent, legal guardian, sibling or spouse of that particular athlete. With Congress's mandate that the policies limit one-on-one interactions between an adult, not just coaches, and unrelated minor athletes, USA Swimming prohibits all non-athlete Applicable Adults from sharing a hotel room, sleeping arrangement or other overnight lodging location with an unrelated minor athlete. The risk of not doing more is not organizational legal liability but rather is the risk of opening the door to grooming opportunities and resulting child abuse. In the cost benefit analysis, we will always choose the benefit of preventing child abuse over the cost of inconveniences to our valued volunteers. Travel arrangements made independently by families with such arrangements not organized or supervised by the team are not subject to MAAPP restrictions.

We appreciate your support in Safe Sport efforts and desire to help us ensure these efforts are the most effective for all USA Swimming members. We hope to continue this dialogue as our efforts to implement MAAPP continue.

Abby



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