

July 22, 2019

Abigail Howard
Associate Counsel & Director of Safe Sport

This correspondence regarding the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) is in response to your email dated July 17, 2019. Both Utah Swimming Inc. (UTSI) and USA Swimming have a top priority of keeping our athletes safe. However, your response to our letter, dated June 17, 2019, disappointingly only addressed one of seven specific items or areas of concern. Further the one item had already been clarified via answers to FAQs on the USA Swimming website. No indication was given in your response if any of the noted items were under consideration or would be provided to the U.S. Center for SafeSport (Center) ahead of the Center's anticipated release of changes to the baseline MAAPP in 2020.

You stated in your response: "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." This statement does not appear to account for the benefits that good supervision provides to reduce the risk of a child's exposure to abuse. We still believe the Non-Athlete members of USA Swimming, including Coach members, are the very people who must shoulder the lions' share of athlete protection. Most of USA Swimming's Non-Athlete members are the army of SafeSport volunteers we want and need around our minor athletes.

Having received significant feedback this past week during the eight sessions of our Utah Swimming Long Course Championships, the most significant unaddressed concerns remain:

- Removal of Applicable Adults and discouraging parents (MAAPP says Legal guardians) from LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS especially when a facility has a single locker room or changing area. UTSI believes policies can be done that limit one-on-one interactions as well as exposure while still facilitating the use of the space.
- Requiring Non-Athlete parents to **discontinue "existing social media connections with minor athletes"** infringes on some parenting styles. The clear sentiment from UTSI officials expressed during our state championships was the simple statement that if they must choose between volunteering and parenting, parenting wins every time.

As General Chair of UTSI, I feel a strong duty to let the Members of UTSI know if any of the items in our June 17, 2019 letter are under consideration. Are they? Your response did not answer this question. An underlying problem with the USA Swimming MAAPP is that it tries to hold parent volunteers to the same standard of separation as paid professionals.

A final question is regarding Proposed Amendments to Rules & Regulations (promulgated June 2019) for consideration by the 2019 USA Swimming House of Delegates. Number R-18 stated purpose: To align USA Swimming Rules with U.S. Center for SafeSport required Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies and direct resolution to the local level. The question is: Will the USA Swimming Rules be aligned with the Center required MAAPP as stated in the purpose or is it the intent to align with the USA Swimming MAAPP? Which document?

At a minimum, please directly answer the questions in this correspondence. I appreciated our phone discussion a few weeks ago and am happy to have additional discussions at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Paul Larsen General Chair, UTSI