

## Safe Sport Chair Report

5-10-16

Reminder that with a new season beginning and new parents and athletes joining your programs to advertise the Parent and athlete online education tools that are offered at [usaswimming.org](http://usaswimming.org) on their Safe Sport page. ([Click Here](#) to be directed)

I was able to attend the Safe Sport Conference on April 22-24<sup>th</sup>. The Conference focused mostly on building inclusive programs and how to continue to grow the Safe Sport ideals within our LSC's and nation.

Some of the highlights from the weekend were:

- Learning ways other LSC's incorporate Safe Sport: Safe Sport Bag Tags for Championship meets (swimmer designed/contest), competitions to take Safe Sport Trainings, Use Committees to help, personal/conferences with each team in the LSC, required for team registration—team Safe Sport contact for sending Safe Sport Info, Self-assessment tools from USA Swimming, Budgets ranged from \$0-\$20,000.
- Discussion on making the deck at meets safer: show credentials, photographers issues, confronting photographers politely and quickly, locker room monitoring (practice and meets), roles in an emergency for Meet staff.
- Safe Sport is working on a single level "Certified Club" recognition just like current Club level recognition programs for organizational/performance.

Additionally, clubs need to be sure to **follow pre-employment guidelines before hiring**. These are the "first line of defense" for clubs to secure quality coaches. These checks include but are not limited to: **USA Swimming background checks, motor vehicle checks, reference checks, maintaining updates on Athlete Protection Trainings (APT) annually, social media checks (not required, but suggested), and continued support for coaches to maintain proper coach/athlete boundaries.**

Continuing to support coaches to maintain proper boundaries is essential. USA Swimming recommends that your team creates a culture that makes all athletes, parents, and coaches feel safe at all times. If the culture is created, any violations of Safe Sport will stick out and be noticed and able to be handled quickly. **Consider posting the "No Camera's" sign at your meet or in your team locker rooms as a reminder.** The pdf of the poster can be found on the USA Swimming Safe Sport Page, at the bottom of the page, ([Click Here](#)) to be taken to the Safe Sport Resources Library Page.

Violations happen! Please don't assume that because we are in Montana or a small LSC made up of relatively small teams, that safe sport is unnecessary. PLEASE support the policies of Safe Sport to make every swimmer safe at all events. ([Click Here](#)) for more tools from the USA Swimming Safe Sport page.

Safe Sport also addresses Bullying within our sport. Address reports of bullying within guidelines from USA Swimming or in your own club policies to ensure all swimmers feel safe at the pool physically and emotionally.

The USA Swimming model policies for bullying, travel, and electronic communication are available online from the safe sport page. ([Click Here](#))

Please contact [coachsobek@gmail.com](mailto:coachsobek@gmail.com) for any questions.

Submitted by Coach Shelly Sobek