

Safe Sport Report
9-22-13

USA-S hosted a conference in May of 2013 for Safe Sport coordinators. The basics of the information presented are bulleted below.

- Safe Sport is working heavily on the PREVENTION of abuse in our sport.
- They continue to use these methods of prevention:
 - Pre-employment screening process including background and motor vehicle checks along with reference checks which are the responsibility of individual clubs
 - Online Education for Coaches, Officials, parents and swimmers (see below for more info). www.usaswimming.org/protect
 - Online/anonymous reporting to a USA-S representative-Susan Woessner.
- False allegations continue to be a low number, less than 5%.
- Most concerning is the VERY low number of parents/athletes that are using the online training tool. Safe Sport is asking us to be actively encouraging our parents and swimmers to take 25 minutes to watch the free online training. Some ideas were to do it as a large group Parent education session. Swimmer training is designed for 13 and over, and should be viewed by parents before or with their swimmer due to the nature of the content.
- Bullying was also addressed at the conference with these aspects in mind
 - Bullying is the repeated or severe verbal or physical action that causes an imbalance of power.
 - Bullying is occurring often with media devices such as internet, texting, camera phones, facebook/social media sites, and other uses of technology.
 - Bullying is addressed in our USA-S Code of Conduct under 304.3.7 and includes a model action plan any team can adopt to help with anti-bullying policy on their team.
 - BEAT Bullying:
 - Break the Bullying Cycle
 - Empower bystanders (and target and bully)
 - Administer appropriate intervention
 - Teach Others to do the same
- Coaches and Clubs should continue to education and follow the best practices and policy guidelines to maintain a safe environment for swimmers and USA-S members. It is crucial that we as USA-S members hold swimmers and each other accountable to keep our sport as safe as possible.

Report respectfully submitted by Shelly Sobek (coachsobek@gmail.com)