Safe Sport Chair Report
9-23-14

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 on their Safe Sport page. (Click Here to be directed)

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 LSC website.

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.

If a peer-peer violation does occur, please **use the form posted on the LSC website** to help guide you through a safety plan to address the undesired behavior of the athlete(s).

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.

Submitted by Coach Shelly Sobek