

I've found this simple framework to be a good starting point as I seek to share the Safe Sport message with others AND help others find ways to share it too.

Safe Sport is

- Education
- Policies
- Action

So far, every Safe Sport conversation I've had can fit within this simple framework. I like that it is very simple and easy to understand, but also expandable to the extent that the other person is willing and able to receive. Here's an example of how I use the framework:

When going out to talk with parents and athletes in their tents at meets, I take a clipboard with the following two pictures and start with "The Pitch." Sometimes it leads to more conversation, other times not. But at the very least, I've given them some important information and presented them with the idea that:

1. Someone believes this information is important enough to come around and share it
2. Their action is needed
3. There's a place where they can get more information

The pitch:

"Hi, my name is Cathy Vaughan and I'm the Safe Sport Chairperson for Utah Swimming. Can I share a short message with you?" (Often, they've seen me approaching other tents by this time. The other interactions have apparently been friendly and not too long so they usually say "Yes.")

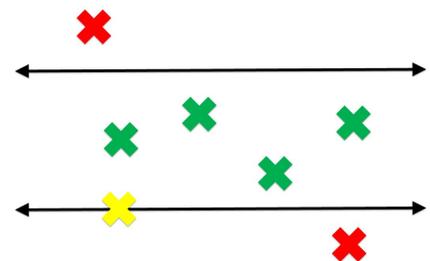


(I show the "Safe Sport IS" picture and say something like) Safe Sport is basically 3 things: Education, Policies and Action. The action comes from me and you. It also comes from our coaches, officials and others who work together to help keep our swim community safe for everyone, especially athletes.

- Education
- Policies
- ACTION

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(Next Picture) Education and policies help us know what's okay and what's not. Then, the action comes as we work together to keep the "good stuff" happening (I point to the green "x's") and speak up when something seems off. (Point to the yellow and red.)



The entire pitch can take as little as 30 seconds -- which from my experience is about what most people willingly give up front. I then leave parents with a parent card that includes a sticker telling them about the free, online Athlete Protection Education classes available for parents and athletes. The sticker also includes a web address and scannable QR code of where they can go to get more info. (FYI: I usually verbally tell them about it too as I give parents the card, unless they are clearly not interested. Then, I just give them the card. I've only had 1 refuse to take the card.)

Sometimes, I'm able to share a short message about ways to address and prevent bullying, or the idea about athletes "taking a buddy to the bathroom" (to help their coaches and officials comply with MAAPP.)