

SAFE SPORT UPDATE October 2019

Janel McCormick Safe Sport Chair Nellybean@aol.com

The role of the Safe Sport Chair is education. Please contact me with information regarding safe sport issues or refer to the Safe Sport Tab on www.usaswimming.org.

Each club should designate a safe sport coordinator for the club. Please provide the Safe Sport chair these names and email contact information. I still need the safe sport contacts for many of the clubs.

Teams hosting meets, please make sure the programs contain the Parent Tips for Safe Sport.

USA swimming is teaming with 2 other organizations, Athletes for Leaders, and Coaching Boys into Men. They have developed programs we are tweaking to use with focus on swimming, but include teachable moments and Safe Sport scenarios. These are an important part of the safe sport agenda, which is critical to help your team with education regarding boundaries and appropriate actions at the pool and other aspects of their lives. A more formal announcement will be made later in the year, and these tools made available to teams.

**The new MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PROTECTION POLICY (MAAPP) is in effect as of June 23, 2019.

All teams should have the link to this policy on their websites. I also have a visual aid on one sheet to make this easier to understand. If teams would like a copy of this, I have attached it to this report.

In addition, all teams should have listed policies for bullying and electronic communications, and team travel.

REMINDER: ALL ATHLETES OVER THE AGE OF 18 must complete the Athlete Protection Training within 30 days of their 18th birthday. www.usaswimming.org/learn

As Always- every person who has contact with the athletes needs to complete a background check and the Athlete Protection Training.

Become a Safe Sport Recognized Club! So far 5 Montana clubs have started the process to earn this designation and show their commitment to creating a safe, healthy, and positive environment for their members. Be the first team in Montana to finish the process!! Email for more information Janel McCormick nellybean@aol.com, or April Walkley jessafesport@gmail.com (Western Zone Safe Sport).

I have ordered some safe sport wrist bands, and hope to have an educational table at at least one meet or state meet.

The link to report incidents is now www.uscenterforsafesport.org. It is posted on the www.montanaswimming.org website, and I encourage you to post this to team websites as well. This is a recently formed organization called the US Center for Safe Sport. The center has the exclusive authority to re-pond to reports of allegations of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct within the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and their recognized National Governing Bodies (NGBs). You may also call or email me with issues, but this is not required. I do not investigate or decide if something should be reported.