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# CHEER ATHLETICS SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY

For membership term August 1, 2018-July 31, 2019

## Purpose

The safety and welfare of the athlete must be at the forefront of all programming considerations. Youth sports programs must have clear, written guidelines that prohibit adults who have contact with minors from engaging in conduct that is either inappropriate and/or illegal.

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## Cheer Athletics will comply with the federal requirements for Sports Organizations in order to take measures to prevent child abuse .

The “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act” was signed into law February 12, 2018 by President Trump. Additional details on this Act can be found by following either link:

- Reuters Article: <https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-congress-harassment/u-s-house-passes-bill-to-protect-young-athletes-from-abuse-idUSKBN1FJ032>
- Legislation Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/534/text?format=txt>

The Act makes it a criminal offense NOT to take the following measures – there is NO grace period, it is effective immediately:

1. **Mandatory Incident Reporting**

*The Act requires Organizations to provide a tool for “Mandatory Reporters” to immediately report suspicions of abuse. The list of “Mandatory Reporters” now includes any adult authorized to interact with a minor athlete at a sports organization, facility, event, or treatment.*

2. **Consistent Abuse Prevention Training**

*The Act requires Youth Sports Organizations to provide consistent training on prevention and reporting of child abuse to all adult members who are in regular contact with minors/amateur athletes. Effective prevention training allows adults to see and recognize problematic behaviors before a minor is abused.*

3. **Confidential Notifications**

*The Act requires Organizations to provide a “mechanism for communication” for all participants and volunteers where they can confidentially report incidents of abuse, or suspicion of abuse.*

4. **Audit Trail & Reporting**

*The Act requires Organizations to establish “oversight procedures” to create records for each incident, including the responses taken to follow acceptable procedures, and can be proven during “random audits” of the Organization.*

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## Cheer Athletics will provide education and resources for parents.

Programs will share and make available resources for parents to educate themselves. At minimum, Cheer Athletics will educate parents on the availability of:

- **Safesport Tool Kit** for parents: <https://resources.safesport.org/toolkits/Parent-Toolkit-Complete/index.html>
- **FREE online parent training** is available at [www.athletesafety.org](http://www.athletesafety.org)
- **Darkness to Light Website** <https://www.d2l.org/>,
- **Stewards of Children Prevention Toolkit App** available on mobile devices
- **USASF SafeSport code and the USCSS Policies document** that is available to all USASF members: [USCSS Policies](#)

**The posting of the policy for all participants and their legal guardians, as well as ensuring that gyms are meeting the standards set forth in the posted policy.**

Cheer Athletics gyms will:

1. Post the policy for participants, their guardians, and coaches to see. (link HERE when completed)
2. Follow the policy as outlined in the above link, including hosting an annual sexual abuse orientation meeting with all coaches, parents and volunteers. Links for the items needed to conduct the annual orientation meeting are listed below:
  - a. Handout
  - b. PCA produced video: Protecting Youth Athletes From Sexual Abuse: Parents And Coaches

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**Cheer Athletics will follow Mandated Reporter policies for the respective state.**

A “Mandated Reporter” is someone required by law to report if they suspect or know that child abuse is occurring. Each state has its own legal requirements and agencies for reporting. It is the responsibility of the Program Administrator and/or owner to:

1. Know the laws that are specific for their state.
2. Post the legal requirements and specific reporting procedures for their state for all coaches and adult staff to reference.
3. Conduct an annual staff meeting that includes training on the legal requirements and reporting procedures for their state.