

Section II – Athlete Protection Policies

The following policies are set forth to further help prevent misconduct in all U.S. Figure Skating related activities. U.S. Figure Skating requires each member club and program to develop and implement its own policies based upon the information within this SafeSport Handbook for the purposes of athlete protection and providing a safe environment for all to participate.

Athlete Protection Policy

The athlete protection policy describes the organization’s commitment to promoting athlete safety by describing acceptable and unacceptable conduct.

The absence of clear behavioral boundaries is a significant risk factor for misconduct. If inappropriate conduct is not clear to sport stakeholders, unacceptable situations might be tolerated and no disciplinary action taken. Unclear boundaries can also lead to inadvertent misconduct (e.g., where a coach models behavior that he or she experienced as an athlete without realizing its negative effects).

The athlete protection policy clarifies to all stakeholders that the organization is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for athletes. It also emphasizes and sets forth standards of behavior that clearly outline unacceptable behaviors, minimize opportunities for misconduct, and help to prevent unfounded allegations.

Elements

- States commitment to athlete safety
- Describes to whom the policy applies (e.g., those individuals within the organization’s control)
- Defines all forms of misconduct in sport:
 - Emotional, physical and sexual misconduct in sport
 - Bullying, harassment and hazing in sport
 - Prohibits all forms of misconduct in sport
- Meets or exceeds requirements of relevant standard of care or legislation
- States who shall/may report suspected misconduct
- States to whom a report should be made per U.S Figure Skating SafeSport program
- Describes how the organization will address violations of the Athlete Protection policy

Commitment to Safety

In the event that a coach, official, director, employee, parent/guardian or volunteer observes inappropriate behaviors (i.e., policy violations), suspected physical or sexual misconduct, it is the personal responsibility of each member to immediately report his or her observations to the club’s SafeSport Compliance Officer and take the appropriate action stated in applicable U.S. Figure Skating Rules.