

Safe Sport Chair Report

This is my last year as safe sport chair in Potomac Valley. I've been in this position for five years & want to thank everyone for your support & guidance through those exciting but sometimes brutal times. A special thank you to Riley Eaton who attended most of the meetings with me and shared in the good & bad.

The safe sport (SS) position on the BOD is I think the most important position there is. The sole responsibility is to protect our most important assets, our children. Every day something comes up that makes you shake your head & wonder why you do this & then you remember it's your job to protect our kids. I have two kids who swim in PVS & thank god everyday we have a board who puts so much importance into SS. Without the support of our BOD & our coaches & membership it would never work.

In the last 5 years things have really changed in SS we have gone from looking back to charging forward. We have a banned list of bad guys a board of review to watch over us & a lot of rules to keep us watchful for the future.

So what is the future for SS?

Education, let me say it again Education. At this point every club should have a SS contact. Every club should have a SS spot on your website. Every athlete should know what SS is & how it affects them. At my club no one travels without taking the SS athlete training module. Why? It would never happen on my club, till it does, your job is to protect our kids.

SS marshaling is the next phase of our training. Who can come down on our decks right now? Well just about anybody who wants to, our marshals have not been trained or educated in their jobs to stop or recognize someone who doesn't belong. That's a shame if someone gets on our deck & molests or steals a kid. SS will be conducting marshal training as part of a new incentive to keep our decks safe & each club will have to have a rep attend that training. Why? To keep our kids safe. In our new year we have our Hear something, See something, Say something attack coming out. If you hear a rumor, if you think you saw something if you have a suspicion say something to a SS contact why? Because it's our job to protect our kids.

Education is our best weapon USA swimming has given us a lot of great working tools to help go to their website & download them use them get them out there to your coaches & families. Why? You know the answer to that one.

Be Safe & Thank You,
Greg York
Safe Sport Chair Potomac Valley