



USA Swimming **SAFE SPORT** Newsletter

May, 2013

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Welcome to the Safe Sport Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a foundation that allows for direct on-going communication with each of you. Information contained within will cover the most current Safe Sport related information. If you have any feedback, comments or suggestions, please e-mail us at athleteprotection@usaswimming.org.

UPDATES:

- Please join us in welcoming the new additions to the Safe Sport Committee. With these additions we now have a complete committee and we are so pleased to have you all on board.
 - o Sandy Wurtele Ph.D. - Psychology professor at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; serving the committee as an expert in the field.
 - o George Geanon- Wisconsin Board of Review mediator and Safe Sport Coordinator
 - o Meaghan Murphy- USA Swimming Coach member
 - o CJ Fiala- USA Swimming Athlete member
- The USA Swimming Safe Sport Handbook was released electronically on February 7, and it was mailed to every member club in March. You can also access a full version of the handbook on the Safe Sport webpage.
- **KUDOS TO SUSAN:** Director of Safe Sport Susan Woessner recently accomplished an important professional milestone and is now officially a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) in the state of Colorado.

USA Swimming is committed to raising awareness about prevention of abuse in sport. We are proud to partner with Praesidium, an industry expert in abuse prevention, to bring the swimming community customized and comprehensive training tools for coaches, volunteers and parents.

NOW WE ALSO HAVE CUSTOMIZED EDUCATION FOR ATHLETES!!!!!!

Free athlete protection training became available on April 8. It is a free education program for athlete ages 12-18. The training provides athletes with information about:

- Inappropriate contact
- Physical, emotional and behavioral boundaries
- What to do if your boundaries are violated
- Who to tell
- How USA Swimming can be a resource

You can locate the training at www.praesidiuminc.com/armatus/reference_athletes.php
(Flyer for the training is attached to this Newsletter)

On April 6, our Safe Sport staff piloted an in-person training session using the online course with the National Junior Team during their training camp at the Olympic Training Center. The participation from all the athletes was great and the training was well received by both the athletes and the coaches.

If you are interested in bringing an Athlete Training to your LSC or a specific club please contact Susan Woessner or Liz Hoendervoogt at the National office.

To support the new LSC role of the Safe Sport Coordinator the Safe Sport Committee will hold the first "LSC Safe Sport Coordinators Workshop" in Dallas, TX on May 31-June 1. The goal of the workshop is to bring together those individuals serving in this original LSC role so that they can learn from each other and share ideas. This is an important step in our efforts to strengthen the Safe Sport initiative within our sport.

For LSC Safe Sport Coordinators to sign up please contact Susan Woessner at swoessner@usaswimming.org.

Please keep a look out for the next Safe Sport webinar which will be covering "Bullying" - coming in June.

Date and Time TBD

The USA Swimming Safe Sport Program continues to offer free athlete protection training to the parents of our member athletes. Parents are a critical component to our overall goal to protecting children from sexual abuse. The comprehensive online programming includes information about how offenders operate; how to recognize and respond to boundary violations, myths and facts about child sexual abuse and USA Swimming's Athlete Protection Policies and Procedures.

Access the training here:

http://www.praesidiuminc.com/armatus/reference_parents.php

It has been difficult reaching the parents to have them complete the training. Attached to this newsletter is a flyer for the training that would be great to put in heat sheets, on team websites or on club bulletin boards to promote the training and its availability.

Please remind all clubs in your LSC about the following information which are all requirements of USA Swimming per the Code of Conduct.

~Pre-Employment Screening~

~Anti-Bullying Policy~

~Electronic Communication Policy~

PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING:

Under Article 502.6.8 of the *USA Swimming rulebook*, all clubs are required to comply with the USA Swimming Pre-Employment Screening Procedures for New Employees for all new employees who are required to be USA Swimming members under Article 305.4 and 502.6.3.

The pre-employment screening program requires clubs to certify to USA Swimming that they have conducted three required screens prior to offering employment to any potential employee. The three screens are (1) past employment reference checks; (2) verify the highest held level of education; (3) acquire a state motor vehicle report. Clubs are also encouraged to complete two option screens: (1) social network search; and (2) Google media search.

If you have additional questions or need more information please reference the Pre-Employment FAQ on USA Swimming's website or contact preemploymentscreening@usaswimming.org.

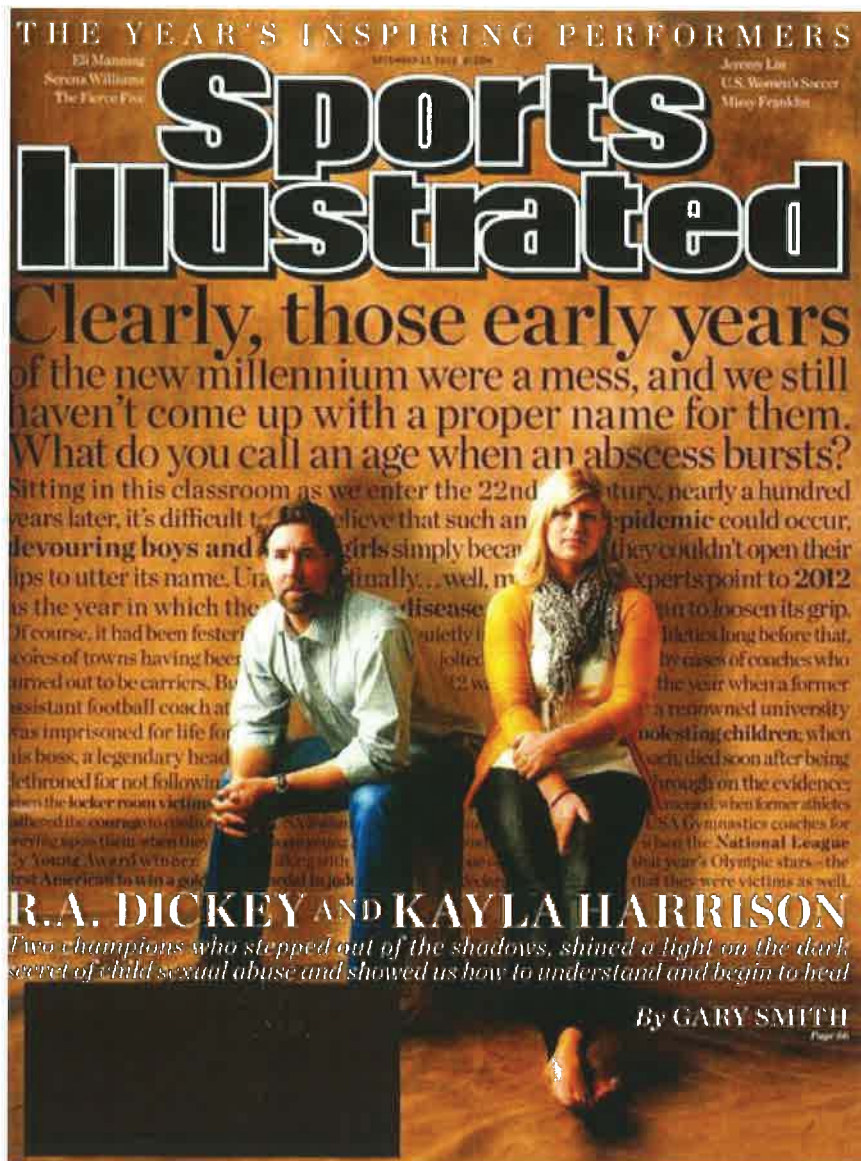
ANTI-BULLYING and ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICIES:

305.6 of the 2013 Rulebook states that "Clubs shall establish their own action plans for implementing USA Swimming's anti-bullying policy."

305.7 of the 2013 Rulebook states that "Clubs shall establish their own electronic communication/social media policy."

USA Swimming has provided model policies for both the bullying and electronic communication/social media. You can access them here <http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1962&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

Both model policies become the default policy for any club that chooses not to, or is unable to, create their own. Also, both policies must be reviewed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults affiliated with the club.



This issue of Sports Illustrated features a cover story about two world-class athletes, Cy Young Major League pitcher R.A. Dickey and Kayla Harrison Judo Gold Medalist.

"Two champions who stepped out of the shadows, shined a light on the dark secret of child sexual abuse and showed us how to understand and begin to heal."

If you haven't read this article you can access it at:
<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1206584/1/index.htm>

This article by writer Gary Smith is powerful, insightful, compassionate, and educational. You absolutely will not regret taking the time to read it.

QUICK LINKS TO SAFE SPORT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- USA Swimming Safe Sport home page: <http://www.usaswimming.org/protect>
- USA Swimming Education: <http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1960&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>
- USOC Safe Sport home page: <http://safesport.org/>
- Stop It Now! Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: <http://www.stopitnow.org/>
- National Children's Advocacy Center: <http://www.nationalcac.org/>
- Stopbullying: <http://www.stopbullying.gov/>
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: <http://www.missingkids.com/home>
- Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN): <http://www.rainn.org>
- Child Welfare League of America: <http://www.cwla.org/>
- Safe4Athletes: <http://safe4athletes.org/>
- radKIDS!: <http://www.radkids.org/>
- Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center lookup: <http://www.westernregionalcac.org/directory-of-cacs.html>
- Safe Horizon: <http://www.safehorizon.org/>

USA SWIMMING ATHLETES:



**You've been taught how to
be safe in and around water.**

***But how do you stay safe
out of the water?***

USA Swimming and the Athlete's Executive Committee are pleased to announce the release of **USA Swimming's Safe Sport education for athletes.**

USA Swimming has developed a free education program for you to participate in!

Click here to learn about:

- Inappropriate contact
- Physical, emotional, and behavioral boundaries
- What to do if your boundaries are violated: why and who to tell
- How USA Swimming can be a resource for you

By learning how to protect yourselves, you also learn how to protect your peers; and together you can make the sport safer for everyone.

If you have questions, please contact any of the athlete representatives or contact Susan Woessner (swoessner@usaswimming.org) at USA Swimming.

usaswimming.org/protect



Free Parent Training

Training topics include:

- Myths and facts about child sexual abuse.
- How offenders operate.
- How to recognize boundary violations.
- USA Swimming Athlete Protection Policies and Procedures.
- How to respond to boundary violations.

While the overwhelming majority of coaches and volunteers join sports for all the right reasons, some have other intentions. Parents play an important part in USA Swimming's Safe Sport efforts, and we need your Club's help in promoting this new course.

Encourage your Club's parents to complete abuse awareness training.

1. Go to usaswimming.org/protect
2. Click "Free Athlete Protection Training for Parents"
3. Select your LSC and enter your Club Code

Abuse Awareness for Parents

Designed by Praesidium, USA Swimming's athlete protection partner, this free interactive course helps parents understand their role in abuse prevention and helps ensure their children have a lifetime of wonderful swimming memories.



PRAESIDIUM
Our passion. Your protection.

Get started today: usaswimming.org/protect