

SAFE SPORT RECOGNIZED CLUB PROGRAM

Description:

The Safe Sport Recognized Club program allows clubs to demonstrate their commitment to creating a safe, healthy, and positive environment for all their members through the development and implementation of Athlete Protection Policies, Safe Sport Best Practices, and Safe Sport education. Safe Sport Recognized Clubs will earn a badge to display on their website, and these clubs will be designated as Safe Sport Recognized in USA Swimming's Find-a-Club online tool.

Using an online assessment, clubs will detail their procedures, upload their policies, and verify their educational efforts in order to achieve a Safe Sport Recognized status. This designation will expire and is eligible to be renewed every two years.

Throughout the past 8 years of the Safe Sport program, clubs have continually embraced the program's abuse prevention measures and educational tools. Safe Sport Recognition will allow clubs to publicly demonstrate their unwavering commitment to healthy, safe, and positive environments and market themselves as such.

The facts:

- Voluntary and no-cost program for all USA Swimming member clubs
- Completed online via the club portal on www.usaswimming.org/ssrp
- Renewed every 2 years
- Earn a Safe Sport Recognized Club designation
- Focused on team policies, procedures, and educational engagement to implement Safe Sport and engage in safeguarding best practices
- 30 criteria; some required, some elective/recommended, falling into the following categories:
 - Business/Organizational Success
 - Parent/Volunteer Empowerment
 - Coach Education and Development
 - Athlete Education and Development
- Successful completion demonstrates a commitment to providing a safe, healthy, and positive environment for all participants, including coaches, swimmers, parents, and volunteers



FAQs

- What is the process for receiving Safe Sport Recognition?
 - The club admin will log into the club portal and complete the criteria for Safe Sport Recognition, including all the required measures, as well as a selection of elective measures to fulfill point requirements.
 - After the club admin submits the form online, it will be reviewed by Safe Sport staff. This can take up to a week.
 - Staff will either approve the Recognition or send it back with notes for improvement.
 - Once the Recognition is approved, the club will receive notification and a logo to display on their website. Within 24 hours, the Find-a-Club tool will begin showing the club as Safe Sport Recognized.
- Is there a performance component to the Safe Sport Recognition Program?
 - No, times and IMX scores are not a factor for the Safe Sport Recognition Program. Clubs serving all levels of athletes are eligible to pursue this recognition.

- How is the training component measured?
 - This is an automatic process based on how many individuals completed the “Safe Sport for Athletes” and “Safe Sport for Parents” courses on LEARN. Clubs can earn more points for having a larger proportion of their club complete these courses. The proportion is based on the number of registered households within a club, and at least 10% participation is required to receive points.
- Do I have to do it all at once?
 - No, it’s possible to start Safe Sport Recognition and come back to it at any time via the club portal.
- Does becoming a Safe Sport Recognized Club mean that we will never have instances of misconduct?
 - Unfortunately, no. However, becoming a Safe Sport Recognized Club ensures that you’re as prepared as possible to mitigate risk and respond to any inappropriate behavior or misconduct. By creating a structure through policies, guidelines, and procedures—and training the coaches, athletes, and parent/volunteers on Safe Sport—you’ve created a shared commitment to do everything you can to create a safe, healthy, and positive environment for all participants.
- Does becoming a Safe Sport Recognized Club mean that I don’t need to talk about Safe Sport or do other Safe Sport education anymore?
 - No! Becoming a Safe Sport Recognized Club means that you’ve taken proactive steps to create a culture of Safe Sport within the club—keep talking about it! Regularly engage the club’s athletes in Safe Sport Mondays discussion, review your team travel policy before team trips, and refer often to your policies and procedures when issues come up.
- What happens if misconduct occurs at a Safe Sport Recognized club?
 - Clubs will rely on their team policies to manage minor misconduct and team policy violations. If a more serious report of misconduct occurs, clubs will be offered a post incident analysis implemented by USA Swimming Safe Sport to restore safety.