



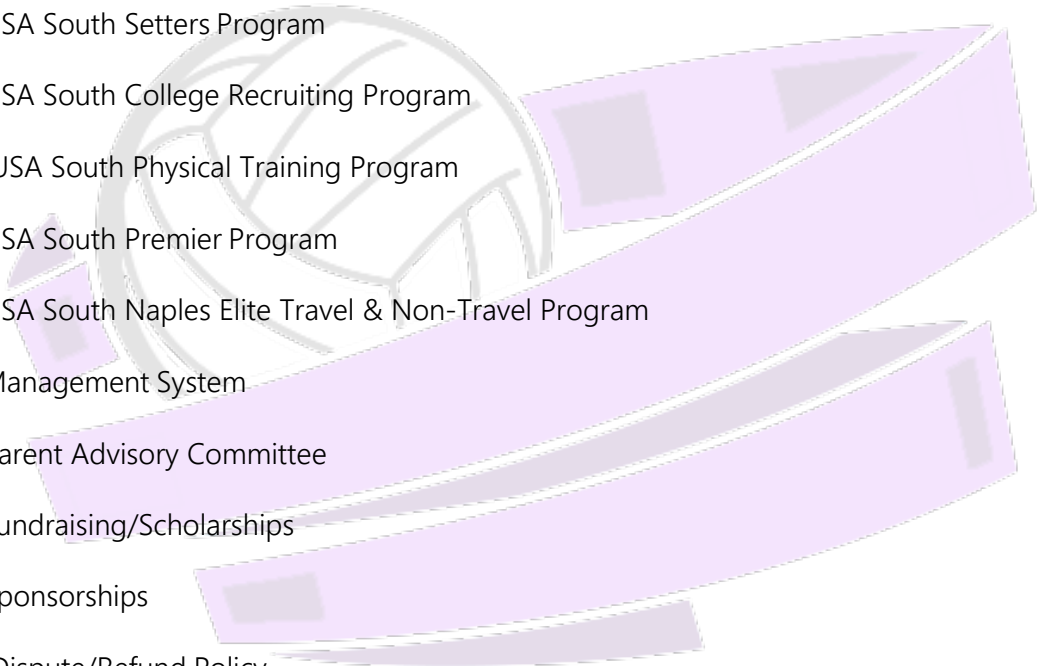
Developing Success One Player at a Time

A faint background graphic featuring a volleyball and several flowing purple ribbons. The volleyball is positioned behind the text, and the ribbons are draped across the lower half of the page.

2026 – 2027 Club Volleyball Handbook

CLUB VOLLEYBALL HANDBOOK

CONTENTS

- 
- A decorative graphic in the background of the contents list. It features a light purple volleyball with a grid pattern, partially obscured by several overlapping, curved, light purple shapes that resemble stylized waves or a ribbon. The shapes have darker purple outlines and some internal shading.
- USA South Volleyball Mission, About Us, & Training Program
 - The Value of USA South
 - USA South Organizational Structure & Leadership
 - USA South Setters Program
 - USA South College Recruiting Program
 - USA South Physical Training Program
 - USA South Premier Program
 - USA South Naples Elite Travel & Non-Travel Program
 - Management System
 - Parent Advisory Committee
 - Fundraising/Scholarships
 - Sponsorships
 - Dispute/Refund Policy

MISSION

The USA South volleyball program is dedicated to providing its athletes with the fundamental, physical and mental training to reach their highest possible potential. We strive to provide each athlete an equal opportunity to reach their maximum potential regardless of age or ability.

ABOUT US

Since 1997 we have worked hard laying the foundation for USA South and propelling it to one of the elite clubs in the Florida Region that is known throughout the country. During that time the club has recognized the following accomplishments.

- Over **64 teams** have participated in the Girls National Championships
- More than **163 student athletes** have progressed to play college volleyball
- **180 + players** per season making their High School & Middle School Volleyball teams
- Players selected yearly for Florida's High-Performance Teams
- Established one of the top coaching staffs in the Florida Region

USA South has a proven training system which allows each of our player's access to elite training and equal growth opportunities. Our training systems are streamlined and monitored so that players achieve excellence through the relentless pursuit of technical development, physical ability and tactical skills. The attention to detail in our programing and implementation of training maximizes each player's success. Our elite coaching staff and wealth of coaching knowledge is spread among all the players in our program creating consistent and expedited individual volleyball growth.

USA SOUTH TRAINING PROGRAM

Our coaches are highly qualified and trained to design, implement, and facilitate the necessary volleyball fundamentals in a streamlined system. This system allows all players regardless of age or level to be trained in a manner in which each can reach their full potential. Our coaches design layered monthly practice plans that allow them to train players and reach weekly/monthly training goals consistently. This strategy allows all players in the program to continue on a steady growth path to maximize their volleyball skills.

The key to developing success, one player at a time, is the creation and execution of a technical architecture. This consists of a set of teaching principles, teaching cues, video reinforcement, and integrated practice drills by age group and ability that will assure each player learns each skill and game knowledge in a consistent fashion. Every coach teaches and trains from this technical architecture so that instruction is consistent, enabling a player who starts out in little spikers to move to our premier program in a rapid and seamless progression. This accelerated learning is facilitated by the fact that all players learn the skills using the identical cues and vernacular regardless of the coach.

All USA South coaches are taught the USA South architecture and will be required to teach to its standards. As part of our player and coach development plan, the coaches will be assessed based upon their effectiveness in a number of areas, a large piece of which is teaching each player in a consistent and correct fashion. Players will also be reviewed by their coaches to help them stay on task in learning skills correctly.

THE VALUE OF USA SOUTH

Volleyball Programs

- Coaching staff comprised of **80 years** of international experience, **84 years** of Collegiate experience, over **100 years** of High School experience. Totaling over **260 Years** of Combined coaching experience and counting!
- Top Ranked Teams in the Florida Region of the USAV in ALL age brackets
- A Top Setters Training Program
- Collegiate Recruiting Program (over 145 collegiate athletes)
- Access to private lessons and position trainings
- Access to multiple facilities with the top training equipment
- Individualized Player Development
- Physical Training Program

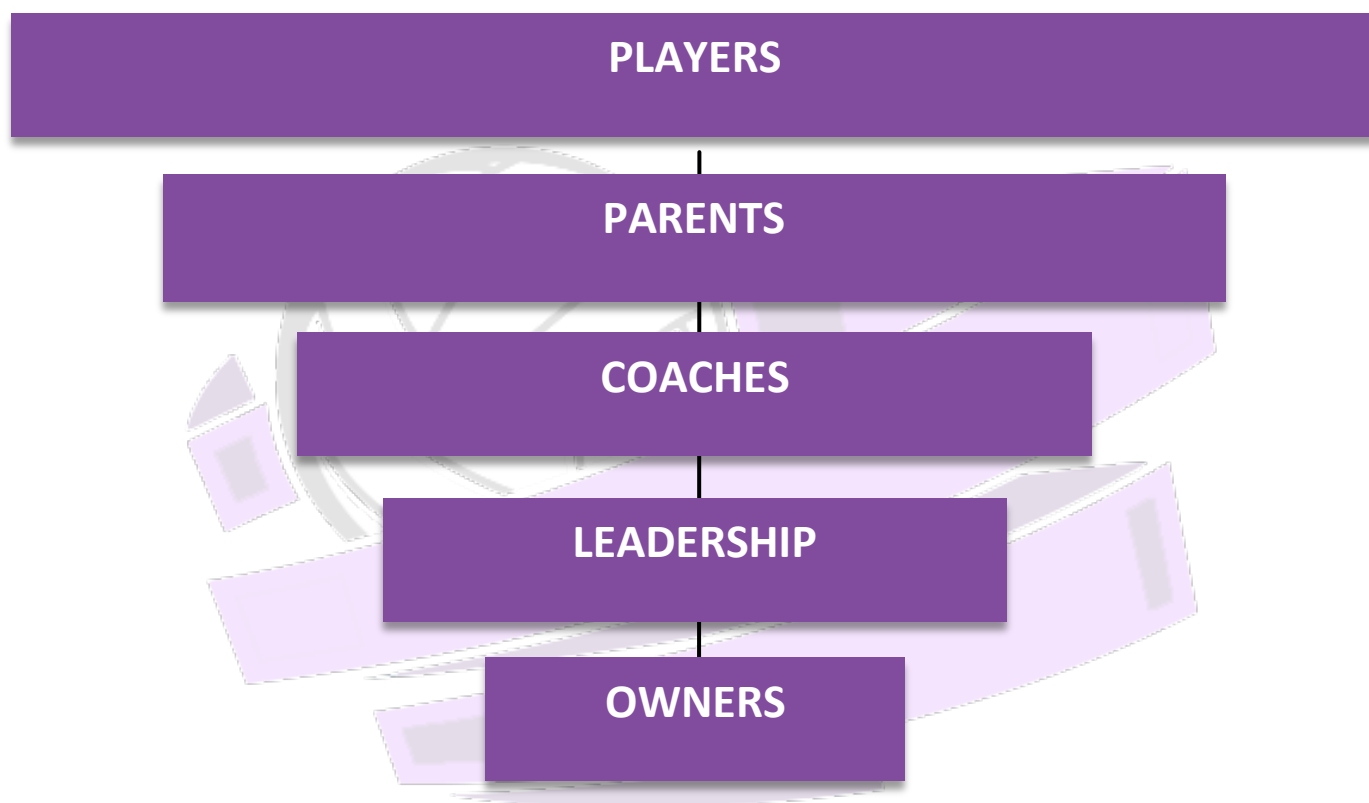
Customer Service

- Prompt and friendly communication to all emails and questions. You are the reason we exist
- Consistent Communication and updates including our own USA South Volleyball App downloadable from the App Store
- First class online Player Management System
- Parent Advisory Committee
- End of year banquet to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our players and coaches

Training Facilities

- Estero Recreation Center – 2 courts
- USA South Training Facility – 2 courts
- South Cape Community Center – 2 Courts
- North Collier Regional Park- 3 courts

USA SOUTH ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



PROGRAMS

USA SOUTH SETTERS PROGRAM

USA South has a full standardized collegiate based setting program. This program is based on skills and training that the top recruited setters in the Nation are following. Our program is designed to provide the top setting training available in the Florida Region. All setters have a structured technical curriculum in which all will have the opportunity to receive the best fundamental and philosophical training when it comes to the position of setter. Our Setting Program Director will work hands on with all setters in the USA South program to ensure they are all following the correct technical skills, meeting age level benchmarks and game knowledge.

USA SOUTH RECRUITING PROGRAM

All High School players in the USA South program will have access to our Recruiting Director and services. Each year we will hold recruiting workshops in which player/parents can be educated and receive assistance in the recruiting process. We will also offer recruiting services to those in need of assistance. The recruiting director will assist in players in recruiting needs, network with collegiate coaches of all levels and mentor players when it comes to making commitments.

USA SOUTH PHYSICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Physical training is an integral part of a player's volleyball development. USA South has partnered with Leap Human Performance to develop a program that provides training to help all players of different fitness abilities to achieve their maximum skill level and potential.

USA SOUTH PREMIER PROGRAM

The USA South Premier Program has been designed for the player with a strong dedication and commitment to the sport of volleyball. This program includes three practice sessions and multiple out of state competitions. These out of state competitions are selected to give our players the greatest exposure to college coaches for recruiting purposes. Players in this program are expected to attend all training sessions, competitions and should plan on participating in volleyball training each weekend during the club season. Teams in this program will be expected to compete in the Open and National level. In addition, the following will be offered:

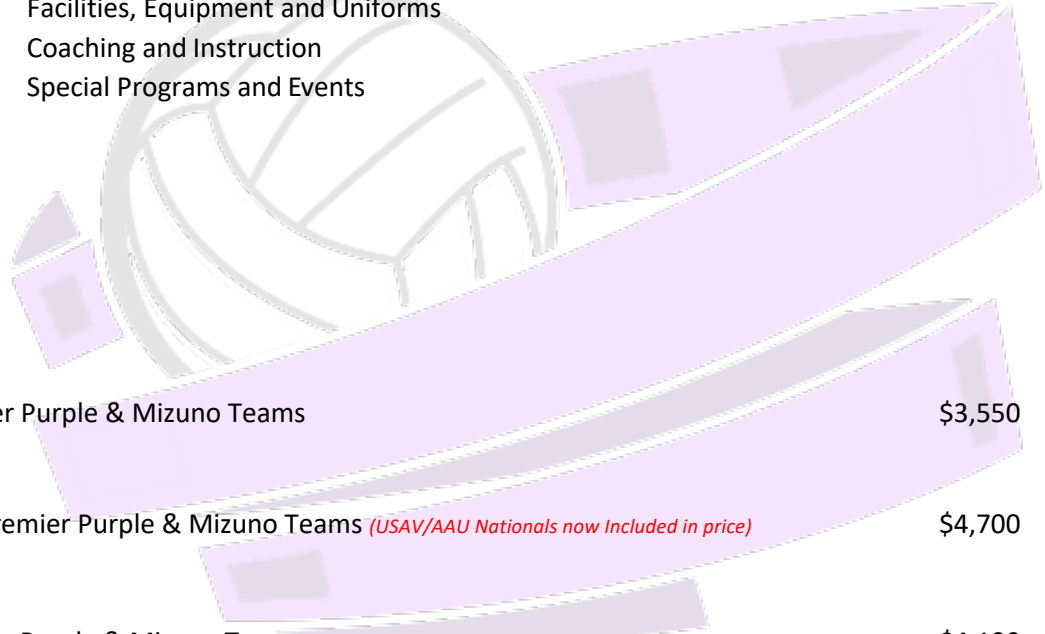
- Two to Three practice sessions per week
- Weekly physical training sessions
- Full access to our volleyball facility and all supplemental training programs.
- Full access to USA South Coaches for Private Lessons
- Indoor club season runs from **October through USAV/AAU National Championships for all 12-14 Premier Purple and Mizuno teams.**
- Indoor club season runs from **November through USAV/AAU National Championships for all 15-17 Premier Purple & Mizuno teams.**
- Indoor club season runs from **October through Florida Regional Championships for all ages 11-14 Premier Black, White and Grey teams.** The season may be extend if they qualify for the USAV National Championship or choose to compete in the AAU National Championship.**
- Indoor club season runs from **November through Florida Regional Championships for all ages 15-17 Premier Black, White and Grey teams.** The season may be extend if they qualify for the USAV National Championship or choose to compete in the AAU National Championship.**
- Indoor club season for **18 Premier Purple and Black teams** will follow USAV Season Format and will have the option to compete at USAV or AAU Nationals.**
- Players will receive: 2 uniforms, game warm up, 3 practice shirts, 2 spandex, knee pads and socks
- Tournament schedules vary based on team and age group.

**** All Premier Purple & Mizuno Teams are required to play at either the USAV or the AAU National Championships**

USA South Premier Program Club Fees include:

- **All Coaches Travel Expenses**
- Administrative Expenses
- Player Management System
- Insurance and Membership Registrations
- Facilities, Equipment and Uniforms
- Coaching and Instruction
- Special Programs and Events

Total



18 Premier Purple & Mizuno Teams	\$3,550
13 – 17 Premier Purple & Mizuno Teams <i>(USAV/AAU Nationals now Included in price)</i>	\$4,700
12 Premier Purple & Mizuno Teams <i>(USAV/AAU Nationals now Included in price)</i>	\$4,100
10-11 Premier Teams	\$2,150

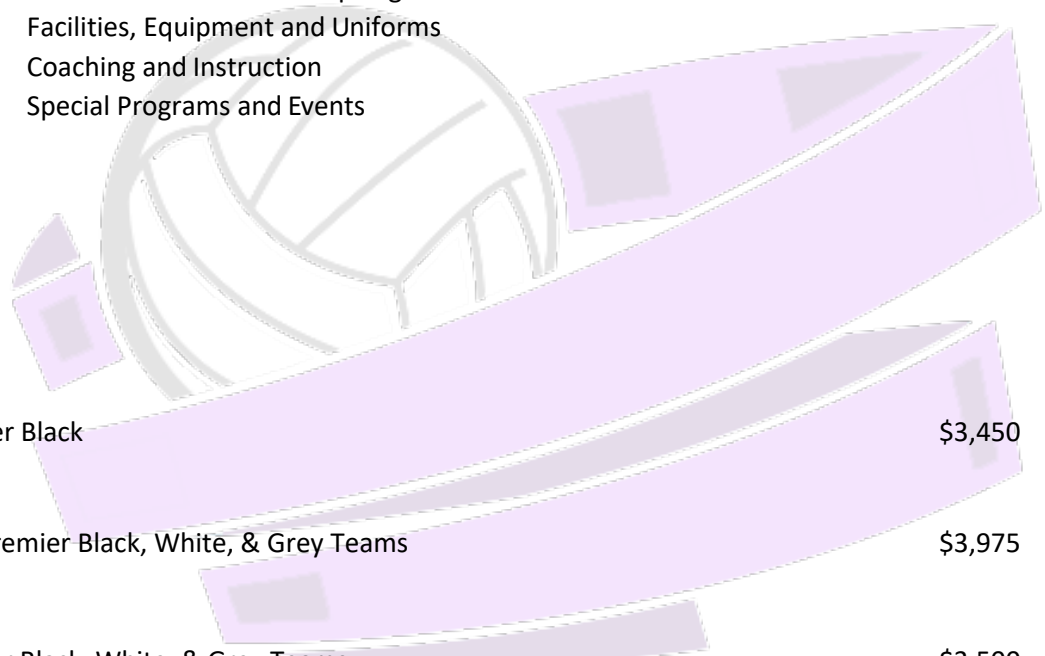
The above Club Fees can either be paid in full or over the duration of eight scheduled payments (August-March)

****USAV/AAU National Championship fees included in fees for 12U to 17U Purple & Mizuno Teams.**

USA South Premier Program Club Fees include:

- **All Coaches Travel Expenses**
- Administrative Expenses
- Player Management System
- Insurance and Membership Registrations
- Facilities, Equipment and Uniforms
- Coaching and Instruction
- Special Programs and Events

Total



18 Premier Black	\$3,450
13 – 17 Premier Black, White, & Grey Teams	\$3,975
12 Premier Black, White, & Grey Teams	\$3,500
10-11 Premier Teams	\$2,150

The above Club Fees can either be paid in full or over the duration of eight scheduled payments (August-March)

****USAV/AAU National Championship fees not included.**

USA SOUTH NAPLES ELITE TRAVEL & NON-TRAVEL PROGRAM

The USA South Naples Elite Travel & Non-Travel Program has been designed for the player with a strong dedication and commitment to the sport of volleyball. This program includes two practice sessions and in-state travel tournaments as well as local tournament play. These tournaments are selected to give our players the greatest opportunity to develop and grow their volleyball playing skills. Players in this program are expected to attend all training sessions, competitions and should plan on participating in all volleyball training. In addition, the following will be offered:

- Two practice sessions per week
- Full access to our volleyball facility and all supplemental training programs
- Full access to USA South Coaches for Private Lessons
- Indoor travel & non-travel club season runs from **November through April**
- The season may be extended if your team chooses to compete in the AAU National Championship**
- Travel Players will receive: 2 uniforms, game warm up, 2 practice shirts, spandex, knee pads and socks
- Non-Travel Players will receive: 2 uniforms, 2 practice shirts, spandex, knee pads and socks
- Tournament schedules vary based on team and age group

**** AAU National Championship fees not included**

USA South Naples Elite Travel and Non-Travel Program Club Fees include:

- **All Coaches Travel Expenses**
- Administrative Expenses
- Player Management System
- Insurance and Membership Registrations
- Facilities, Equipment and Uniforms
- Coaching and Instruction
- Special Programs and Events

12- 18's Naples Elite Travel Teams

\$2,850

10-11's Naples Elite Travel Teams

\$2,150

The above Club Fees can either be paid in full or over the duration of eight scheduled payments (August-March)

****AAU National Championship fees not included.**

TRAVEL POLICY

At USA South we expect our players and coaches to represent the club in a professional and respectable manner when traveling to and participating in tournaments. All players will be expected to follow the rules stated in Player and Parent Contract. The off court actions of our players and coaches are just as important as those on the court. In today's recruiting atmosphere college coaches are looking for players who are well disciplined both on and off the court.

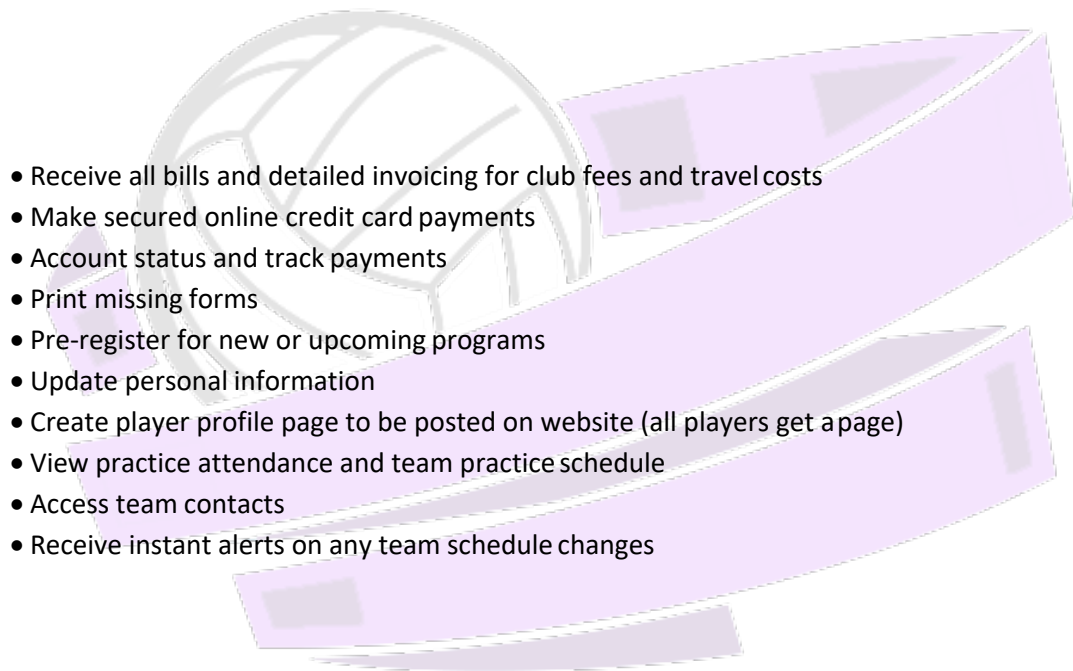
All players must secure transportation to and from all tournament locations. Players must arrive to the hotel and/or gym by the specified time and attend all team meetings designated by their coach. Players on all teams will stay in hotel rooms with their family. If the player's family is not attending the tournament they can arrange for their daughter to stay with another family. Families are welcome to reserve extra rooms for players to stay in as groups but those parents will be responsible for the player's actions while staying at the hotel. Families will be required to stay in tournament chosen hotels when required and will be notified by the club when that is required. Players must also remember to bring meal money when attending tournaments and when team meals are not provided.

Absolutely no boys are allowed at the team hotel. All players will have curfew every night. Players are not allowed to leave the room after curfew unless it is an emergency in which case they will call the coach. Prior to curfew players will always travel in groups and never alone.

Players are not to leave the hotel or playing venue without notifying their coach. Drugs, tobacco, and alcohol are of course strictly forbidden. Players caught with the above will meet with staff and their parents to determine the course of action. Punishments will be swift and firm.

PLAYER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

USA South has a first class player management system. This system is the home for of all the operations, administration, billing and team management for USA South staff and members. Parents, staff, and directors alike access this web based system for all of their club needs. Below is a list of features and tools available to our USA South members.

- 
- Receive all bills and detailed invoicing for club fees and travel costs
 - Make secured online credit card payments
 - Account status and track payments
 - Print missing forms
 - Pre-register for new or upcoming programs
 - Update personal information
 - Create player profile page to be posted on website (all players get a page)
 - View practice attendance and team practice schedule
 - Access team contacts
 - Receive instant alerts on any team schedule changes

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (P.A.C.)

USA South has a Parent Advisory Committee that is comprised of a parent representative from each age group. This committee meets with the club directors on a monthly basis to discuss opportunities to improve USA South for the players, the parents, and the organization. Each representative will act as a communication resource for their age group. Representatives will assist the club in recommendations for new programs, travel, fundraising, events, and be a resource to address any club issues. This committee serves in an advisory capacity only and all final decisions will be made by the club directors. The committee's input and suggestions, however, are being sought and are valued by the USA South Club directors. The committee's input will be earnestly and thoroughly evaluated by the club directors before any material policy decisions are implemented.

FUNDRAISING

USA South understands that all our student athletes can use help in affording club volleyball year in and year out. It is very important to us that every athlete who wishes to play for USA South has the opportunity and is not discouraged from playing due to the cost. Each season athletes have the opportunity to participate in fundraisers to help reduce the cost of participation in our program. All fundraisers must be pre-approved by the club in order to use funds raised to offset Club Fees.

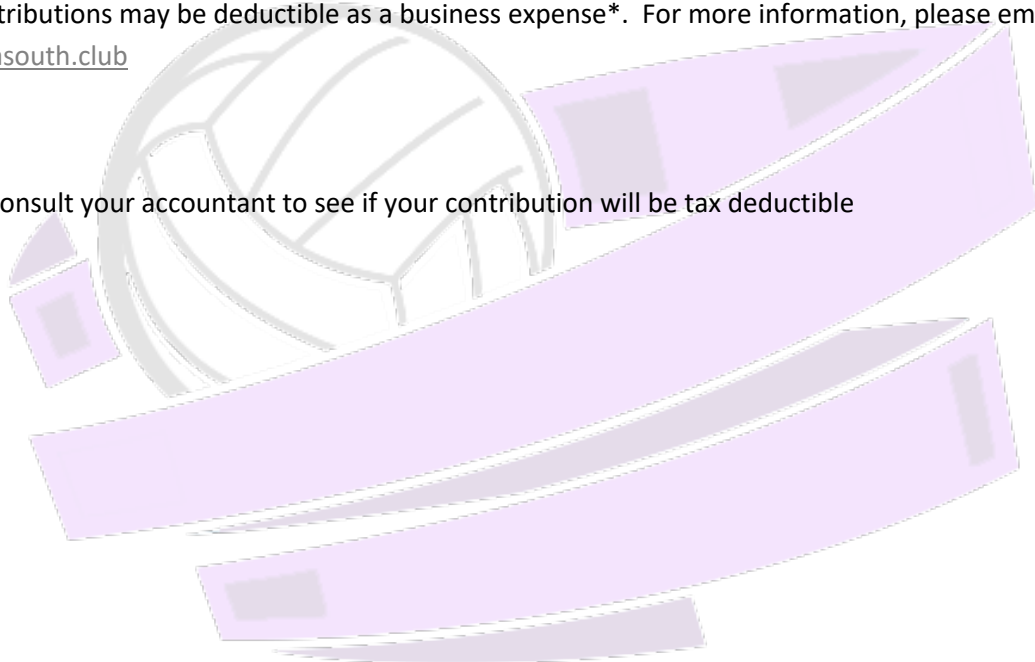
FINANCIAL AID

The Scholarship Fund allows USA South to assist those local athletes who may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in a volleyball program or receive the training USA South provides. USA South believes that besides developing athletic skills, a player's participation in this club can foster lasting friendships, develop leadership and cooperation skills for everyday life, and may provide an avenue towards a volleyball scholarship at a major university. We do, however, understand that participation is expensive due to the costs of gym facilities, tournaments, travel, and coaching and administration staff. Therefore, we make every attempt to provide those in need with scholarship awards. Please visit the website for more information on how this program works.

SPONSORSHIPS

Our goal at USA South Volleyball is to make our program financially feasible to everyone. However, we realize that high-performance travel volleyball can be expensive and unaffordable to some families. In an effort to make USA South Volleyball available to everyone, we have created a Sponsorship Program available to raise funds for scholarships. 100% of all proceeds raised by our Sponsorship Program will be used to offset cost for our scholarship families. The more sponsorships we receive the greater the impact on those in need of financial assistance. Our Corporate Sponsorship Partners will receive advertising on our website and other club communications and their contributions may be deductible as a business expense*. For more information, please email info@usasouth.club

*Please consult your accountant to see if your contribution will be tax deductible



DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS & REFUNDS

USA South Volleyball fully comprehends the value of parent involvement and encourages our parents to offer feedback whether positive or negative, but to do so in a respectful way. The below procedure is designed to help athletes and parents with questions, concerns, or problems that may occur during the course of the season. It ensures open and honest communication between all parties involved.

In the event a participant/parent has an issue or dispute with the programming or billing of USA South that dispute and/or issue must be addressed with the coaches & directors of USA South. Both parties will meet and discuss viable options to resolve the dispute/issue in a manner that benefits both parties. If an amicable solution is not agreed upon AND the club deems the situation an appropriate situation for a refund, both parties agree to dissolve any type of ongoing commitments and contractual obligations with no further payments going to the club or refunds to the participant/parent.

If the issue is unresolved, the parent may ask for a meeting with the club's owners, the club director, and the athlete. The meeting should take place at a location considered adequate for private discussion, agreed upon by the parent, director, and owner and during a scheduled time away from practice or a tournament is appropriate. The decision of the club owner(s) at this point is **FINAL**.

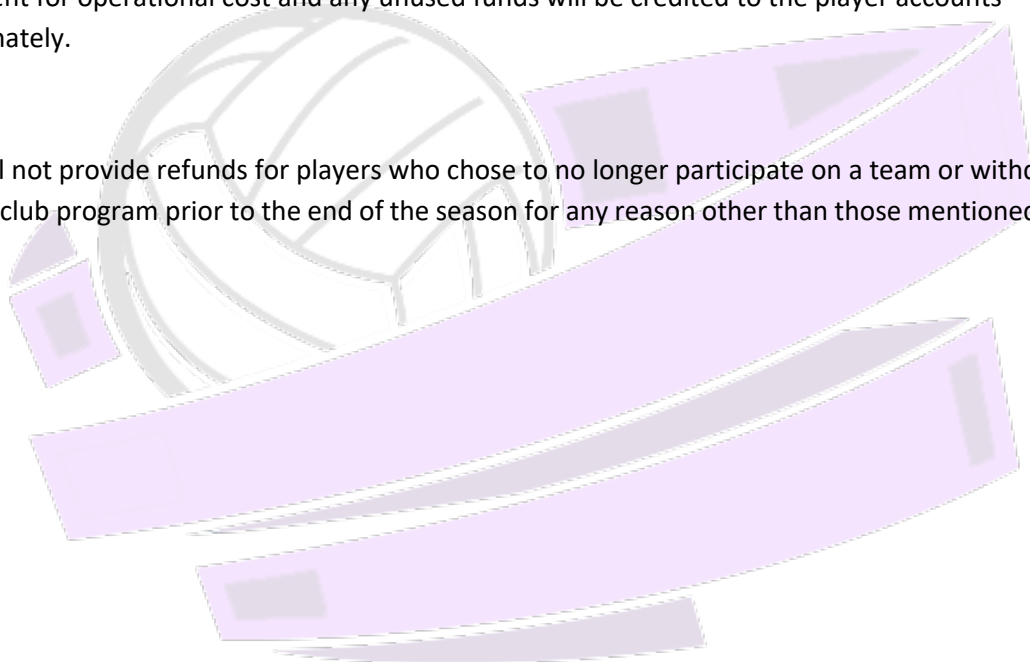
Refunds will be awarded for the following circumstances:

- 1) Player is injured during the course of the club season and will no longer be able to participate or complete the club season. Club will retain monies for services already rendered and return any monies paid for future services. (Doctors Note is Required)
- 2) Player due to illness must miss an extended time of the club season, unable to participate in practices or tournaments. Club will retain monies for services already rendered and return any monies paid for future services. (Doctors Note is Required)

Pandemic/Unforeseen Events

At USA South Volleyball, we are committed to providing volleyball training and development to all our players. From time to time, we may experience a national emergency which will require the club to discontinue training. In these events, we will do everything possible to provide the training promised at the beginning of the season. In the event this is impossible, the club will need to retain dollars spent for operational cost and any unused funds will be credited to the player accounts proportionately.

*Club will not provide refunds for players who chose to no longer participate on a team or withdraw from the club program prior to the end of the season for any reason other than those mentioned above.



Club Release Policy

If an athlete/family decides to depart USA South Volleyball during the respective season, and the club agrees to release the athlete, if the following steps take place and the director approves:

Release Policy:

STEP 1 - The athlete/family in question must submit a written request for release to the Club Director, **Charlie Castillo**, at the club's email address: **usasouthvolleyball@gmail.com** and to the Florida Region at registrar@FloridaVolleyball.org stating the reason for the request.

STEP 2 – IF the Club agrees to release the athlete, the club will release the athlete immediately once the following item(s) have been completed:

1. Athlete returns all club gear provided to athlete this season.
2. Member must remit all financial obligations agreed upon contractually. Payment Option – Member pays full cost of season.

Transfer Policy: A player can represent only one club during the Season. A change in geographical location of the family due to a change in job, military, scholastic or inner-collegiate status may receive special consideration. No player may participate in different Qualifying events with different clubs/teams. Proof of residency must be provided by the family at the time of the release/transfer request.

Once an athlete has participated in a **National Qualifier Event (Regional or NQ)** they may not be released for the rest of the season to another club. Please refer to the USA Volleyball (USAV) Championship Manual on releases for athletes that participate in regional or national qualifying/bid events.

 Parent Name (Print)

 Parent Signature

 Date:

MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES (“MAAPP”)

Publication Date: December 20, 2024 Effective Date: January 1, 2025

USA Volleyball: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
AUTHORITY	5
SCOPE	7
The MAAPP Applies to “In-Program Contact” Within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement	7
PART I ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING.....	9
A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training	9
B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation	9
C. Policy Approval and Submission Process	10
PART II EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY	12
A. Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult Participants	12
1. Adult Participants Required to Complete Training	12
2. Timing of Training	12
3. Refresher Training.....	12
B. Minor Athlete Training Must Be Offered	12
C. Parent Training Must Be Offered	13
D. Optional Training	13
E. Exemptions and Accommodations	13
PART III REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS.....	15
EXCEPTIONS	15
A. Mandatory Components	15
1. A Close-in-Age Exception	15
3. Exceptions for Dual Relationships.....	16
4. Emergency Exception	16
MEETINGS POLICY	16
A. Mandatory Components	17
1. Observable and Interruptible.....	17

USA Volleyball: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

2

2. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers)..... 17

B. Recommended Components.....	17	1. Parent Training.....	17
		A. Mandatory Components.....	18
		1. Observable and Interruptible.....	18
		2. Consent.....	18
		B. Recommended Components.....	18
		1. Monitoring.....	18
		2. Parent Training.....	18
		MANUAL THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC AND RECOVERY MODALITIES POLICY	19
		A. Mandatory Components.....	19
		1. Observable and Interruptible.....	19
		2. Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities Requirements	19
		3. Consent.....	19
		B. Recommended Components.....	20
		1. Parent Training.....	20
		LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS POLICY	21
		A. Mandatory Components.....	21
		1. Observable and Interruptible.....	21
		2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces	21
		3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms	21
		4. Personal Care Assistants	22
		5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces.....	22
		ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY	23
		A. Mandatory Components.....	23
		1. Open and Transparent	23
		2. Team Communication	23
		3. Content	23

USA Volleyball: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

3	
4. Requests to Discontinue.....	23
B. Recommended Components	24
1. Hours.....	24
2. Social Media Connections	24
TRANSPORTATION POLICY	25
A. Mandatory Components	25
1. Observable and Interruptible.....	25
2. Additional Requirements for Transportation Authorized or Funded by USA Volleyball and its LAOs	25

B. Recommended Components.....	25	1. Shared or Carpool
Travel Arrangement	25	2. Parent
Training.....	25	
LODGING AND RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS POLICY	26	A. Mandatory
Components	26	1. Observable and
Interruptible.....	26	2. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping
Arrangements	26	3. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program
Travel.....	26	B. Recommended
Components.....	27	Parent
Training.....	27	PART IV RECOMMENDED POLICIES
FOR KEEPING YOUNG ATHLETES SAFE.....	28	A. Out-of-Program
Contact.....	28	B. Gifting
.....	28	C.
Photography/Video	28	TERMINOLOGY
.....	29	APPENDIX
I.....	32	
<i>USA Volleyball: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies</i>		

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) is committed to building a sport community where Participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct. The most commonly used terms throughout this document are defined in the Terminology section in the back of this document.

AUTHORITY

The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 authorizes the Center to develop training and policies to prevent abuse—including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse—within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(1). Federal law requires that, at a minimum, national governing bodies and paralympic sports organizations *must offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse: (1) to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors and (2) subject to parental consent, to members who are minors.* 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(3). Federal law requires that these policies contain reasonable procedures to limit unobservable and uninterrupted one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete, who is a minor, and an adult, who is not the minor’s legal guardian, at facilities under the jurisdiction of

organizations within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2). To that end, the Center has developed the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies ("MAAPP").

What is MAAPP?

The MAAPP is a collection of proactive prevention and training policies for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. It has four primary components:

1. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training and Prevention Policies; 2. An Education & Training Policy that requires training for certain Adult Participants within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement;
 3. Required Prevention Policies, focused on limiting one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes that Organizations within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement must implement to prevent abuse; 4. Recommended Prevention Policies.
- The Center developed the MAAPP to assist National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Local Affiliated Organizations (LAOs), the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and
- USA Volleyball: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies*

other individuals to whom these policies apply in meeting their obligations under federal law (*Note: implementing these policies does not guarantee that an organization or individual fully complies with federal law or all applicable legal obligations*). These Organizations should share these policies with all Participants and with parents/guardians of minor athletes. Those implementing these policies should consider the physical and cognitive needs of all athletes.

The MAAPP focuses on just two important aspects of a much larger comprehensive abuse prevention strategy. These policies address training requirements and limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and minor athletes. These policies are intended to be enforceable and reasonable, acknowledging, for example, that when a 17-year-old athlete turns 18, they become an adult athlete, and a complete prohibition of one-on-one interactions may not be necessary or practical. Additionally, there may be other instances when one-on-one interactions could occur, and in those cases, these policies provide strategies so parents/guardians can provide informed consent if they choose to allow a permitted interaction. **The Center recommends that parents first complete training on abuse prevention to be informed about potential boundary violations and concerns before consenting to the interaction.**

While the MAAPP will help organizations implement these policies to greatly improve minor athlete safety, in no way can they guarantee athlete safety in all circumstances, especially when the policies are not fully implemented, followed, or monitored. These policies are not comprehensive of all prevention

strategies, nor are they intended to be. These policies should be implemented alongside the SafeSport Code. Additionally, other resources are available that may assist organizations in improving athlete safety.

How Does the Center Ensure Compliance with the MAAPP?

Federal law requires the Center to conduct regular and random audits of the NGBs to ensure compliance with these policies. 36 U.S.C. § 220542(a)(2)(E). More specific organizational compliance requirements can be found in Part I. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the USOPC and each NGB, LAO, and Adult Participant to comply with the MAAPP. The aforementioned

1 Saul, J., & Audage, N. C. (2007). Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Canadian Centre for Child Protection. (2014). Child Sexual Abuse: It Is Your Business. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Canadian Centre for Child Protection.
The Australian Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. (2017). Final Report.

Organizations can address violations of the MAAPP by Adult Participants in their respective programs. Adult Participants also have an independent responsibility to comply with these MAAPP provisions. Violations of these provisions can result in sanctions under the SafeSport Code.

Is the MAAPP Different from the SafeSport Code?

Yes. The SafeSport Code works alongside the MAAPP to prevent abuse. The MAAPP includes proactive prevention policies for organizations and individuals, while the SafeSport Code contains misconduct policies for individuals. However, violations of the MAAPP can violate the SafeSport Code, and violators who are also Participants can be sanctioned.

SCOPE

The MAAPP Applies to “In-Program Contact” Within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement

The MAAPP, or a policy containing the minimum required components of the MAAPP, is required for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), National Governing Bodies (NGB), and Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO) within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement (each an “Organization”). Some policies impose requirements on Organizations at sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under the Organization’s jurisdiction. For example, Organizations must monitor locker rooms at their facilities and sanctioned events. Other policies impose certain requirements on Adult Participants under the Organization’s jurisdiction when the Adult Participant is having “In-Program Contact.” For example, Adult Participants cannot have one-on-one meetings with a Minor Athlete unless it is observable and interruptible.

Who is a Minor Athlete?

A **Minor Athlete** is an amateur athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Volleyball and its LAOs.²

1F

² This term shall also include any minor who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, a non- athlete role partially or fully under the jurisdiction of an NGB, USOPC, or LAO. Examples include, but are not limited to: officials, coaches, or volunteers.

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by USA Volleyball and its LAOs, or any facility that USA Volleyball or its LAOs owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

Who is an Adult Participant?

An **Adult Participant** is any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

1. A member or license holder of USA Volleyball;
2. An employee or board member of USA Volleyball or its LAOs;
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Volleyball or its LAOs;
4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Volleyball or its LAOs to have regular

contact with or authority over minor athletes.^{32F}

What is In-Program Contact?

In-Program Contact includes sanctioned events and facilities, but it also applies more broadly to sport-related interactions. **The MAAPP defines “In-Program Contact” as:**

Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

Examples of activities related to participation in sport that could be identified as In Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post-game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

Am I required to take SafeSport Training?

Certain Adult Participants within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement who have (i) regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors, (ii) authority over amateur athletes who are minors, or (iii) are employees or board members of USA Volleyball and its LAOs are required to take training. The specific training requirements can be found in Part II.

3 This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

PART I ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING AND PREVENTION POLICIES

All NGBs, LAOs, and the USOPC, in this case “USA Volleyball”, must implement proactive policies designed to prevent abuse. These organizational requirements are described below.

A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training

1. USA Volleyball must track whether Adult Participants under its jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Part II.
2. USA Volleyball must, every 12 months, offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to minor athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 1. For training to minor athletes, USA Volleyball must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to minor athletes.
 2. USA Volleyball is not required to track individual course completions of minor athletes.
3. USA Volleyball must, every 12 months, offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
 1. For training to parents, USA Volleyball must track a description of the training and how the training was offered and provided to parents.
 2. USA Volleyball is not required to track individual course completions of parents.

B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation

1. USA Volleyball must develop minor athlete abuse prevention policies to limit one-on-one interactions between a Minor Athlete and an Adult Participant. These policies must contain the mandatory components of the Center's model policies in Part III. These model policies cover:

1. Meetings
2. Individual training sessions
3. Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities and Manual Therapy
4. Locker rooms and changing areas
5. Electronic communications
6. Transportation

g. Lodging and Residential Environments

2. The policies must be approved by the Center as described in subsection (C) below. The policies may include the recommended components in Part III and the recommended policies in Part IV. Given the uniqueness of each sport, however, some recommended components or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. Such concerns should be addressed with the Center during the Policy Approval and Submission Process discussed below. USA Volleyball may choose to implement stricter standards than the model policies.
3. USA Volleyball must also require that its LAOs implement these policies within each LAO.
4. USA Volleyball and its LAOs must implement these policies for all In-Program Contact.
 1. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under its jurisdiction, the Organization must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.
 2. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside USA Volleyball's and LAOs' sanctioned event or facilities, implementing these policies means:
 - i. Communicating the policies to individuals under its jurisdiction;
 - ii. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies;
 - iii. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.
5. USA Volleyball and its LAOs must have a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating USA Volleyball's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies. The Organization must appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report. This requirement is in addition to requirements to report abuse under the SafeSport Code.

C. Policy Approval and Submission Process

1. USA Volleyball may adopt the mandatory minimum requirements of the MAAPP as-is or adapt it to fit their needs. Regardless, USA Volleyball must submit their policies to the Center at compliance@safesport.org for review and approval by April 1, 2024. The Center will approve, approve with

modifications, or deny the policies. If the Center denies the proposed policy, the mandatory components of Part III of the Center's Model MAAPP become the default policy until the Center approves the policy.

2. USA Volleyball must require their LAOs to incorporate the mandatory components of Part III. USA Volleyball may require that their LAOs implement USA Volleyball policies, which may be more stringent than the policies in Part III.
3. The mandatory components of Part III will serve as the default policy for any Organization that fails to develop its own policy as required by this section.

Any changes made to USA Volleyball's MAAPP after the policy is approved must be submitted to the Center for approval. The previously approved MAAPP will remain in effect until written approval is provided to USA Volleyball from the Center.

PART II EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY A. Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult Participants

1. Adult Participants Required to Complete Training

a. The following Adult Participants must complete the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course* through the Center's online training:

- i. Adult Participants who have regular contact with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
- ii. Adult Participants who have authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
- iii. Adult Participants who are an employee or board member of USA Volleyball or its affiliate LAOs.

2. Timing of Training

Adult Participants must complete this training before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins or within the first 45 days of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy, whichever comes first.

3. Refresher Training

The above-listed Adult Participants must complete a refresher course every 12 months, beginning the calendar year after completing the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course*. Every four years, Adult Participants will complete the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course* training. Medical providers can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport® Trained Core Course* and are required to take the refresher courses on an annual basis if they meet the criteria for A(1).

B. Minor Athlete Training Must Be Offered

1. USA Volleyball, every 12 months, must offer and, subject to parental consent, give training to minor athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse. USA Volleyball offers this training in its welcome letter to members.
2. The Center offers youth courses, located at safesporttrained.org, that meet this requirement.

C. Parent Training Must Be Offered

1. USA Volleyball, every 12 months, must offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse. USA Volleyball offers this training in its welcome letter to members.
2. The Center offers a parent course, located at safesporttrained.org, that meets this requirement.

D. Optional Training

1. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity, who will **not** have regular contact with or authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor, should take the Center's brief Volunteer Course (or *SafeSport® Trained Core Course*) before engaging or interacting with any minor athlete(s).
2. USA Volleyball may provide training *in addition to the SafeSport® Trained Core Course*, although they cannot refer to this training as "SafeSport" training. **Training other than the SafeSport Trained Core Course or Refresher does not satisfy this policy.**
3. Parents of minor athletes are provided free online access to the Center's parent course and are encouraged to take the training.

E. Exemptions and Accommodations

The Center's online training courses contain information about various forms of abuse. The courses do not include graphic descriptions of abuse or show violent images or video. The content may be uncomfortable or trigger trauma for some participants.

1. Exemptions to the online training requirement may be requested by survivors of abuse and misconduct. Survivors of abuse can request an exemption by contacting USA Volleyball or can choose to contact the Center directly to request an exemption at exemptions@safesport.org. All exemptions granted by the Center or by USA Volleyball in this category are considered indefinite. The Center will track all requests for exemptions upon notification from USA Volleyball.
2. Exemptions to the online training requirement for reasons other than survivor of abuse and misconduct are limited to cognitive or physical disability or language barrier. Requests for these exemptions must be made by the individual to USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball will determine whether to grant the exemption. If USA Volleyball grants the exemption, it must track the exemption to ensure it is appropriately applied to the individual's membership status. USA Volleyball must preserve documentation that the exemption was granted and for what duration.

3. The Center has several options available to assist individuals in completing the online training courses, including screen reader-compatible versions and course availability in several languages, including English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Russian, German, and Japanese. If none of the available options will fit the individual's needs, USA Volleyball may determine whether to grant an exemption.

PART III REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

The U.S. Center for SafeSport recognizes that youth-adult relationships can be healthy and valuable for development. Policies on one-on-one interactions protect children while allowing for these beneficial relationships. As child sexual abuse is often perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations, it is critical that organizations limit such interactions between youth and adults and implement programs that reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be *observable and interruptible*, except in emergency circumstances or with a documented exception.

EXCEPTIONS

There are certain relationships and situations in which one-on-one interactions may be allowed or necessary. This section identifies policy exceptions for close-in-age relationships, Personal Care Assistants, dual relationships, and emergencies.

The following exceptions are applicable within all Required Prevention Policies unless otherwise noted.

A. Mandatory Components

1. A Close-in-Age Exception

The purpose of this exception is to allow for continued relationships among athletes on the same team. This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

1. The Adult Participant has **no** authority over the Minor Athlete; and
2. The Adult Participant is not more than 4 years older (determined by birth date) than the Minor Athlete.

Note: This exception is different than the close-in-age exception in the SafeSport Code pertaining to misconduct.

2. Exceptions for Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants Working with a Minor Athlete

This exception exists for Adult Participants who also assist an athlete with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation.

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if the following requirements are met:

1. the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to USA Volleyball and/or its Region for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete; and
2. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and,
3. the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with USA Volleyball background screening policy.

3. Exceptions for Dual Relationships

This exception allows for one-on-one In-Program Contact when the Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete that is outside of the sport program. The exception requires written consent of the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually. The consent must identify for which Required Prevention Policies the parent/guardian is allowing the one-on-one In-Program Contact.

4. Emergency Exception

This exception applies to all Required Prevention Policies for situations where an Adult Participant must violate requirement(s) of the MAAPP due to an emergency. Adult Participants must carefully consider whether specific circumstances meet the threshold of "emergency." Adult Participants should document emergency situations in accordance with USA Volleyball's protocols.

The Center recommends parents take training on child abuse prevention before providing consent to the above exceptions. The Center offers a free Parent Course at safesporttrained.org.

MEETINGS POLICY

Sexual abuse often happens when children are alone with their abusers. This section provides policies for meetings to limit one-on-one interactions between children and adults, including mental health care professionals and licensed health care providers.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

a. Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program meetings with Minor Athletes be observable and interruptible, unless an exception exists.

2. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers⁴)

3F

If a licensed mental health care professional, licensed health care provider, or a student under the supervision of a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider, meets one-on-one with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event or a facility, which is partially or fully under USA Volleyball or its Region's jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

1. If the door remains unlocked; and
2. Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete's identity needs not be disclosed; and
3. USA Volleyball or its Regions is notified that the professional or provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and,
4. The professional or provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to have a meeting or training session with an Adult Participant subject to these policies.

4 Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the "Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities" policy.

TRAINING SESSIONS POLICY

Some abusers will single out athletes for special one-on-one instruction. This kind of isolation provides opportunities for abuse to occur. This section establishes rules for individual and group training sessions to protect youth athletes from uncomfortable or unsafe situations.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program individual and group training sessions with a Minor Athlete be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.

2. Consent

The Adult Participant providing individual training sessions must receive advance, written consent from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and

3. Parent Observation

Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe individual and group training sessions.

B. Recommended Components

1. Monitoring

If a permitted meeting or training session takes place between an Adult Participant(s) and a Minor Athlete(s) at a facility partially or fully under USA Volleyball and its Region's jurisdiction, another Adult Participant will monitor each meeting or training session. Monitoring includes reviewing the parent/guardian consent form, knowing that the meeting or training session is occurring, knowing the approximate planned duration of the meeting or training session, and dropping in on the meeting or training session.

2. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to have a meeting or training session with an Adult Participant subject to these policies.

MANUAL THERAPY AND THERAPEUTIC AND RECOVERY MODALITIES POLICY 54F

Many athletes require therapies to prevent or treat injuries. However, these treatment sessions can place children in vulnerable positions, especially if they involve physical contact with adults. This section establishes standards for therapeutic and recovery modalities and manual therapy to reduce the risk of inappropriate contact between youth and adults.

A. Mandatory Components

Note: Only the emergency exception applies within this policy.

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during manual therapy and therapeutic modalities and recovery modalities with Minor Athletes must be observable and interruptible.

2. Manual Therapy and Therapeutic and Recovery Modalities Requirements

Adult Participants must ensure all In-Program manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities meet the following requirements:

1. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the modality or manual therapy; and
2. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (4) below; and
3. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
4. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing; and
5. The provider must narrate the steps in the modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.

3. Consent

- a. Providers of manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities or USA

Volleyball and its Regions, when applicable, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities. 5 Manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities can be different for each sport. They can include, but are not limited to: first aid, massage, taping, cupping, stretching, cryotherapy, neuromuscular stimulations, electrical stimulation, or other modalities within the scope of a Healthcare Provider's credentials.

b. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to receive a manual therapy, therapeutic modality, or recovery modality.

2. When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.
3. Only licensed providers should administer manual therapy, therapeutic modalities, or recovery modalities.
4. Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, should not massage Minor Athletes.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS POLICY

Young athletes may be especially vulnerable to abuse in changing areas where they are undressing and possibly showering. Appropriate monitoring is necessary in these areas to prevent abuse and other inappropriate conduct. This section outlines policies for locker rooms and changing areas to ensure privacy and safety.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact with Minor Athlete(s) in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athlete(s) are present is observable and interruptible, unless an exception exists.

2. Conduct in Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces

1. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing.
2. Adult Participants must not remove their clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a Minor Athlete in a locker room or changing area.

3. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
 - i. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
 - ii. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
 4. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. USA Volleyball and its LAOs and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.
3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms
- USA Volleyball and its Regions may permit recording or photography in locker rooms for the purpose of highlighting a sport or athletic accomplishment if:
1. Parent/legal guardian consent has been obtained; and
 2. USA Volleyball and its Regions approves the specific instance of recording or photography; and
- c. Two or more Adult Participants are present; and d. Everyone is fully clothed.
4. Personal Care Assistants
- Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they meet the requirements detailed on page 14.
5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces
1. USA Volleyball and its LAOs must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Volleyball's jurisdiction. USA Volleyball does not utilize changing rooms at its events. If USA Volleyball did utilize changing rooms, it would follow the above procedures.
 2. IF locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces are used at USA Volleyball events, USA Volleyball and its LAOs must monitor their use to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under USA Volleyball and its Region's jurisdiction.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY 65F

Technology has made it easier for teams to communicate and share information. Unfortunately, it also makes it easier for abusers to contact children without supervision or share inappropriate images and video. This section sets standards for appropriate electronic communications between youth and adults.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Open and Transparent
 1. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent, unless an exception exists.
 2. "Open and Transparent" means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor

Athlete, or another Adult Participant on every communication.

- If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.

3. Only platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.

2. Team Communication

When an Adult Participant communicates electronically to the entire team or any number of Minor Athletes on the team, the Adult Participant must copy or include the Minor Athletes' parents/guardians, another adult family member of the Minor Athletes, or another Adult Participant.

3. Content

All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant(s) to a Minor Athlete(s) must be professional in nature unless an exception exists.

4. Requests to Discontinue

Parents/guardians may request in writing that USA Volleyball and its LAOs or an Adult Participant not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. USA Volleyball, its LAOs and the Adult Participant must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

6 Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: email, phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, social media, or through any other electronic medium.

B. Recommended Components

1. Hours

Electronic communications should generally be sent only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. local time for the location of the Minor Athlete.

2. Social Media Connections

Adult Participants, except those with a Dual Relationship or who meet the Close-in-Age Exception, are not permitted to have private social media connections with Minor Athletes and should discontinue existing social media connections with Minor Athletes.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Athletes are often carpooling or traveling without the supervision of their parent/guardian to practices and competitions. This can place them in vulnerable positions where they are susceptible to abuse. This section establishes policies for adults transporting children to or from sport activities.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult participants must ensure that all In-Program Contact during Transportation is Observable and Interruptible unless an exception exists or:

1. The Adult Participant has advanced, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one, obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

2. The Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors who are at least 8 years of age.

2. Additional Requirements for Transportation Authorized or Funded by USA Volleyball and its Regions

1. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation authorized or funded by USA Volleyball and its Regions at least annually.

2. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.

B. Recommended Components

1. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

The Organization encourages parents/guardians to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

2. Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for their Minor Athlete to travel one-on-one with an Adult Participant.

LODGING AND RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS POLICY

Youth athletes traveling overnight face greater risk of sexual abuse if they are traveling without their parent/guardian. Abusers can take advantage of the situation by trying to have unsupervised time alone with children. This section sets rules for sleeping arrangements and room monitoring to protect athletes during overnight travel.

A. Mandatory Components

1. Observable and Interruptible

All In-Program Contact during lodging must be observable and interruptible unless an exception exists.

- a. Lodging arrangements covered under this policy include, but are not limited to, hotel stays, rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.), and long-term residential environments, including lodging at training sites and billeting.

2. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

1. An Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), unless an exception exists and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided USA Volleyball and its Regions or Adult Participant with advance, written consent for each specific lodging arrangement.

2. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian must be obtained for all In- Program lodging at least annually.

3. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
4. Adult Participants without an exception and written parent/guardian consent as stated above are not permitted to stay overnight with Minor Athlete(s) in a communal lodging space such as an Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.

3. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If USA Volleyball and its Regions or a team performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

4. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by the Organization Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Education and Training policy outlined in Part II, unless the Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age exception.

B. Recommended Components

Parent Training

Parents/guardians receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent for lodging arrangements under this policy.

PART IV RECOMMENDED POLICIES FOR KEEPING YOUNG ATHLETES SAFE A. Out-of-Program Contact

Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not have out-of-program contact with Minor Athlete(s) without legal/parent guardian consent, even if the out-of-program contact is not one-on-one.

B. Gifting

1. Adult Participants, who do not meet the Close-in-Age Exception nor have a Dual Relationship with a Minor Athlete, should not give personal gifts to Minor Athlete(s).
2. Gifts that are equally distributed to all athletes and serve a motivational or educational purpose are permitted.

C. Photography/Video

1. Photographs or videos of athletes may only be taken in public view and must observe generally accepted standards of decency.
2. Adult Participants should not publicly share or post photos or videos of Minor Athlete(s) if the Adult Participant has not obtained the parent/guardian and Minor Athlete's consent.

USA Volleyball: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

28

TERMINOLOGY

Adult Participant: Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

1. A member or license holder of USA Volleyball;
2. An employee or board member of USA Volleyball or its LAOs;
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Volleyball or its LAOs;
4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Volleyball or its LAOs to have regular contact

with or authority over minor athletes.^{76F}

Amateur Athlete: An athlete who meets the eligibility standards established by the National Governing Body for the sport in which the athlete competes.

Authority: When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. Also see the Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code. *Note: NGBs and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition, including specific volunteer designations.*

Close-in-Age Exception: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant does not have authority over a Minor Athlete *and* is not more than 4 years older than the Minor Athlete (e.g., a 19-year-old and a 16-year-old). *Note: This exception only applies within the prevention policies and not regarding conduct defined in the SafeSport Code.*

Dual Relationships: An exception applicable to certain policies when an Adult Participant has a relationship with a Minor Athlete outside of the sport program and the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent at least annually authorizing the exception.

In-Program Contact: Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport.

Examples of In-Program Contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations,

⁷ This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

Local Affiliated Organization (LAO): A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with an NGB or that is affiliated with an NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of said NGB. LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of an NGB. USA Volleyball considers its LAOs to include Regions and clubs affiliated with Regions.

Minor Athlete: An Amateur Athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Volleyball and its LAOs.^{87F}

Partial or Full Jurisdiction: Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by USA Volleyball and its LAOs, or any facility that USA Volleyball and/or its LAOs owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

National Governing Body (NGB): A U.S. Olympic National Governing Body or Pan American Sport Organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq. This definition shall also apply to the USOPC, or other sports entity approved by the USOPC, when they have assumed responsibility for the management or governance of a sport included on the program of the Olympic, Paralympic, or Pan-American Games.

Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant: An Adult Participant who assists a parasport athlete who requires help with activities of daily living (ADL) and preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes or can include assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication administration, and toileting. Personal Care Assistants are different for every athlete and should be individualized to fit their specific needs. When assisting a Minor Athlete, Adult Participant PCAs must be authorized by the athlete's parent/guardian.

8 This term shall also include any minor who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, a nonathlete role partially or fully under the jurisdiction of an NGB, USOPC, or LAO. Examples include, but are not limited to: officials, coaches, or volunteers.

USA Volleyball: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

Regular Contact: Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor. *Note: NGBs and the USOPC must submit/include categories of members/individuals that fall under the definition, including specific volunteer designations.*

Residential Environment: A place in which participants live or stay temporarily. Residential environments include, but are not limited to, onsite housing at training facilities, billeting, hotel stays, or rentals (i.e., Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.).

Billeting: A residential environment facilitated by an Adult Participant, USA Volleyball and its LAOs, or sanctioned event staff in which a Minor Athlete is temporarily housed in a private home with an adult or family who is not related to or known by the Minor Athlete. This lodging arrangement is in conjunction with an activity related to sport.

U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC): A federally chartered nonprofit corporation that serves as the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States.

APPENDIX I

CHART OF POSSIBLE ADULT PARTICIPANTS IN USAV:

Adult Participant

USAV Staff/Interns
USAV Board Members
Region/Club Staff
Region/Club Board Members
Coaches
Officials
USAV Members 18 years or over on teams with Minors
Chaperones
Club Administrators Arbitrators
Medical Professionals Athletic Trainers Independent Contractors*

Regular Contact

X X
X X X
X X X X X

Authority Over

X X X X X
X X X X X

USAV Members 18 and over who are only participating in Opens (i.e., not also a club coach, chaperone, or board member) with no minor players are not required to take training.

***Independent Contractor positions not meeting the Regular Contact definition are not required to take training.**

Event vendors are not required to take training but are subject to the Required Prevention Policies.

USA Volleyball: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

