



USA Swimming Safe Sport Club Recognition Program

Description: USA Swimming member clubs consistently embrace Safe Sport abuse prevention measures and educational resources. The Safe Sport Club Recognition Program (“SSRP”) allows a USA Swimming member club to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to creating an abuse-free, safe, healthy and positive environment for all its members through the implementation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy, Anti-Bullying measures, Safe Sport Best Practices and Athlete Protection Training.

Using a web-based tool, member clubs can achieve SSRP status by detailing club procedures, uploading policies and verifying education and training efforts. SSRP club designation is valid for a two-year period and is eligible to re-apply for recognition once the validation period has ended. SSRP clubs will earn a badge to display on the club website and will be designated as a Safe Sport Club Recognized program on the USA Swimming Find A Swim Team online search tool.

Facts:

- Voluntary, no-cost program available to all USA Swimming member clubs.
- Completed online via the new SWIMS.
- Renewed every two years.
- Earns Safe Sport Club Recognition designation.
- To implement Safe Sport, a team must focus on its policies, procedures, and education engagement to engage in best practices which safeguard against abuse. Contains both required and elective criteria in 30 areas including:
 - Business/Organizational Success
 - Parent/Volunteer Empowerment
 - Coach Education and Development
 - Athlete Education and Development
- Demonstrates a club’s commitment to providing an abuse-free environment for all participants including coaches, athletes, parents, and volunteers.

Find A Swim Team Tool

Website Badge





Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the process for receiving Safe Sport Club Recognition?

A: The club administrator or club safe sport coordinator portal and complete the point requirement criteria for Safe Sport Club Recognition. This includes all the required measures as well as a selection of elective measures. NOTE: If you need assistance in accessing your application, please reference the guide at www.usaswimming.org/ssrp or email USA Swimming Safe Sport at ssrp@usaswimming.org. After the club administrator or club safe sport coordinator submits the form online, it will be reviewed by Safe Sport staff. This can take up to 4 weeks depending on the number of applications that are received. Staff will either approve the recognition or send it back with notes for improvement. Once the recognition is approved, the club and LSC will receive notification and a logo to display on their website. Within 24 hours of approval, the Find-A-Team tool will begin showing the club status as a Safe Sport Club Recognized Program.

Q: Is there a performance component to the Safe Sport Club Recognition Program?

A: No. Times and IMX scores are not a factor for the Safe Sport Club Recognition Program. Clubs serving all levels of athletes are eligible to pursue this recognition.

Q: How is the training component measured?

A: This is an automatic process based on how many individuals completed the “Safe Sport for Youth Athletes” (Ages 12 and over) and “Parent’s Guide to Misconduct in Sport” courses in the new SWIMS education platform. 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.

Q: Can we do trainings in groups?

A: Yes! In fact, this will make completing the online education component easier to fulfil. You can complete the athlete or parent training as a big group, in person or via Zoom, following MAAPP guidelines. In order to receive credit, you must take attendance by including the date, names of those in attendance, and the team name. Then, send it to USA Swimming at ssrp@usaswimming.org and we will manually update the points for the online education measure if you have reached a minimum of 10% participation. In addition, USA Swimming offers monthly trainings via Zoom. For all training options please go [here](#). NOTE: Points are manually adjusted on the backend only, you will not see the number of participants adjusted in the club portal.

Q: Do I have to do it all at once?

A: No, it is possible to start Safe Sport Club Recognition process and come back to it at any time via the online application.

Q: Does becoming a Safe Sport Recognized Club mean that we will never have instances of misconduct?

A: Unfortunately, no. However, having Safe Sport Club Recognition prepares you 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 create a safe, healthy, and positive environment free from abuse for all participants.

Q: 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?

A: No! Becoming a Safe Sport Recognized club means the club has taken proactive steps to create a culture of Safe Sport within the club. You should regularly continue to talk about Safe Sport, engage athletes in discussion, review Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention and Anti-Bullying policies and refer to best practices when issues arise.



Q: What happens if misconduct occurs at a Safe Sport Club Recognized team?

A: Clubs will rely on their team policies to manage minor misconduct and team policy violations. If a more serious report of misconduct occurs, clubs need to report to the appropriate jurisdictions.

Q: I noticed athlete and parent education numbers have changed in the application, why is that happening?

A: Parents take the "Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sport" and athletes (ages 12+) take the "Safe Sport for Youth Athletes" course to meet the online education requirement. These courses will expire after 18 months from their education account. When the course expires for individuals it will also disappear from the team's online education numbers. Parents and athletes will need to take these courses again when you are planning to renew your Safe Sport Club Recognition status.

Q: Can anyone be a club Safe Sport Coordinator for our team?

A: We strongly recommend your club Safe Sport Coordinator be somebody other than a coach. It is best served by someone from your team who has professional experience in the topic of Safe Sport like a law enforcement officer, social worker, or therapist. We understand not every team has this option though. It is important to note, people, especially kids, often feel more comfortable bringing concerns to the team if the person filling that role is not the coach.

Q: What if a college program which has no minors and no parent involvement would like to achieve Safe Sport Club Recognition? How would the athlete and parent education requirements be met?

A: Clubs who do not have minors associated with their team and thus no parent involvement would have their athlete adult members take the "Safe Sport for Adult Athletes" course to meet the education requirement for athletes. Same percentages apply. The parent education in this instance would be waived with 1 point and the team would need to make up that point in another area.

Q: The points on my application changed (up or down) why did that happen?

A: There are a few reasons this can happen:

- Athletes or parents have taken the online education adding to your points.
- An athlete switched teams and their online education now counts toward another team.
- The measure you marked as complete, and documents uploaded did not meet the specific requirements and was unchecked by the Safe Sport reviewer.

Q: We have athletes and parents who are already non-athlete members of USA Swimming and have taken the Athlete Protection Training. Do they have to still take the Safe Sport for Youth Athletes or Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sport course to get points for our team?

A: Athlete Protection Training is required for all adult members. This training will not count toward the parent or athlete education measures. The training requirement for teams to achieve Safe Sport Club Recognition is specifically designed for athletes/parents and shows the team's commitment to go above and beyond what is required for membership.

Q: Our team does not have its own website. We have either a social media page or a designated page as part of our larger organization. Would this be acceptable for recognition?

A: Yes. As long as the club page is public and can display the same information, which is required for the website guidelines, this would be acceptable.



Q: Are there exceptions to the USA Swimming Corporate Bylaw requirement that all members of the Board of Directors of a member club must become individual USA Swimming Members? Doesn't this requirement of membership only apply to an Executive Member of the BOD?

A: No, the bylaw change requires that the entire Board of a member club become non-athlete members of USA Swimming. Should a club apply the rule differently based on state or local laws, the club should be able to explain their decision. [See Article](#)

Q: How do I display the Safe Sport Club Recognition badge that I received after my team was approved on my Team Unify webpage?

A: Team Unify has instructions on how to place your Safe Sport Club Recognition badge, received after your team is approved, on your Team Unify webpage. Follow this link to view instructions:

<https://support.teamunify.com/en/articles/1521>