

Sagamore Rowing Association

Participant Safety Policy

January 2015



PART 1: Policies and Procedures

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Section 1: Training and Education of Staff

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Our policies and procedures require staff members and/or volunteers to report abuse, misconduct and violations of its Participant Safety Policy. To do so, staff members (coaches, riggers, admin, support staff at boathouses) and/or volunteers (volunteer coaches, parent chaperones, referees, other volunteers) should have a basic understanding of sexual abusers, as well as “grooming,” the most common strategy offenders use to seduce their victims. Using a combination of attention, affection and gifts, offenders select a child, win the child’s trust (and the trust of the child’s parent or guardian), manipulate the child into sexual activity, and keep the child from disclosing abuse.

Accordingly, staff members and/or volunteers complete an awareness training concerning misconduct in sport before performing services for Sagamore Rowing Association (SRA hereon after). Misconduct in sport includes:

- Bullying
- Harassment
- Hazing
- Emotional misconduct
- Physical misconduct, and
- Sexual misconduct, including child sexual abuse

As of September 2015, all coaches must meet the following requirements:

- CPR/First Aid Certified
- Acceptance and Acknowledgement of understanding the “Official Safety Rules for On-The-Water Rowing”
- Successfully complete the training and pass the Safe Sport Online Training (<http://training.teamusa.org/store/details/1>)
- Acceptance and Acknowledgement of understanding the “SRA Participant Safety Policy.”
- Completion of National Center for Safety Initiatives Background Check
- Completion of a US Rowing approved Boating Safety Course
- Attend bi-yearly SRA Coaches Safety Meeting



Section 2: Screening Staff Members and/or Volunteers

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APPLICANT SCREENING

Staff members, contractors and/or volunteers must consent to, and pass, a formal applicant screening process before performing services for Sagamore Rowing Association.

Elements of our screening process include, as applicable, successful completion of an application, interview, reference check and criminal background check.

EDUCATION ABOUT SRA'S PROTECTION POLICIES

To deter applicants who may be at risk of abusing athletes or participants from applying for positions, SRA educates its applicants about its protection policies and offers applicants an early opt-out by:

- Requiring awareness training before placement and/or before working with athletes and participants
- Informing applicants about our policies and procedures relevant to prevention
- Asking applicants to review and agree to our policies and procedures before proceeding with the process
- Requiring applicants to sign a document acknowledging review of our policies and procedures

These policies will be posted as part of the classified ad.

WRITTEN APPLICATIONS

Each applicant for a position will submit an application consisting of resume, cover letter, and references list.

Phone Interview

Following a submitted application, SRA Program Director or President may choose to follow up with a phone interview.

The phone interview will:

- Ask about previous work and volunteer experiences
- Ask questions intended to illicit information concerning high-risk behaviors
- Provide a written release for contacting personal references and performing a criminal background check, including an indemnification clause
- Ask open-ended questions that encourage broad answers
- Use disclosure statements to ask applicants about previous criminal arrests or convictions for sexual offenses, violence against youth and other violent criminal offenses or felonies

RELEASE

Each applicant will also provide a signed release, consistent with federal, state and local laws regulating employment practices, that allows references to speak freely about the applicant's qualifications without fear of reprisal and authorizing Sagamore Rowing Association to obtain information concerning an applicant's past employment, volunteer experience and information provided by the applicant during the screening process (i.e., written application and personal interview).

REFERENCES

References of applicants will be contacted (either by phone or in writing) and asked specific questions regarding the applicant's professional experiences, demeanor and appropriateness for involvement with minor athletes and participants.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Appropriate staff will interview applicants whose experience and credentials are considered a fit for available positions. During this interview, Sagamore Rowing Association will ask questions to encourage discussion, clarify responses and expand on the applicant's answers to questions from the written application.

See Part 2, Sample Forms and Documents, and the Appendix for additional Applicant Screening Resources.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY

All applicants will be asked to undergo a criminal background check that complies with the Fair Credit Reporting Act **before** providing services for Sagamore Rowing Association . Through this criminal background check, SRA will utilize reasonable efforts to ascertain past criminal history of an applicant.

PROCESS

The Criminal Background Check Consent and Waiver Release form must be submitted and the applicant cleared before he or she may perform services for Sagamore Rowing Association.

On receipt of the Criminal Background Check Consent and Waiver Release form, the Sagamore Rowing Association will request that its vendor, the National Center for Safety Initiatives, perform the criminal background check. As part of its criminal background check, Sagamore Rowing Association will, at a minimum and without limitation,

- (1) perform a national search of state criminal repositories;
- (2) perform a search of state sexual offender registries; and
- (3) verify a person's identification against his or her social security number or other personal identifier.

POTENTIALLY DISQUALIFYING FACTORS

Criminal History

SRA will use a criminal background check to gather information about an applicant's prior criminal history. The information revealed by the criminal background check may disqualify an applicant from serving as a staff member, contractor and/or volunteer.

Information that could disqualify an applicant includes, but is not limited to, arrests, pleas of no contest and criminal convictions—especially if the underlying criminal behavior involved sex or violence.

Pending Court Cases

No decision will be made on an individual's eligibility for work as a new staff member, contractor and/or volunteer if they have a pending court case for any of the potentially disqualifying offenses until the pending case concludes. If, however, during the case's pendency, the organization undertakes an independent investigation and conducts a hearing, any determination may be used to disqualify the individual.

Full Disclosure

Each applicant has the affirmative duty to disclose his or her criminal history. Failing to disclose or intentionally misrepresenting an arrest plea or conviction history in an application or any other information provided by an applicant during the screening process is grounds for employment, volunteer and/or membership revocation or restriction, regardless of when the offense is discovered.

- If an applicant (1) is arrested, (2) pleas or (3) is convicted of a crime other than a traffic offense during the screening process, the applicant is required to disclose such information immediately.
- In the event a person is serving as a staff member, contractor or volunteer and (1) is

arrested, (2) pleas or (3) is convicted after the completion of the screening process, he or she has an affirmative duty to disclose such information immediately to the SRA Program Director or SRA President.

- **Any applicant who has been banned by another sport organization, as temporarily or permanently ineligible, must self-disclose this information. A failure to disclose is a basis for disqualification for potential applicants.**

FINDINGS

Notice of findings will be provided to:

- (1) Sagamore Rowing Association--Club President
- (2) Sagamore Rowing Association--Program Director
- (3) Sagamore Rowing Association--Parent Representative

SRA's criminal background check report will return a "red light" or "green light" score. A green light score means that the background check vendor located no records that would disqualify the applicant. A green light score, however, is not a certification of safety or permission to bypass/ignore other screening efforts. Other disqualifying factors may exist, and can be revealed through an interview, reference checks and a completed application.

A **red light** finding means the criminal background check revealed criminal records which suggest the applicant "does not meet the criteria" and is not suitable for organization employment or volunteer assignment.

Individuals who are subject to disqualification under a "red light" finding may challenge the accuracy of the reported information reported by the criminal background check vendor.

Appeal to Criminal Background Check Vendor

APPEAL TO CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK VENDOR

Any disqualified individual has the right to dispute the findings of the criminal background check directly with the SRA's approved Criminal Background Check Vendor. A disqualified individual may not appeal the automatic disqualification or the results of the findings of the criminal background check vendor to the SRA. SRA is required by the policy to accept the findings of the approved criminal background check vendor. Individuals automatically disqualified are excluded from participation in any SRA's sanctioned events and/or activities.

FREQUENCY OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Criminal background checks will be refreshed every 5 years or as otherwise required by law, for staff members and/or volunteers who are 18 years of age or older and perform services for SRA.

AFFIRMATIVE DUTY TO DISCLOSE

If, during the course of employment or participation in SRA's program, a staff member or volunteer is accused, arrested, indicted or convicted of a criminal offense against a child, it is the duty and

responsibility of the staff member or volunteer to notify an immediate supervisor, a SRA Program Director, or a member of the SRA's Board of Directors.

OTHER POTENTIALLY DISQUALIFYING FACTORS

Even if an applicant passes a criminal background check, other factors may disqualify an applicant. An individual may be disqualified and prohibited from providing services for SRA if the individual has:

- Been held liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of a minor
- Been subject to any court order involving any sexual or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to domestic order or protection
- A history with another organization (employment, volunteer, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors
- Resigned, been terminated or been asked to resign from a position - paid or unpaid - due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors
- A history of other behavior that indicates they may be a danger to participants in SRA; or
- Not met the job requirements

REVIEW OF DISQUALIFIERS

SRA will review its disqualifiers every two years or as otherwise required or modified by law.

RECORDS

Records are secured online, in our ,**juniors google drive cloud for as long as applicable by law** or until the applicant is no longer affiliated with SRA, whichever date is later.



Section 3: Establishing Boundaries

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ATHLETE PROTECTION POLICY COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

Overview

In the event that any staff member or volunteer observes inappropriate behaviors (i.e., policy violations), suspected physical or sexual abuse, or misconduct, it is the personal responsibility of each staff member and volunteer to immediately report his or her observations to an immediate supervisor, SRA Program Director, or a member of SRA's Board of Directors. SRA is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for athletes' physical, emotional and social development and to ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct.

Staff members and volunteers should not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities. Instead, it is the responsibility of each staff member and volunteer to immediately report suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse to an immediate supervisor, SRA Program Director, or a member of SRA's Board of Directors. Complaints and allegations will be addressed under SRA's Disciplinary Rules and Procedure.

SRA recognizes that the process for training and motivating athletes will vary with each coach and athlete, but it is nevertheless important for everyone involved in sport to support the use of motivational and training methods that avoid misconduct.

Application

This Policy applies to

- Staff members and volunteers
- SRA's athletes and participants

Staff members, volunteers, athletes and participants shall refrain from all forms of misconduct, which include:

- Bullying
- Harassment
- Hazing
- Emotional misconduct
- Physical misconduct
- Sexual misconduct, including child sexual abuse.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Child Sexual Abuse

- (1) Any sexual activity with a child where consent is not or cannot be given. This includes sexual contact with a child that is accomplished by deception, manipulation, force or threat of force, regardless of the age of the participants, and all sexual interactions between an adult and a child, regardless of whether there is deception or the child understands the sexual nature of the activity.

Note concerning peer-to-peer child sexual abuse: Sexual contact between minors also can be abusive. Whether or not a sexual interaction between children constitutes child sexual abuse turns on the existence of an aggressor, the age difference between the children, and/or whether there is an imbalance of power and/or intellectual capabilities.

- (2) Any act or conduct described as child sexual abuse under federal or state law.

Exception

None

Examples

Sexually abusive acts may include sexual penetration, sexual touching or non-contact sexual acts such as verbal acts, sexually suggestive electronic or written communications, exposure or voyeurism.

Emotional Misconduct

- (1) A pattern of deliberate, non-contact behavior that has the potential to cause emotional or psychological harm to an athlete. Non-contact behaviors include:
 - a. verbal acts
 - b. physical acts
 - c. acts that deny attention or support
- (2) Any act or conduct described as emotional abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. child abuse, child neglect).

Exception

Emotional misconduct does not include professionally-accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, discipline or improving athletic performance.

Examples

Examples of emotional misconduct prohibited by this policy include, without limitation:

- (1) **Verbal Acts.** A pattern of verbal behaviors that (a) attack an athlete personally (e.g., calling them worthless, fat or disgusting) or (b) repeatedly and excessively yelling at a particular participant or participants in a manner that serves no productive training or motivational purpose.
- (2) **Physical Acts.** A pattern of physically aggressive behaviors, such as (a) throwing sport equipment, water bottles or chairs at, or in the presence of, participants; or (b) punching walls, windows or other objects.
- (3) **Acts that Deny Attention and Support.** A pattern of (a) ignoring an athlete for extended periods

of time or (b) routinely or arbitrarily excluding participants from practice.

Note: Bullying, harassment, and hazing, defined below, often involve some form of emotional misconduct.

Physical Misconduct

- (1) Contact or non-contact conduct that results in, or reasonably threaten to, cause physical harm to an athlete or other sport participants; or
- (2) Any act or conduct described as physical abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. child abuse, child neglect, assault).

Exceptions

Physical misconduct does not include professionally-accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline or improving athletic performance. Coaches must ask for permission before putting their hands on an athlete during coaching sessions.

Examples

Examples of physical misconduct prohibited by this Policy include, without limitation:

- (1) **Contact offenses.** Behaviors that include:
 - (a) punching, beating, biting, striking, choking or slapping an athlete;
 - (b) intentionally hitting an athlete with objects or sporting equipment;
 - (c) providing alcohol to an athlete under the legal drinking age (under U.S. law);
 - (d) providing illegal drugs or non-prescribed medications to any athlete;
 - (e) encouraging or permitting an athlete to return to play prematurely following a serious injury (e.g., a concussion) and without the clearance of a medical professional;
 - (f) prescribing dieting or other weight-control methods (e.g., weigh-ins, caliper tests) without regard for the nutritional well-being and health of athlete.
- (2) **Non-contact offenses.** Behaviors that include:
 - (a) isolating an athlete in a confined space (e.g., locking an athlete in a small space);
 - (b) forcing an athlete to assume a painful stance or position for no athletic purpose (e.g. requiring an athlete to kneel on a harmful surface);
 - (c) withholding, recommending against or denying adequate hydration, nutrition, medical attention or sleep.

Note: Bullying, harassment and hazing, defined below, often involve some form of physical misconduct.

Sexual Misconduct

- (1) Any touching or non-touching sexual interaction that is (a) nonconsensual or forced, (b) coerced or manipulated, or (c) perpetrated in an aggressive, harassing, exploitative or threatening manner;
- (2) Any sexual interaction between an athlete and an individual with evaluative, direct or indirect authority. Such relationships involve an imbalance of power and are likely to impair judgment or

- be exploitative; or
- (3) Any act or conduct described as sexual abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, rape)

Note: An imbalance of power is always assumed between a coach and an athlete.

Types of Sexual Misconduct

Types of sexual misconduct include:

- (1) sexual assault,
- (2) sexual harassment,
- (3) sexual abuse, or
- (4) any other sexual intimacies that exploit an athlete. **Minors cannot consent to sexual activity with an adult**, and all sexual interaction between an adult and a minor is strictly prohibited.

Exceptions

None

Examples

Examples of sexual misconduct prohibited under this Policy include, without limitation:

- (1) **Touching offenses.** Behaviors that include:
 - (a) fondling an athlete's breasts or buttocks
 - (b) exchange of reward in sport (e.g., team placement, scores, feedback) for sexual favors
 - (c) genital contact
 - (d) sexual relations or intimacies between persons in a position of trust, authority and/or evaluative and supervisory control over athletes or other sport participants.

Comment

- **Authority and Trust.** Once the unique coach-athlete relationship is established, the authority and trust on the part of the coach over the athlete shall be assumed, regardless of age. Accordingly, sexual interaction or intimacies between a coach and an athlete or other participant are prohibited, regardless of age, both during coaching and during that period following coaching if an imbalance in power could jeopardize effective decision-making.

Imbalance of Power. Factors relevant to determining whether there is an imbalance of power include, but are not limited to: (a) the nature and extent of the coach's supervisory, evaluative or other authority over the athlete being coached; (b) the actual relationship between the parties; (c) the parties' respective roles; (d) the nature and duration of the sexual relations or intimacies; (e) the age of the coach; (f) the age of the athlete or participant; (g) and whether the coach has engaged in a pattern of sexual interaction with other athletes or participants.

- **Exception.** This section does not apply to a pre-existing relationship between two spouses or life partners.

(2) **Non-touching offenses.** Behaviors that include:

- (a) a coach discussing his or her sex life with an athlete
- (b) a coach asking an athlete about his or her sex life
- (c) coach requesting or sending a nude or partial-dress photo to athlete
- (d) exposing athletes to pornographic material
- (e) sending athletes sexually explicit or suggestive electronic or written messages or photos (e.g. "sexting")
- (f) deliberately exposing an athlete to sexual acts
- (g) deliberately exposing an athlete to nudity (except in situations where locker rooms and changing areas are shared)
- (h) sexual harassment; specifically, the sexual solicitation, physical advances, or verbal or nonverbal conduct that is sexual in nature, and
 - a. is unwelcome, offensive or creates a hostile environment, and the offending individual knows or is told this
 - b. is sufficiently severe or intense to be harassing to a reasonable person in the context.

Bullying

- (1) An intentional, persistent and repeated pattern of committing or willfully tolerating physical and non-physical behaviors that are intended, or have the reasonable potential, to cause fear, humiliation or physical harm in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish or isolate the targeted athlete(s), as a condition of membership
- (2) Any act or conduct described as bullying under federal or state law

Exceptions

Bullying does not include group or team behaviors that (a) are meant to establish normative team behaviors, or (b) promote team cohesion.

For example, bullying does not include verbal admonitions to encourage team members to train harder and to push through a difficult training regimen.

Examples

Examples of bullying prohibited by this Policy include, without limitation:

- (1) **Physical behaviors.** Behaviors that include (a) hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, choking, or slapping an athlete; (b) throwing at, or hitting an athlete with, objects such as sporting equipment.
- (2) **Verbal and emotional behaviors.** Behaviors that include (a) teasing, ridiculing, intimidating; (b) spreading rumors or making false statements; or (c) using electronic communications, social media, or other technology to harass, frighten, intimidate or humiliate (“cyber bullying”).

Harassment

- (1) A repeated pattern of physical and/or non-physical behaviors that (a) are intended to cause fear, humiliation or annoyance, (b) offend or degrade, (c) create a hostile environment or (d) reflect discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority or power over an individual athlete or group based on gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender expression or mental or physical disability; or
- (2) Any act or conduct described as harassment under federal or state law

Exceptions

None

Examples

Examples of harassment prohibited by this Policy include, without limitation:

- (1) **Physical offenses.** Behaviors that include (a) hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, choking or slapping an athlete or participant; (b) throwing at or hitting an athlete with objects including sporting equipment.
- (2) **Non-physical offenses.** Behaviors that include (a) making negative or disparaging comments about an athlete’s sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, religion, skin color, or ethnic traits; (b) displaying offensive materials, gestures, or symbols; (c) withholding or reducing playing time to an athlete based on his or her sexual orientation.

Hazing

- (1) Coercing, requiring, forcing or willfully tolerating any humiliating, unwelcome or dangerous activity that serves as a condition for (a) joining a group or (b) being socially accepted by a group’s members; or
- (2) Any act or conduct described as hazing under federal or state law

Exception

Hazing does not include group or team activities that (a) are meant to establish normative team behaviors or (b) promote team cohesion.

Examples

Examples of hazing prohibited by this Policy include, without limitation:

- (1) requiring, forcing or otherwise requiring the consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs
- (2) tying, taping or otherwise physically restraining an athlete
- (3) sexual simulations or sexual acts of any nature
- (4) sleep deprivation, otherwise unnecessary schedule disruption or the withholding of water and/or food
- (5) social actions (e.g. grossly inappropriate or provocative clothing) or public displays (e.g. public nudity) that are illegal or meant to draw ridicule
- (6) beating, paddling or other forms of physical assault
- (7) excessive training requirements focused on individuals on a team

WILLFULLY TOLERATING MISCONDUCT

It is a violation of this Athlete Protection Policy if a staff member and/or volunteer knows of misconduct, but takes no action to intervene on behalf of the athlete(s), participant(s), staff member, and/or volunteer.

REPORTING

Although these policies are designed to reduce child sexual abuse and other misconduct, it can still occur. Staff members, volunteers and participants of SRA shall follow the reporting procedures set forth in SRA's Reporting Policy. **SRA does not investigate suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse, or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of such allegations, as a condition of reporting suspicions or allegations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.**

VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Athlete Protection Policy shall be reported pursuant to our Reporting Policy and will be addressed under our Disciplinary Rules and Procedure.



Section 4: Managing Training and Competition

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SUPERVISION OF ATHLETES AND PARTICIPANTS

During training and competition, SRA strives to create two-deep leadership and minimize one-to-one interactions to create a safe training environment and to protect athletes and participants.

APPROPRIATE ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

Individual Meetings

An individual meeting may be necessary to address an athlete's concerns, training program, or competition schedule. Under these circumstances, coaches, staff members and/or volunteers are to observe the following guidelines:

- Any individual meeting should occur when others are present and where interactions can be easily observed
- Where possible, an individual meeting should take place in a publicly visible and open area, such as the corner of a gym or pool deck
- If an individual meeting is to take place in an office, the door should remain unlocked and open
- If a closed-door meeting is necessary, the coach, staff member and/or volunteer must inform another coach, staff member and/or volunteer and ensure the door remains unlocked

Individual Training Sessions

An individual training session(s) with an athlete or participant may also be desired or necessary. **Under these circumstances, written permission of a minor athlete's parents or guardians is required in advance of the individual training session(s)**, and SRA encourages parents and guardians to attend the training session. Please refer to the "Sagamore Rowing Association: Private Training Protocol" for specific information regarding training sessions.

PROHIBITED ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

Except as set forth above, minor athletes and participants will not be left unattended or unsupervised during SRA activities and SRA coaches, staff members and/or volunteers are prohibited from being alone with an individual athlete or participant in any room or building. As a result, it is required that two adults (coaches, administrators, parent volunteer, masters rowers) stay until the last child had been picked up from practice.

PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH ATHLETES

Coaching an athlete requires some amount and type of physical contact. Such contact may be with parts of the body that, in a non-sport context, may be inappropriate (e.g., positioning an athlete's leg or torso, or spotting an athlete to ensure they will not be injured by a fall). Physical contact is also natural and appropriate when celebrating victories and achievement or consoling athletes after a loss or injury.

Physical contact policies provide all organization members with clarity and guidance for contact with athletes. These policies provide athletes with safer training conditions to perform and to receive the benefits of sport.

Elements

- Encourages appropriate physical contact with athletes
- Describes when it may be appropriate to make physical contact with athletes, including examples
- Lists criteria for appropriate/inappropriate physical contact
- Lists prohibited physical contact
- Lists reportable forms of prohibited physical contact with athletes
- States that some prohibited physical contact may require a report to the appropriate law enforcement authorities
- Identifies person and/or entity to whom unacceptable forms of physical contact should be reported
- States that all members will honor an expressed personal desire for decreased or no physical contact, where such decreased contact is feasible in the relevant training and competition environment

PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH ATHLETES

Appropriate physical contact between athletes and coaches, staff members, contractors or volunteers is a productive and inevitable part of sport. Athletes are more likely to acquire advanced physical skills and enjoy their sport participation through appropriate physical contact. However, guidelines for appropriate physical contact reduce the potential for misconduct in sport.

APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT

SRA adheres to the following principles and guidelines in regards to physical contact with our athletes:

Common Criteria for Appropriate Physical Contact

Physical contact with athletes – for safety, consolation and celebration – has multiple criteria in common which make them both safe and appropriate. These include:

- the physical contact takes place in public
- there is no potential for, or actual, physical or sexual intimacies during the physical contact
- the physical contact is for the benefit of the athlete, not to meet an emotional or other need of an adult

Safety

The safety of our athletes is paramount and in many instances we make the athletic space safer through appropriate physical contact. Examples include:

- spotting an athlete so that they will not be injured by a fall or piece of equipment
- positioning an athlete's body so that they more quickly acquire an athletic skill, get a better sense of where their body is in space, or improve their balance and coordination
- making athletes aware that they might be in harm's way because of other athletes practicing around them or because of equipment in use
- releasing muscle cramps

Celebration

Sports are physical by definition and we recognize participants often express their joy of participation, competition, achievement and victory through physical acts. We encourage these public expressions of celebration, which include:

- greeting gestures such as high-fives, fist bumps, and brief hugs
- congratulatory gestures such as celebratory hugs, "jump-arounds" and pats on the back for any form of athletic or personal accomplishment

Consolation

It may be appropriate to console an emotionally distressed athlete (e.g., an athlete who has been injured or has just lost a competition). Appropriate consolation includes publicly:

- embracing a crying athlete
- putting an arm around an athlete while verbally engaging them in an effort to calm them down (“side hugs”)
- lifting a fallen athlete off the playing surface and “dusting them off” to encourage them to continue competition

PROHIBITED PHYSICAL CONTACT

Prohibited forms of physical contact, which shall be reported immediately under our Reporting Policy include, without limitation:

- asking or having an athlete sit in the lap of a coach, administrator, staff member or volunteer
- lingering or repeated embraces of athletes that go beyond the criteria set forth for acceptable physical contact
- slapping, hitting, punching, kicking or any other physical contact meant to discipline, punish or achieve compliance from an athlete
- “cuddling” or maintaining prolonged physical contact during any aspect of training, travel or overnight stay
- playful, yet inappropriate contact that is not a part of regular training, (e.g., tickling or “horseplay” wrestling)
- continued physical contact that makes an athlete obviously uncomfortable, whether expressed or not
- any contact that is contrary to a previously expressed personal desire for decreased or no physical contact, where such decreased contact is feasible in a competitive training environment.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of this policy must be reported to a supervisor, SRA Program Director, or member of the SRA Board of Directors and violations will be addressed under our Disciplinary Rules and Procedure. Some forms of physical contact may constitute child physical or sexual abuse that **must be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities.**

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

As part of SRA’s emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

As with any communication, the content of any electronic communication should be readily available to share with the athlete’s family. At the request of a parent or guardian, any email, electronic text, social media or similar communication will copy or include the athlete’s parents or guardians. Coaches are encouraged to back up their text messaging and phone call logs regularly.

FACEBOOK, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES

Coaches may not have athletes of SRA's Team join a personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official SRA's Team page and coaches can communicate to athlete members through the site. All posts, messages, text, or media of any kind between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.

TWITTER, INSTANT MESSAGING AND SIMILAR MEDIA

Coaches and athletes may "follow" each other. Coaches cannot "re-tweet" athlete message posts. All posts between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

EMAIL AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. All email content between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Where the coach is a staff member and/or volunteer, email from a coach to any athlete should come from the club website email center (the coach's return email address will contain "@sagamorerowing.org").

TEXTING AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes. All texts between coach and athlete must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

ELECTRONIC IMAGERY

From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other publicly obtainable images of the athlete – individually or in groups – may be taken. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in club videos, posted on club or club associated websites, or offered to the club families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the default policy of SRA to allow such practices as long as the athlete or athletes are in public view and such imagery is both appropriate and in the best interest of the athlete and the club.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OR IMAGERY

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches (photography or videography).

MISCONDUCT

Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violations of our Participant Safety Policy.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of SRA's Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, a SRA Program Director or a member of SRA's Board of Directors for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed under SRA's Disciplinary Rules and Procedure.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

The following guidelines are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.

FACILITIES

The following is a description of our practice and competition facilities to allow athletes and their families to plan their use:

We practice at Building H, 3 West End Ave, Oyster Bay NY 11771.

This location has 2 bathrooms, 1 men and 1 women.

Our changing area, the two bathrooms, are shared amongst the numerous programs in the boathouse. As such, there are likely to be people who are not associated with SRA's junior program but are affiliated with the greater program (i.e. Friend's Academy, OLMA, Hofstra, SRA Masters)

Our home competitions will be held at Centre Island Beach. This location has no locker room or changing facilities. Athletes will be expected to come dressed for races and to change/shower at home.

When we travel for competition the facilities may differ from location to location. We will work with the host team to provide as much information about the locker room and changing areas as early as possible, and post that information as soon as it's available.

MONITORING

SRA has limited use of space for changing areas (men's and women's bathrooms). Given the staff resources and location of bathrooms, staff should be cognizant of who is entering/leaving the bathroom areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make athletes uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

We conduct a sweep of the bathroom areas before athletes arrive, encourage all coaches and staff to be aware of suspicious or unfamiliar people entering the building, and sweep at the conclusion of practices. Staff members conduct regular sweeps inside these areas as well, with women checking on female-designated areas, and men checking on male-designated areas.

Coaches and staff make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the athlete's whereabouts.

If an athlete needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear (for example, a child under the age of eight), or an athlete's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach or an administrator know beforehand that he or she will be helping the athlete.

We discourage parents from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent. If this is necessary, parents should let the coach or administrator know about this in advance.

USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas. As a result, **THERE WILL BE NO USE OF A DEVICE'S RECORDING CAPABILITIES IN THE LOCKER ROOMS OR CHANGING AREAS.**

Violations of this policy will be addressed under the Disciplinary Rules and Procedure and may result in the sanctions as set forth therein, including temporary suspension from competition.

TRAVEL

Travel will be a standard aspect of our competitive season and SRA has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase athlete safety and improve the competitive experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

LOCAL AND TEAM TRAVEL

We distinguish between travel to training, practice and local competition ("local travel"), and team travel involving a coordinated overnight stay ("team travel").

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when SRA does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for travel. For local travel, athletes or their parents/guardians (for minor athletes) are responsible for making all travel arrangements. In these instances it is the responsibility of the athlete or their parents/guardians (for minor athletes) to ensure the person transporting the athlete maintains all safety and legal requirements, including, but not limited to, a valid driver's license, proper insurance, well maintained vehicle, and compliance with all state laws.

In an effort to minimize one-on-one interactions, SRA staff members, coaches and/or volunteers, who are not also acting as a parent, should not drive alone with an unrelated athlete and should only drive with at least two other athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the athlete's parent or guardian in advance of travel. In any case where a staff member and/or volunteer is involved in the athlete's local travel, a parental release is required in advance. Efforts must be made to ensure that staff and/or volunteers are not alone with an athlete or participant, by, e.g., picking the athletes up in groups.

Coaches, staff members and volunteers who are also an athlete's guardian may provide shared transportation for any athlete(s). We encourage guardians to pick up their athlete first and drop off their athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement. We also recommend completing a shared travel declaration form signed by the parents/guardians of any minor athlete who is being transported

as part of such a carpool arrangement.

Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when SRA sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that our teams can compete locally, regionally, nationally or internationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the athletes. However, no coach, staff member, or volunteer will engage in team travel without the proper safety requirements in place, including valid drivers' licenses, proper insurance, well-maintained vehicles and compliance with all state laws.

SRA makes efforts to provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones.

For team travel, hotels and air travel will be booked in advance by SRA. Athletes will share rooms, with 2-4 athletes assigned per room depending on accommodations. SRA will also notify hotel management should any special arrangements be warranted. For instance, we will ask hotels to block pay per view channels and we will request an additional large room or suite so that our members and athletes may socialize as a group. Meetings do not occur in hotel rooms, and we will reserve a separate space for adults and athletes to socialize.

We encourage family members who wish to stay in the team hotel to do so. If family members do not stay in the team hotel, we encourage all athletes to call parents and guardians regularly and allow for any unscheduled calls by either the athlete or parent/guardian.

TRAVEL NOTIFICATION

When possible, SRA will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Notice will include the dates, location and duration of competition. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within SRA. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.

SRA will post specific travel itineraries when they become available. These will include a more detailed, hour-by-hour itinerary as well as contact information for team travel chaperones.

COACH AND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

During team travel, coaches and staff members will help athletes, fellow coaches and staff members adhere to policy guidelines, including, without limitation, the Travel Policy, Locker Rooms and Changing Areas Policy and Reporting Policy.

If a coach or staff member transports an athlete or other organization member in their private car for team travel, a copy of the coach's or staff member's valid driver's license is required.

When not practicing, training, competing, or preparing for competition, coaches and staff will monitor the activities of athletes, fellow coaches and staff during team travel. Coaches and staff will:

- a. prepare athletes for team travel and make athletes aware of all expectations. Supplemental information will be given to parents/guardians of athletes who are considered inexperienced

- travelers, new or relatively new to team travel, or who are under the age of 14
- b. familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before the initiation of team travel
 - c. conform to, and monitor for others' adherence, the Athlete Protection Policy and all policies during team travel
 - d. encourage minor athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians
 - e. help athletes be on time for all team commitments (as possible)
 - f. assist with team travel logistical needs (as possible)
 - g. support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary
 - h. ensure athletes are complying with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements
 - i. make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult apart from a family member; this includes coaches, staff and chaperones
 - j. not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching duties
 - k. immediately report any concerns about physical or sexual abuse, misconduct, or policy violations
 - l. notify parents before taking any disciplinary action against a minor athlete if the athlete is traveling without his or her parents.

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

Chaperones accompany team travel to ensure that the athletes, coaches, staff, and volunteers adhere to the SRA policy guidelines. While these include the travel policy, it also includes all other relevant policies contained in SRA Participant Safety Policy.

If a chaperone has not undergone a criminal background check and SRA's awareness training, the chaperone will not be permitted to have any one-on-one interactions with athletes or other youth participants. If a chaperone has undergone a criminal background check and awareness training, he or she may have appropriate one-on-one interactions as outlined in SRA's Participant Safety Policy.

Chaperones will monitor the activities of all coaches, staff members, volunteers and athletes during team travel. Specifically, chaperones will:

- a. familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before team travel
- b. monitor for adherences to club policies during team travel
- c. encourage minor athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians
- d. help athletes be on time for all team commitments (as possible)
- e. assist coaches, staff and other volunteers with team travel logistical needs (as possible)

- f. monitor athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary
- g. ensure athletes comply with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements
- h. not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their chaperone duties
- i. make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult apart from a family member; this includes coaches, staff and chaperones
- j. immediately report any concerns about sexual and physical abuse, misconduct or policy violations to the SRA Program Director or a member of SRA's Board of Directors.



***Section 5:
Reporting to Abuse, Misconduct and Policy Violations***

REPORTING POLICY

Every SRA staff member and/or volunteer must report:

- (1) violations of the Participant Safety Policy,
- (2) misconduct as defined in SRA's Athlete Protection Policy, and
- (3) suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse.

As a matter of policy, SRA does not investigate suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of such allegations as a condition for reporting to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Reporting Child Physical or Sexual Abuse

Child Physical or Sexual Abuse

Staff members and/or volunteers at SRA are required to report suspicions or allegations of child sexual abuse by a colleague or co-worker, to:

- (1) SRA Club President
- (2) SRA Program Director
- (3) SRA Parent Representative
- (4) where applicable, **appropriate law enforcement authorities.**

Grooming

Because sexual abusers "groom" children for abuse – the process used by offenders to select a child, to win the child's trust (and the trust of the child's parent or guardian), to manipulate the child into sexual activity and to keep the child from disclosing abuse – it is possible that a staff member and/or volunteer may witness behavior intended to groom a child for sexual abuse. All questions or concerns related to inappropriate, suspicious or suspected grooming behavior should be directed to an immediate supervisor, a SRA program director, or a member of the SRA Board of Directors.

Peer-to-Peer Sexual Abuse

Approximately 1/3 of all child sexual abuse occurs at the hands of other children and the obligation to report extends to peer-to-peer child sexual abuse. Whether or not a sexual interaction between children constitutes child sexual abuse turns on the existence of an aggressor, the age difference between the children, and/or whether there is an imbalance of power or intellectual capabilities. **If you have any concerns that an interaction between children may constitute sexual abuse, report it to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and a SRA supervisor, a SRA Program Director or a member of SRA's Board of Directors.**

Reporting Misconduct and Policy Violations

If any staff member and/or volunteer receives an allegation or observes misconduct or other inappropriate behavior, such as grooming, that is not reportable to the appropriate law enforcement authorities, it is the responsibility of each staff member and/or volunteer to report their observations to:

- (1) SRA Club President
- (2) SRA Program Director

(3) SRA Parent Representative

SRA also encourages member parents, athletes and other sport participants to communicate violations of SRA's Participant Safety Policy and/or allegations and suspicions of child physical and sexual abuse to a SRA's Program Director or member of SRA's Board of Directors. Where applicable, parents may also report to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

REPORTING PROCEDURE

To Whom to Report

Staff members and volunteers may report to any supervisor or SRA Program Director with whom they are comfortable sharing their concerns. You may also report to any member of its Board of Directors.

A staff member and/or volunteer may, and in many cases must, report any allegation of child physical or sexual abuse to relevant law enforcement authorities.

How to Report

SRA will take a report in the way that is most comfortable for the person initiating a report including an anonymous, in-person, verbal or written report. Regardless of how you choose to report, it is helpful to SRA for individuals to provide, at a minimum, (1) the name of the complainant(s); (2) the type of misconduct alleged and the name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct.

Reporting Form

Individuals reporting child physical or sexual abuse or other misconduct may complete an Incident Report Form. Information on this form will include:

- 1) the name(s) of the complainant(s)
- 2) the type of misconduct alleged
- 3) the name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct
- 4) the approximate dates the misconduct was committed
- 5) the names of other individuals who might have information regarding the alleged misconduct
- 6) a summary statement of the reasons to believe that misconduct has occurred

SRA will withhold the complainant's name on request, to the extent permitted by law.

A copy of SRA's Reporting Form can be found online, at

www.sagamorerowing.org/membership/documents.

See Part 2, Sample Forms and Documents for a Sample Reporting Form

CONFIDENTIALITY, ANONYMOUS REPORTING AND BAD-FAITH ALLEGATIONS

Confidentiality

To the extent permitted by law, and as appropriate, SRA will keep confidential the complainant's name on request, not make public the names of potential victims, the accused perpetrator or the people who

made a report of child physical and sexual abuse to the authorities.

Anonymous Reporting

SRA recognizes it can be difficult for an athlete, teammate, friend or family member to report an allegation of misconduct and strives to remove as many barriers to reporting as possible. **Anonymous reports may be made without the formality of completing an Incident Report Form:**

- by completing the Reporting Form without including their name
- by expressing concerns verbally to a SRA Program Director or a member of SRA's Board of Directors
- through email, texts or notes left for a SRA Program Director or a member of SRA's Board of Directors.

However, anonymous reporting may make it difficult for SRA to investigate or properly address allegations.

All suspicions of child physical or sexual abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

"Whistleblower" Protection

Regardless of outcome, SRA will support the complainant(s) and his or her right to express concerns in good faith. SRA will not encourage, allow or tolerate attempts from any individual to retaliate, punish, allow or in any way harm any individual(s) who reports a concern in good faith. Such actions against a complainant will be considered a violation of our Participant Safety Policy and grounds for disciplinary action.

Bad-Faith Allegations

A report of abuse, misconduct or policy violations that is malicious, frivolous or made in bad faith is prohibited. Such reports will be considered a violation of our Participant Safety Policy and grounds for disciplinary action. Depending on the nature of the allegation, a person making a malicious, frivolous or bad-faith report may also be subject to civil or criminal proceedings.

HOW REPORTS ARE HANDLED

Suspicious or Allegations of Child Physical or Sexual Abuse

Reporting to Law Enforcement and/or Child Protective Services

An independent investigation can harm youth and/or interfere with the legal investigative process. SRA, its staff members and/or volunteers **do not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities.** As necessary, however, SRA may ask a few clarifying questions of the minor or person making the report to adequately report the suspicion or allegation to law enforcement authorities.

For mandatory reporting laws, visit www.childwelfare.gov.

Immediate Suspension or Termination

When an allegation of child physical or sexual abuse is made against a staff member, youth and/or volunteer, SRA may immediately remove that individual from contact with any children in the program until the allegation has been investigated by an official agency. As necessary, SRA may suspend or change the assignment of a staff member and/or volunteer.

In those cases where the Ted Stevens Act may apply, the accused individual will be offered a hearing. A hearing under the Ted Stevens Act will not necessarily affect SRA's ability to immediately suspend or terminate the accused individual from employment or performing services for organization.

A staff member or volunteer's failure to report to a supervisor, a SRA Program Director, or member of the Board of Directors is a violation of this policy and grounds for termination of a staff member and/or dismissal of a volunteer.

Misconduct and Policy Violations

SRA addresses internally alleged policy violations and misconduct – bullying, harassment, hazing, emotional, physical and sexual – that are not reportable under relevant state or federal law. Staff members and/or volunteer must report policy violations and misconduct to an immediate supervisor, SRA Program Director or member of SRA's Board of Directors.

SRA may also investigate allegations of child physical or sexual abuse that are reportable, if such investigation does not interfere with any ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution for abuse. Such allegations may include:

- Emotional abuse
- Abuse reported outside the relevant statutes of limitation
- Allegations of abuse that were reported to authorities, but: (a) legal authorities did not press criminal charges; (b) criminal charges were filed, but not pursued to trial; or (c) the alleged offender was acquitted at trial

NOTIFICATION

Following SRA's notice of a credible allegation that results in the removal of an employee, coach or other volunteer, SRA may consider the circumstances in which it will notify other parents of athletes with whom the accused individual may have had contact. In SRA's discretion, as appropriate, and after consultation with counsel, SRA may notify its staff members, contractors, volunteers, parents, and/or athletes of any allegation of child physical or sexual abuse or other criminal behavior that (1) law enforcement authorities are actively investigating; or (2) that SRA is investigating internally. Advising others of an allegation may lead to additional reports of child physical or sexual abuse and other misconduct.

DISCIPLINARY RULES AND PROCEDURE

While SRA endeavors to provide support and guidance to participants on a day-to-day basis, it is also important for SRA to have a formal procedure for disciplinary action to address alleged violations of its policies and other inappropriate behaviors, which is consistent with SRA's Bylaws and Constitution.

APPLICATION

This Policy is used to address the following allegations against staff members, athletes, participants and/or volunteers:

- Violations of SRA's policies; and/or
- Child abuse (emotional, physical or sexual) that does not involve an ongoing legal investigation or criminal prosecution.

SRA will not investigate an allegation of child physical or sexual abuse if it undermines or interferes with a pending legal investigation or criminal prosecution.

DISCIPLINARY RULES

SRA recognizes that there are varying levels of misconduct. For example, physical and sexual misconduct are serious violations that may result in immediate dismissal. In contrast, a youth participant who tells a single sexually risqué joke constitutes less serious misconduct and depending on the circumstances, might be dealt with more appropriately through dialogue and a verbal warning. In all cases, SRA's disciplinary procedures and actions will be proportionate, reasonable and applied fairly and equally.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

On receipt of an allegation, SRA will determine in its discretion the appropriate steps to address the conduct based on several factors, including (i) the age of the complainant or victim, (ii) the age of the accused and (iii) the nature, scope, and extent of the allegations.

SRA will address allegations against a staff member and/or volunteer under its Employment Policies and Procedures, Bylaws and Constitution.

SRA's disciplinary response will depend on the nature and seriousness of the incident and in extreme cases, misconduct will result in immediate summary dismissal, provided that the accused individual shall be advised of their right to a hearing. If the accused individual is a minor, SRA will contact his or her parents or guardians.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Sanctions for violations of the Participant Safety Policy will be proportionate and reasonable under the circumstances. In addition to day-to-day guidance, the SRA may take the following disciplinary actions, without limitation:

- Inform the individual's direct-line supervisor or, in the case of a youth participant, the youth's parent or guardian
- Provide the individual with guidance, redirection and instruction
- Temporary suspension from competition
- File a formal incident report
- Issue a verbal warning
- Issue a written and/or final written warning
- Implement a limited access agreement (e.g., limiting an individual's access to certain buildings or

to youth)

- Provide informed supervision, where at least one staff member is informed of the allegation and is instructed to vigilantly supervise the accused participant or stakeholder in his or her interactions with the program and/or organization
- Engage in restorative practices, i.e., creation of a respectful and safe dialogue when a misunderstanding or harm has occurred
- Suspend or terminate employment or membership

ONGOING EMPLOYMENT AND/OR PARTICIPATION

On receipt of a credible and specific allegation of child abuse or other serious misconduct (e.g., physical and sexual abuse as defined in our Athlete Protection Policy), SRA may immediately suspend or terminate the accused individual to ensure participant safety.

COMPLAINANT PROTECTION

Regardless of outcome, SRA will support the complainant(s) and his or her right to express concerns in good faith. SRA will not encourage or tolerate attempts to retaliate, punish or in any way harm any individual(s) who report(s) a concern in good faith. Such actions will be grounds for disciplinary action.

BAD-FAITH ALLEGATIONS

Any individual who alleges misconduct under the Participant Safety Policy that, upon review, is determined to be malicious, frivolous or made in bad faith will be a violation of our Participant Safety Policy. Bad-faith allegations may also be subject to criminal or civil proceedings.

INVESTIGATION AND ADJUDICATION—*for* RESOLVING ALLEGATIONS UNDER THE TED STEVENS ACT

SRA utilizes this Investigation and Adjudication procedure to resolve those allegations that are governed by the Ted Stevens Act. A hearing under the Ted Stevens Act will not necessarily affect SRA's ability to immediately suspend or terminate an accused individual.

On receipt of:

- (1) an allegation of misconduct, as defined in SRA's Participant Safety Policy, that does not involve child physical or sexual abuse
- (2) an adverse employment determination by a local club for emotional, physical or sexual misconduct as set forth in SRA's Participant Safety Policy

SRA shall determine the appropriate steps to address the conduct based on several factors, including (i) the age of the complainant or victim, (ii) the age of the accused and (iii) the nature, scope and extent of the allegations. Such steps may include, without limitation:

- The collection of additional information from the individual in question, other individuals with potential knowledge or evidence of the incident or the accused individual
- Formal investigation and hearing
- Retention of legal counsel or investigation services to investigate and/or make a recommendation as to whether a violation of the relevant policy has occurred and/or a recommendation as to the appropriate sanction

Where serious allegations of misconduct are at issue (e.g., physical and sexual misconduct as defined in our Participant Safety Policy), SRA may elect in its discretion to undertake a full investigation and hearing before determining the appropriate disciplinary action. **This investigation and/or hearing will in no way interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution.**

SUSPENSION BEFORE FINAL RESOLUTION

If the reported complaint or employment/membership decision by a local member club indicates that an individual's continued employment, membership or participation poses a risk of ongoing physical or emotional harm, SRA may wish to suspend the accused individual pending final resolution of the complaint to eliminate any danger to an athlete, sport participant or other individual. In such instances, SRA will provide the individual with notice and offer her/him an opportunity to contest the suspension.

SRA may suspend the accused individual where there is a reasonable belief that the individual has committed emotional, physical or sexual misconduct. Evidence which may be found sufficient to support a reasonable belief includes, at a minimum:

- the suspension or termination of employment or membership by one of organization's member clubs
- an Incident Report Form with specific and credible information
- other legal documentation or report supporting a reasonable belief that the individual has committed emotional, physical or sexual misconduct, including abuse of a child (e.g., a criminal indictment).

For the purposes of this Policy, a suspension from sport involvement shall mean that for the duration of the period of suspension, the accused individual may not participate in any capacity or in any role in the business, events, or activities of the SRA.

Any suspension before final resolution may be appealed to the Board of Directors at the written request of the accused individual within 5 days of the suspension.

INVESTIGATION

As appropriate, and at its discretion, SRA may institute a formal investigation and hearing procedure to address serious allegations of misconduct (e.g., physical and sexual misconduct). However, SRA anticipates that an investigation and hearing will be undertaken to address only the most serious allegations and patterns of behavior that warrant significant sanctions. **Accordingly, SRA anticipates that this disciplinary procedure will be used rarely.**

If an investigation is conducted, the complainant, victim and accused individual shall have the right to:

- a) Receive written notice of the report or complaint, including a statement of allegations
- b) Present relevant information to the investigator(s)
- c) Legal counsel, at his or her own expense

HEARING

Procedural Safeguards

In every case where a hearing is warranted pursuant to this Policy, an adjudication shall be conducted that shall in all cases comply with SRA's bylaws. The adjudication shall further conform to the provisions and principles set out hereafter. However, deviations in one or more of the procedural safeguards are permitted, provided the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) The individual is informed of the allegations and evidence brought against him or her
- b) The individual is given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the allegations brought forward
- c) The individual may be represented by legal counsel at his or her expense
- d) The panel member(s) who make the determination are free of conflicts of interests and render an unbiased decision
- e) There is a right to appeal the panel's decision

Preliminary Determination

On receipt of a disclosure and/or additional information made pursuant to this Policy, if the Incident Review Official is satisfied, in the exercise of his or her discretion, that there is a sufficient reasonable, reliable and persuasive evidence to support the complaint alleging emotional, physical or sexual misconduct, he or she shall notify the Board of Directors.

Notice

The accused individual will be notified of a specific date and time to ensure that he or she is available for the hearing. The Board of Directors requires the individual to attend the hearing in person. The individual has the right to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing, provided that the counsel's participation may be subject to the reasonable hearing rules related to the conduct of the hearing.

Timing

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to set timelines and other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing, as it deems necessary.

On request of the accused individual, and provided that it is necessary to expedite the proceeding to resolve a matter relating to scheduled training or competition, the Board of Directors may render an expedited determination.

Evidence

At the hearing, the accused individual will be allowed to present any reasonable evidence or argument that he or she wishes the Board of Directors to consider. The Board of Directors may require or permit documentary evidence, such as the written report of any investigator or other fact-finder, before the hearing and that the names of any witnesses be disclosed before the hearing. The Board of Directors may also consider a local club's employment determination as evidence to be considered.

If the complainant/alleged victim(s) is a minor, the investigator's or other fact-finder's report may substitute for the minor witness's direct testimony, provided that the accused had an opportunity to present and respond to relevant information collected during the investigation and before the report was transmitted to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors may proceed in the accused individual's absence if it cannot locate the individual or if the individual declines to attend the hearing.

Findings and Sanctions

The Board of Directors has the discretion to impose sanctions on the individual if it finds based on a preponderance of the evidence that emotional, physical or sexual misconduct has occurred.

The Board of Directors will communicate its finding to the individual. The Board of Directors may impose sanctions on the individual in its findings.

Any sanctions imposed by the Board of Directors against the individual must be proportionate and reasonable, relative to the content that is found to have occurred. The decision regarding the appropriate sanction shall be up to the panel deciding each complaint. In imposing a sanction, the Board of Directors shall consider:

- a) The legitimate interest of SRA in providing a safe environment for its participants
- b) The seriousness of the offense or act
- c) The age of the accused individual and alleged victim when the offense or act occurred
- d) Any information produced by the accused individual, or produced on behalf of the individual, in regard to the individual's rehabilitation and good conduct
- e) The effect on the SRA's reputation
- f) Whether the individual poses an ongoing concern for the safety of SRA's athletes and participants
- g) Any other information, which in the determination of the Board, bears on the appropriate sanction

Sanctions may range from a warning and a reprimand to suspension from sport involvement with the SRA for a period of time. Suspensions from sport involvement with SRA may be temporary or permanent. The most severe sanction possible to impose will be permanent suspension from sport involvement and expulsion from the SRA.

For the purposes of this Policy, a suspension from sport involvement shall mean that the individual may not participate in any capacity or in any role in the business, events or activities of the relevant organization or its affiliated members for the duration of the period of suspension.

Confidentiality

The conduct of the hearing **WILL** be private. If the Board determines that the individual has violated policy, it may publish its decision or a brief summary of its decision, unless the accused is a minor. However, if the individual appeals, the summary of the board's decision will not be disclosed until an appellate decision has been made.

If the Board determines the accused individual did not violate the relevant policy, the board will publish a summary only at the individual's written request, pending the advice of legal counsel.

APPEAL

If the individual disagrees with the finding or sanction of the panel and wishes to appeal, he or she may file an appeal to SRA Board of Directors within 21 days of the SRA's finding. A decision rendered by the SRA Board of Directors shall be final and binding on all parties.



Section 6: Conclusion

SafeSport | WHERE YOUR GAME PLAN STARTS

MONITORING YOUR STRATEGY

By monitoring the interactions among staff, volunteers, athletes, and others, SRA works to prevent, recognize and respond to inappropriate and harmful behaviors as set forth in our Participant Safety Policy, while reinforcing appropriate behaviors.

MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SRA monitors for compliance with its policies and procedures, including without limitation its Awareness Training, Travel, Locker Room and Changing Areas, and Physical Contact Policies.

MONITORING METHODS

SRA utilizes multiple monitoring methods to observe how individuals are interacting, including without limitation (1) formal supervision, including regular evaluations; and (2) informal supervision, including regular and random observation (e.g., roving and checking interactions throughout practices), and (3) maintaining frequent contact with staff members, volunteer and athletes who interact off-site.

RESPONDING TO INTERACTIONS

While SRA has a formal reporting policy, staff members and volunteers should be prepared to respond immediately to inappropriate or harmful behavior, potential risk situations and potential boundary violations.

Staff members and volunteers will redirect inappropriate behaviors to promote positive behaviors, confront inappropriate or harmful behaviors, and report behaviors if necessary.

REPORTING

Staff members and volunteers are required to report policy violations, misconduct and physical and sexual abuse consistent with SRA's Reporting Policy. **SRA does not investigate suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of such allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities.**



PART 2: SAMPLE FORMS and DOCUMENTS

SafeSport | WHERE YOUR GAME PLAN STARTS

Employment Application Process

1. Post position on Row2k.com, with relevant contact information and job description.. Require cover letter, resume, and references list as elements of application. Include SRA's Protection Policy.
2. SRA Program Director and/or SRA President will review applicants.
3. SRA Program Director may choose to conduct a phone interview. Questions should include:
 - a. Skills (Driving, Computer, Boat Repair, etc.)
 - b. Have you ever been convicted under any criminal law; including any plea of "guilty", "no contest" or "deferred adjudication" (excluding minor traffic violations)?
 - c. Do you have charges or prosecutions that are pending?
 - d. Have you ever been fired from a job?
 - e. May we contact your present employer?
 - f. Valid Driver's License?
4. SRA Program Director will send applicant "*AFFIDAVIT, CONSENT AND RELEASE*" regarding references.
5. SRA Program Director and/or SRA President will contact references
6. Applicant will be invited for in-person interview with SRA Program Director, SRA President, and trustees.
7. Applicant will submit information and background check.
8. If applicant is offered and accepts position, applicant will be required to meet safety requirements within 6 months of being hired.

AFFIDAVIT, CONSENT AND RELEASE

PLEASE READ EACH STATEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

I certify that all information provided in this employment application is true and complete. I understand that any false information or omission may disqualify me from further consideration for employment and may result in my dismissal if discovered at a later date.

I authorize the investigation of any or all statements contained in this application. I also authorize, whether listed or not, any person, school, current employer, past employers and organizations to provide relevant information and opinions that may be useful in making a hiring decision. I release such persons and organizations from any legal liability in making such statements. A copy of this Affidavit signed by me can be used as my authorization for release of information from my former employers, schools or persons named in this application.

I understand I may be required to successfully pass a drug screening examination. I hereby consent to a pre- and/or post-employment drug screen as a condition of employment, if required.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS APPLICATION, VERBAL STATEMENTS BY MANAGEMENT, OR SUBSEQUENT EMPLOYMENT DOES NOT CREATE AN EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT NOR GUARANTEE EMPLOYMENT FOR ANY DEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME. IF EMPLOYED, I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE BEEN HIRED AT THE WILL OF THE EMPLOYER AND MY EMPLOYMENT MAY BE TERMINATED AT ANY TIME, WITH OR WITHOUT REASON AND WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE.

I have read, understand and, by my signature, consent to these statements.

Signature _____ Date _____

For HR use only:

REFERENCE FORM

Candidate Name:

Position:

Date:

Reference Name:

Reference:

Position/Organization:

Recommended Questions	Questions to Avoid with References
When did (candidate) work for your company?	Any question that relates to race or ethnicity.
Could you confirm starting and ending employment dates? When did s/he leave the company?	Any question that tends to identify the candidate's age if it is not a job requirement. (ex: do you know when the candidate graduate from high school?)
Were you asked to be a reference by (candidate)?	Any question attempting to identify the candidate's nationality, lineage, ancestry, national origin.
What was her/his position? Can you describe the job responsibilities?	Any question related to the candidate's children, child care, ages of the candidate's children, or other subjects that are likely to be perceived by covered group members, especially women, as discriminatory.
Did (candidate) supervise other employees? How effectively? If I spoke to those employees, how do you think they would describe (candidate's) management style? How would you describe her/his supervisory/management skills?	Are there any health-related reasons why (candidate) may not be able to perform on the job?
How did (candidate) handle conflict? How about pressure? Stress?	Does (candidate) have any physical or mental defects which preclude them from performing certain kinds of work?
Did you act as (candidate's) supervisor? If (candidate) did not report to you, what was your working relationship? Did you evaluate (candidate's) performance? What was noted as needing improvement during this performance review? What do you consider (candidate's) key strengths?	Has (candidate) been hospitalized in the last five years?

How would you describe (candidate's) punctuality?	Has (candidate) recently had a major illness?
Could you rate (candidate's) reliability on a scale of 1-10, 10 being the best?	How many days was (candidate) absent from work because of illness last year?
What was his/her biggest accomplishment while working at your company?	Has (candidate) ever filed for workers' compensation insurance?
How would you describe (candidate's) ability to work as part of a team?	Any inquiry that is not job-related or necessary for determining and applicant's potential for employment.
(Candidate) is being considered for the following position; do you think he/she is a good fit? Why?	Is (candidate) a citizen of the U.S.?
What haven't we discussed that you feel is vital for me to know about (candidate)?	Has (candidate) ever worked for your company under a different name?
Would you re-hire this person? Why or why not?	

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Candidate name: _____
Position: _____
Date: _____
Reference Name: _____
Position/Organization: _____

1. In what capacity do you know the candidate?
2. How long have you known him/her?
3. What are his/her strengths?
4. In which areas could he/she improve?
5. What would be the ideal role for him/her?
6. Please describe candidate's interaction in a team setting.
7. Would you rehire him/her?
8. Is there any other information you feel would be helpful for us to know about him/her?

REPORTING FORM

Source: USA Swimming

SRA strongly encourages the reporting of misconduct. SRA appreciates your willingness to report inappropriate behavior.

This section is about the individual you are reporting. Please provide as much information as possible.

1. Name of the Individual you are reporting (First & Last):
2. Age or Appropriate Age:
3. Gender:
4. Address (City & State Required):
5. Position this individual holds or held:
6. Club where individual works and/or volunteers or worked/volunteered previously:

This section asks questions about the incident or incidents you are reporting. Please provide as much specific information as you are able.

1. Type of Offense (i.e. what happened?)
2. Where did the incident or incidents take place? (City, State and any other available location information)
3. Please Describe what happened: (Including... Who, What, When, Where)

This section is for information about the victim or victims. If you are the victim and wish to remain anonymous, you may do so. If that case, please only enter your age, city, state, and club affiliation.

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Club Affiliation:
4. Contact phone number (Not, if this person is under 18, please provide contact information for his/her parent or guardian):
5. Contact Email Address (Not, if this person is under 18, please provide contact information for his/her parent or guardian):
6. or guardian):

Your Information: You may remain anonymous if you wish. However, providing your information is vastly helpful to a swift and effective investigation. A person reporting alleged misconduct should not fear any retribution and/or consequence when filing a report he or she believes to be true.

1. Name:
2. Age:
3. Address:
4. Email:
5. Club Affiliation:
6. Relationship to Victim:

Other Information:

- If you have any other information that you feel would be helpful to an investigation of the alleged offense you have reported, please enter it here:

Incident Report Form

Incident:

Reported By:

Date:

Individual (s) Involved:

Investigated By:

Location of Incident:

Summary of Complaint:

Statement Provided By:

Action Taken:



APPENDIX: ***Additional Resources***

SafeSport | WHERE YOUR GAME PLAN STARTS

APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Prevention

- Centers for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/childmaltreatment/index.html
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Information Gateway, www.childwelfare.gov

Applicant Screening

- “Staff Screening Toolkit: Building a Strong Foundation Through Careful Staffing,” Patterson, John C. (Nonprofit Risk Management Center), www.nonprofitrisk.org

Creating Policies and Procedures

- Saul J, Audage NC. *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures*. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; 2007.

Risk Management

- Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI), www.riskinstitute.gov
- Nonprofit Risk Management Center, www.nonprofitrisk.org
- Nonprofit Risk Management Center, “The Season of Hope: A Risk Management Guide for Youth-serving Nonprofits.”
- National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, Evaluation Toolkit, Logic Model Builder: <http://friendsnrc.org/evaluation-toolkit>

Reporting

- Child Information Gateway, www.childwelfare.gov

Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Child Welfare Information Gateway, “Long-Term Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect,” www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/long_term_consequences.pdf

Counseling

- Childhelp, <http://www.childhelp.org>
- Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline: 1.800.4.A.CHILD (1.800.422.4453) (staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with professional crisis counselors)
- Child Molestation Prevention, <http://childmolestationprevention.org/pages.diagnosis/html>
- Sexual Behaviors Consultation Unit, Johns Hopkins Hospital, http://hopkinsmedicine.org/psychiatry/specialty_areas/sexual_behaviors/