



**Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)**

For U.S. Ski & Snowboard and its membership, including national member organizations, local affiliated organizations and member clubs

Publication Date: December 1, 2021

Effective Date: January 1, 2022

## INTRODUCTION

The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) has three primary components:

1. Education & Training for certain Adult Participants;
2. Required Prevention Policies, focused on limiting one-on-one interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes, that must be implemented to prevent abuse; and
3. Recommended Prevention Policies.

**U.S. Ski & Snowboard recommends that parents first complete training on abuse prevention to be informed about potential boundary violations and concerns before consenting to any one-on-one interaction. The training can be found at [safesporttrained.org](https://safesporttrained.org).**

The MAAPP should be implemented alongside the [SafeSport Code](#).

### **How Does the U.S. Center for SafeSport (Center) Ensure Compliance with the MAAPP?**

Federal law requires the Center to conduct regular and random audits of the NGBs to ensure compliance with the MAAPP. Adult Participants also have an independent responsibility to comply with the MAAPP. Violations of the MAAPP can result in sanctions under the SafeSport Code.

**Application and Implementation:** U.S. Ski & Snowboard is committed to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct. Where the policy is indicated as “Required,” the policy must be followed. Where the policy is indicated as “Recommended,” the policy is recommended and considered optional for Member Clubs and may be followed or required when it is appropriate for the situation.

**U.S. Ski & Snowboard requires that its Member Clubs implement the MAAPP in full.** The MAAPP must be reviewed and agreed to in writing by all athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of Member Clubs on an annual basis with such written agreement to be retained by the Member Club.

**MAAPP Violations.** U.S. Ski & Snowboard accepts reports that an Adult Participant is violating the MAAPP. Anyone may submit a report directly and anonymously on U.S. Ski & Snowboard’s [website](#). All reports will be investigated and resolved by U.S. Ski & Snowboard and, when necessary, Member Clubs must assist with the investigation and resolution, unless the violation is reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report.

## SCOPE

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

The MAAPP is required for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), National Governing Bodies (NGB), Member Clubs (also known as Local Affiliated Organizations (LAO)), and Paralympic Sport Organizations (PSO) within the Olympic & Paralympic Movement (each an “Organization”).

The MAAPP applies to:

- All U.S. Ski & Snowboard employees, contractors, athletes, officials, and members;
- Participating non-members (e.g., foreign officials, timers, volunteers); and
- Any Adult Participant (as defined herein).

Some policies impose requirements on Organizations at sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under the Organization’s jurisdiction. For example, Organizations must monitor locker rooms at their facilities and sanctioned events. Other policies impose certain requirements on Adult Participants under the Organization’s jurisdiction when the Adult Participant is having “In-Program Contact.” For example, Adult Participants cannot have one-on-one electronic communications with Minor Athletes that they coach.

### Who is a Minor Athlete?

A **Minor Athlete** is an amateur athlete under 18 years of age who currently participates or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of, U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club.

**Partial or Full Jurisdiction:** Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club, or any facility that U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club owns, leases, or rents for practice, training, or competition.

### Who is an Adult Participant?

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

1. A member or license holder of U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club;
2. An employee or board member of U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club;
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club; or

4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.<sup>1</sup>

For the purpose of clarity, an **Adult Participant** does not include<sup>2</sup>:

- Board members of 501(c)(3) Foundation or Booster Clubs that are separate from Member Clubs and would not be considered an LAO because they do not have any role in managing or delivering programs or have any In-Program Contact (as defined below).
- Educators at schools, colleges, and universities where their roles are independent of athletic programs associated with U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or a Member Club and do not have any In-Program Contact (as defined below).
- Management/Leadership over resort operations where their roles are independent of athletic competition programs with U.S. Ski & Snowboard and Member Clubs and do not have any In-Program Contact (as defined below).
- Board members of Multi-sport community recreational clubs/programs that have a small competition program. In this case, at least three (3) Board members must be identified as leading or having authority over the ski and snowboard activities of the club and must form an athlete safety committee and they must be members of U.S. Ski & Snowboard and they will be considered Adult Participants.<sup>3</sup>

### **What is In-Program Contact?**

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

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

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

---

<sup>1</sup> This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

<sup>2</sup> An individual in one of these positions could be considered an Adult Participant based on a separate affiliation or role with U.S. Ski & Snowboard, including holding a membership.

<sup>3</sup> For multi-sport community recreational clubs/programs, the three (3) identified Board members on the athlete safety committee will be responsible for reviewing and implementing the MAAPP for the club and such Board members must be members of U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

## Does the MAAPP Have Any Exceptions?

Yes. Exceptions are addressed in each policy and include:

1. A Close-in-Age Exception

This exception applies to certain policies and allows for In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

- a. The Adult Participant has no authority over the Minor Athlete; and
- b. The Adult Participant is not more than four years older than the Minor Athlete.

***Note: This exception is different than the close-in-age exception in the [SafeSport Code](#) pertaining to misconduct.***

2. Exceptions for Personal Care Assistants Working with a Minor Athlete (see requirements below on page 15).

3. Exceptions for Dual Relationships

This exception applies to certain policies when the Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete. The exception requires written consent of the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian ***at least annually***.

**Many of the exceptions require parent/guardian consent.** Parents should take training on child abuse prevention before providing consent under the MAAPP. The Center offers a free Parent Course at [www.athletesafety.org](http://www.athletesafety.org).

## **PART I**

### **EDUCATION & TRAINING POLICY**

Education about child abuse, athlete abuse and bullying, helps everyone become more aware of unsafe situations and encourages discussions about methods to provide a safe environment for all athletes. U.S. Ski & Snowboard encourages all members and all parents to participate in the SafeSport training.

#### **A. Mandatory Child Abuse Prevention Training for Adult Participants**

##### 1. Adult Participants Required to Complete Training

- a. U.S. Ski & Snowboard requires the following Adult Participants to complete the *SafeSport Trained Core* either through the Center's online training or the Center's approved, in-person training:
  - i. Adult Participants who have regular contact with any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
  - ii. Adult Participants who have authority over any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor;
  - iii. Adult Participants who are an employee, contractor, or board member of an U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club.
  - iv. Adult Participants who are athletes of U.S. Ski & Snowboard that will become 18 years of age during the upcoming membership year either on or before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, provided that such athlete under 18 has the consent of their parent or legal guardian.
- b. Adult Participants who are medical providers required to take training under Section (a) can take the Health Professionals Course in lieu of the *SafeSport Trained Core*.

##### 2. Timing of Training

Adult Participants must complete this training:

- a. Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor; **and**
- b. Within the first **45 days** of either initial membership or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy.

##### 3. Refresher Training

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

## **B. Minor Athlete Training**

1. On an annual basis, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will offer, subject to parental consent, training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers youth courses, located at [safesporttrained.org](https://safesporttrained.org).

## **C. Parent Training**

1. On an annual basis, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.
2. The Center offers a parent course, located at [safesporttrained.org](https://safesporttrained.org).

## **D. Optional Training**

1. Adult Participants serving in a volunteer capacity, who will not have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes, should take the Center's brief Volunteer Course (or *SafeSport Trained Core*) before engaging or interacting with any Minor Athlete(s).

## **E. Exemptions and Accommodations**

1. Exemptions from this Education & Training Policy may be made on a case-by-case basis for victims/survivors. Requests may be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at [exemptions@safesport.org](mailto:exemptions@safesport.org).
2. The Center will work with U.S. Ski & Snowboard on appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency to satisfy these training requirements. U.S. Ski & Snowboard will provide reasonable accommodations and track any exemptions for individuals with disabilities and individuals with limited English proficiency.

**PART II**  
**ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING**  
**AND PREVENTION POLICIES**

**A. Organizational Requirements for Education & Training**

1. U.S. Ski & Snowboard will track whether Adult Participants under U.S. Ski & Snowboard's jurisdiction complete the required training listed in Part I.
2. On an annual basis, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will offer, subject to parental consent, training to Minor Athletes on the prevention and reporting of child abuse. U.S. Ski & Snowboard will track the training, including a description of the training and how it was offered.
3. On an annual basis, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will offer training to parents on the prevention and reporting of child abuse.

**B. Required Prevention Policies and Implementation**

1. U.S. Ski & Snowboard's MAAPP contains the mandatory components of the Center's model policies. These model policies cover:
  - a. One-on-one interactions
  - b. Meetings and training sessions
  - c. Athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns
  - d. Locker rooms and changing areas
  - e. Electronic communications
  - f. Transportation
  - g. Lodging
2. The policies must be approved by the Center as described in subsection (C) below. The policies may include the recommended components in Part III and the recommended policies in Part IV. Given the uniqueness of each sport, however, some recommended components or policies may not be feasible or appropriate. An Organization may choose to implement stricter standards than the model policies.
3. U.S. Ski & Snowboard requires that its LAOs (Member Clubs) implement the MAAPP.
4. The MAAPP must be implemented for all In-Program Contact.
  - a. At sanctioned events and facilities partially or fully under U.S. Ski & Snowboard's or a Member Club's jurisdiction, U.S. Ski & Snowboard or the Member Club must take steps to ensure the policies are implemented and followed.

- b. For In-Program Contact that occurs outside U.S. Ski & Snowboard's or a Member Club's sanctioned event or facilities, implementing these policies means:
      - i. Communicating the policies to individuals under U.S. Ski & Snowboard's or a Member Club's jurisdiction;
      - ii. Establishing a reporting mechanism for violations of the policies; and
      - iii. Investigating and enforcing violations of the policies.
5. U.S. Ski & Snowboard has a reporting mechanism to accept reports that an Adult Participant is violating U.S. Ski & Snowboard's MAAPP. Reports may be made directly to U.S. Ski & Snowboard at [www.usskiandsnowboard.org/safesport-athlete-safety](http://www.usskiandsnowboard.org/safesport-athlete-safety). U.S. Ski & Snowboard will appropriately investigate and resolve any reports received, unless the violation is reported to the Center and it exercises jurisdiction over the report. This requirement is in addition to requirements to report abuse under the SafeSport Code.

### **C. Policy Approval and Submission Process**

1. Each NGB, PSO, and the USOPC may adopt the MAAPP as-is or adapt it to fit their needs. Regardless, each Organization must submit their policies to the Center at [compliance@safesport.org](mailto:compliance@safesport.org) for review and approval by January 31, 2021. The Center will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the policies. If the Center denies the proposed policy, the mandatory components of Part III become the default policy until the Center approves the policy.
2. NGBs must require their LAOs to incorporate the mandatory components of Part III. NGBs may require that their LAOs implement the NGB's policies, which may be more stringent than the policies in Part III.
3. An NGB may, in its discretion, require its National Member Organizations (NMO) to implement these policies.
  - An NGB that chooses to require its NMOs to implement the Education & Training Policy must obtain advanced, written approval from the Center to expand the training access to additional persons. Requests must be submitted to [ngbservices@safesport.org](mailto:ngbservices@safesport.org).
4. The mandatory components of Part III will serve as the default policy for any organization that fails to develop its own policy as required by this section.

**PART III**  
**REQUIRED POLICIES FOR ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS**

**ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS**

---

1. Observable and Interruptible
  - a. All one-on-one In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, except in emergency circumstances.
  - b. Limited Exceptions:
    - i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
    - ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
    - iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant (subject to the requirements listed below on page 15).

**MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS**

---

1. Observable and Interruptible

Adult Participants must follow the one-on-one interaction policy in all meetings and training sessions where Minor Athletes are present.
2. Individual Training Sessions
  - a. One-on-one, In-Program, individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible except if:
    - i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
    - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
    - iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant (subject to the requirements listed below on page 15).
  - b. The Adult Participant providing the individual training session must receive advance, written consent from the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian at least annually, which can be withdrawn at any time; and
  - c. Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the individual training session.
3. Meetings with licensed mental health care professionals and health care providers (other than athletic trainers<sup>4</sup>)

If a licensed mental health care professional or licensed health care provider meets one-on-one with a Minor Athlete at a sanctioned event or a facility, which is partially or

---

<sup>4</sup> Athletic trainers who are covered under these policies must follow the “Athletic Training Modalities, Massages, and Rubdowns” policy.

fully under U.S. Ski & Snowboard's or a Member Club's jurisdiction, the meeting must be observable and interruptible except:

- a. If the door remains unlocked; and
- b. Another adult is present at the facility and notified that a meeting is occurring, although the Minor Athlete's identity need not be disclosed; and
- c. U.S. Ski & Snowboard or the Member Club is notified that the provider will be meeting with a Minor Athlete; and
- d. The provider obtains consent consistent with applicable laws and ethical standards, which can be withdrawn at any time.

4. Monitoring

Another Adult Participant must monitor each meeting or training session. Monitoring includes reviewing the consent forms, knowing the approximate planned duration of the session, and the ability to drop in on the session.

## **ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES, MESSAGES, AND RUBDOWNS**

---

1. Athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown

All In-Program athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns of a Minor Athlete must:

- a. Be observable and interruptible; and
- b. Have another Adult Participant physically present for the athletic training modality, massage, or rubdown; and
- c. Have documented consent as explained in subsection (2) below; and
- d. Be performed with the Minor Athlete fully or partially clothed, ensuring that the breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals are always covered; and
- e. Allow parents/guardians in the room as an observer, except for competition or training venues that limit credentialing.

2. Consent

- a. Providers of athletic training modalities, massages, and rubdowns or U.S. Ski & Snowboard or the Member club, must obtain consent at least annually from Minor Athletes' parents/guardians before providing any athletic training modalities, massages, or rubdowns.
- b. Minor Athletes or their parents/guardians can withdraw consent at any time.

3. Parent Training

Parents/guardians may receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent.

4. The provider must narrate the steps before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.
5. When possible, techniques should be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.
6. Only licensed providers may administer a massage, rubdown, or athletic training modality.
7. Coaches, regardless of whether they are licensed massage therapists, may not massage Minor Athletes.

## **LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS**

---

### **1. Observable and Interruptible**

Adult Participants must ensure that all one-on-one In-Program Contact with Minor Athletes in a locker room, changing area, or similar space where Minor Athletes are present is observable and interruptible, except if:

- a. A Dual Relationship exists; or
- b. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- c. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant (subject to the requirements listed below on page 15).

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

- a. No Adult Participant or Minor Athlete can use the photographic or recording capabilities of any device in locker rooms, changing areas, or any other area designated as a place for changing clothes or undressing.
- b. Adult Participants must not change clothes or behave in a manner that intentionally or recklessly exposes their breasts, buttocks, groins, or genitals to a Minor Athlete.
- c. Adult Participants must not shower with Minor Athletes unless:
  - i. The Adult Participant meets the Close-in-Age Exception; or
  - ii. The shower is part of a pre- or post-activity rinse while wearing swimwear.
- d. Parents/guardians may request in writing that their Minor Athlete(s) not change or shower with Adult Participant(s) during In-Program Contact. U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club and the Adult Participant(s) must abide by this request.

### **3. Media and Championship Celebrations in Locker Rooms**

No recording or photography is permitted in locker rooms and there is no exception for media or celebrations.

### **4. Personal Care Assistants**

Personal Care Assistants are permitted to be with and assist Minor Athlete(s) in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces where other Minor Athletes are present, if they meet the requirements below on page 15.

5. Availability and Monitoring of Locker Rooms, Changing Areas, and Similar Spaces
  - a. U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club must provide a private or semi-private place for Minor Athletes that need to change clothes or undress at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under their respective jurisdiction.
  - b. U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club must monitor the use of locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces to ensure compliance with these policies at sanctioned events or facilities partially or fully under their respective jurisdiction.

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS<sup>5</sup>**

---

### **1. Open and Transparent**

- a. All one-on-one electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be Open and Transparent except:
  - i. When a Dual Relationship exists; or
  - ii. When the Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
  - iii. If a Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant (subject to the requirements listed below).
- b. Open and Transparent means that the Adult Participant copies or includes the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant.
  - If a Minor Athlete communicates with the Adult Participant first, the Adult Participant must follow this policy if the Adult Participant responds.
- c. Only platforms that allow for Open and Transparent communication may be used to communicate with Minor Athletes.

### **2. Team Communication**

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

### **3. Content**

All electronic communication originating from an Adult Participant to a Minor Athlete must be professional in nature unless an exception in (1)(a) exists.

### **4. Requests to discontinue**

Parents/guardians may request in writing that U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club or an Adult Participant subject to this policy not contact their Minor Athlete through any form of electronic communication. The respective party must abide by any request to discontinue, absent emergency circumstances.

---

<sup>5</sup> Electronic communications include, but are not limited to: phone calls, videoconferencing, video coaching, texting, and social media.

5. Hours

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

6. Social Media Connections

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

## **TRANSPORTATION**

---

1. Transportation

- a. An Adult Participant cannot transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program travel, except if:
  - i. A Dual Relationship exists; or
  - ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
  - iii. A Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant (subject to the requirements listed below); or
  - iv. The Adult Participant has advance, written consent to transport the Minor Athlete one-on-one obtained at least annually from the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian.
- b. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.
- c. An Adult Participant meets the In-Program transportation requirements if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors.
- d. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation sanctioned by U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club at least annually.

2. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement

Parents/guardians are encouraged to pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

3. Parent Training

Parents/guardians may receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent.

## **LODGING**

---

1. Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements

All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, and an Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete, except if the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club with

advance, written consent at least annually for the lodging arrangement and one of the following applies:

- i. A Dual Relationship Exists;
- ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies; or
- iii. The Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant (subject to the requirements listed below).

2. Consent

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

3. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel

If U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-on-one interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks.

4. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by the Organization

- a. Adult Participants traveling with U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club must agree to and sign the lodging policy at least annually.
- b. Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athletes are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athletes and thus must comply with U.S Ski & Snowboard's Education & Training Policy (see Appendix A).

5. Parent Training

Parents/guardians may receive the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training on child abuse prevention before providing consent.

**PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANTS (PCA) REQUIREMENTS:** for all one-on-one interactions above where a Minor Athlete needs an Adult Participant PCA, the following is required:

- (1) the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian has provided written consent to U.S. Ski & Snowboard or the Member Club for the Adult Participant PCA to work with the Minor Athlete; and
- (2) the Adult Participant PCA has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and
- (3) the Adult Participant PCA has complied with U.S. Ski & Snowboard's screening policy.

**PART IV**  
**RECOMMENDED POLICIES FOR KEEPING YOUNG ATHLETES SAFE**

**A. Out-of-Program Contact**

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

**B. Gifting**

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

**C. Photography/Video**

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

## **TERMINOLOGY**

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

- a. A member or license holder of U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club;
- b. An employee or board member of U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club;
- c. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of U.S. Ski & Snowboard or a Member Club; or
- d. Authorized, approved, or appointed by U.S. Ski & Snowboard or Member Club, to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.<sup>6</sup>

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

**Authority:** When one person's position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. Also see the [Power Imbalance definition in the SafeSport Code](#).<sup>7</sup>

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

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

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

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

**Local Affiliated Organization (LAO):** A regional, state, or local club or organization that is directly affiliated with an NGB or that is affiliated with an NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of an NGB. LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or

---

<sup>6</sup> This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

<sup>7</sup> This includes coaches, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, contract personnel, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of U.S. Ski & Snowboard. U.S. Ski & Snowboard deems its member clubs (“Member Clubs”) to be LAOs.<sup>8</sup>

**Member Clubs:** For the purposes of the MAAPP, whenever the term Member Club is used, it includes LAOs.

**Minor Athlete:** An Amateur Athlete under 18 years of age who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, an event, program, activity, or competition that is part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of, an NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO.

**Partial or Full Jurisdiction:** Includes any sanctioned event (including all travel and lodging in connection with the event) by the NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO, or any facility that the NGB, PSO, USOPC, or LAO owns, leases, or rents for practice, training or competition.

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

**National Member Organization (NMO):** A national or regional organization that is directly affiliated with U.S. Ski & Snowboard, over which U.S. Ski & Snowboard has jurisdiction (without respect to whether U.S. Ski & Snowboard has disciplinary authority over individual members of that national or regional organization) and is an amateur sports organization requesting sanction from U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

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

---

<sup>8</sup> LAOs specifically exclude schools, colleges, and universities (only the athletic programs associated with U.S. Ski & Snowboard would be LAOs); all mountain and ski resort management/leadership over resort operations where their roles are independent of athletic competition programs; and multi-sport community recreational clubs/programs (only the athletic program associated with U.S. Ski & Snowboard would be an LAO).

**Paralympic Sport Organization (PSO):** an amateur sports organization recognized and certified as an NGB by the USOPC.

**Regular Contact:** Ongoing interactions during a 12-month period wherein an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any Minor Athlete.<sup>9</sup>

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

---

<sup>9</sup> This includes coaches, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, contract personnel, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.