

2023 EVENT AUDIT REPORT

**AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE
DEPARTMENT**

NGB NAME:
U.S. Soccer Federation

EVENT NAME:
U15 Men's Youth National Team Camp

EVENT SITE:
Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Center

EVENT DATE:
October 14, 2023

BACKGROUND AND AUDIT PURPOSE

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) is working to build a sport community in which everyone can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse and misconduct. Federal law 36 U.S.C. §220541 authorizes the Center to develop and enforce abuse prevention policies and procedures that the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and its National Governing Bodies (NGBs) must implement.

In accordance with that law, the Center has been granted authority to annually complete regular and random audits of NGBs and the USOPC. The Center objectively evaluates adherence and level of compliance to the requirements set forth in the SafeSport Code and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP).

AUDIT SCOPE

This 2023 audit is based on Event Audit Standards articulated in the U.S. Center for SafeSport Audit and Compliance Manual.

The audit covered the following areas:

- > **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
- > **COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING**
- > **QUALITY CONTROL**
- > **RESPONSE & RESOLUTION**
- > **MAAPP RISK ASSESSMENT**

AUDIT METHODOLOGY

During the audit, the Center:

- Reviewed policies and procedures
- Evaluated processes
- Administered implementation fidelity testing
- Conducted on-site inspections
- Interviewed individuals at the event site

SCORING SUMMARY

STANDARD	SCORE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING	IMPLEMENTED
COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING	IMPLEMENTED
QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM	IMPLEMENTED
RESPONSE & RESOLUTION	IMPLEMENTED

AUDIT AREA: EDUCATION AND TRAINING

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Organization representative or Event Director must provide to the Center a list of all individuals who will be at the event and are in a role that would require them to complete SafeSport training; these roles include (but are not limited to) event staff, adult athletes, adults having regular contact with or authority over amateur athletes who are minors, coaches, referees/officials, volunteers, medical staff, contractors, or others. The list must also include all NGB board and staff members, **regardless of whether they were at the event**. Organization must ensure that:
 - a. those at the event required to be SafeSport Trained are current in their training within the previous 12 months
 - b. the list provided is inclusive of all individuals at the event who should be SafeSport Trained
 - c. training is current for NGB board and staff
2. Organization must provide copy of a direct communication (email or newsletter), sent to membership annually (every 12 months), that offers training for parents and Minor Athletes regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse.

SCORE:

Implemented

RATIONALE:

Requirement No. 1(a) is satisfied. Of the 9 individuals randomly selected for testing, 9 (100%) were current in their SafeSport training.

Requirement No. 1(b) is satisfied. Of the 5 individuals randomly selected for testing, 5 (100%) were properly included on the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) list of those at the event required to be SafeSport trained. U.S. Soccer Federation requires the following categories of individuals to be SafeSport trained: USSF staff, event staff, coaches, players (adult), medical personnel.

Requirement No. 1(c) is satisfied. Of the 46 staff and board members randomly selected for testing, 46 (100%) had current training.

Requirement No. 2 is satisfied U.S. Soccer Federation sent an email to the invited Minor Athletes and their parents on September 28, 2023, which offered training for both parents and Minor Athletes regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

No Corrective Actions required.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: N/A

DEADLINE: N/A

CORRECTIVE PLAN: No Management Response required.

AUDIT AREA: **COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING**

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Organization representative or Event Director must provide copy of a direct communication (either by email, newsletter, hard copy, or other electronic medium) made available to all event participants, including day-of registrants. Communication must include:
 - a. 2022 MAAPP requirements (either full policy or summary)
 - b. protocol for reporting all concerns involving alleged or suspected sexual misconduct, physical misconduct, emotional misconduct, or violations of the MAAPP.
2. Provide the Organization’s written protocol for communicating—for all sanctioned events, to all event participants within the Organization—Center-approved Education and Training Policy and Required Prevention Policies and reporting protocols for all concerns involving alleged sexual misconduct, physical misconduct, emotional misconduct, or violations of the MAAPP.
3. Provide proof of communication of Quality Control System sent to all event directors of sanctioned events within current membership cycle.

SCORE:

Implemented

RATIONALE:

Requirement No. 1 is satisfied. On September 28, 2023 and October 12, 2023, U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) sent a communication via email to their event participants which included coaches, players, athletic trainers (including sport scientists and performance analyst), USSF event staff, security guards and parents. This communication included a hyper-link to the MAAPP on USSF’s SafeSport web page, and two hyperlinks to reporting protocols directly to the Center and to USSF. In the communication for the athlete and parents there was also a contact number to the team administrator for this event.

Requirement No. 2 is satisfied. U.S. Soccer Federation has a written protocol for communicating to all event participants within the Organization for all sanctioned events their Center-approved Education & Training Policy and Required Prevention Policies as well as ‘reporting information’. This written protocol is located within the U.S. Soccer Federation Quality Control System (QCS) Policy.

Requirement No. 3 is satisfied. U.S. Soccer Federation provided proof of communication of their Quality Control System sent, via email on October 12, 2023, to the event organizers of the U15 Men’s Youth National Team (MYNT) sanctioned event. The USSF policy states that the QCS is sent via email within 30 days of the event. Due to USSF sending the QCS via email individually for each camp throughout the year, proof of all communications to all event staff could not be provided for the entire current membership cycle. During the audit USSF staff was able to show a similar communication sent to event organizers of two sanctioned events held prior to this camp. All USSF sanctioned events are run by and organized by USSF staff.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

No Corrective Actions required.

AUDIT AREA: **COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING**

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: N/A

DEADLINE: N/A

CORRECTIVE PLAN: No Management Response required.

AUDIT AREA: **QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM**

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Organization or Event Director must implement a Quality Control System to ensure that individuals on the Organizational Exclusion List are unable to participate in any event, program, activity, or competition authorized by, organized by, or under the auspices of the Organization. The Quality Control System must also ensure that individuals who are required to be but are not SafeSport Trained are either prevented from participating or are in a role that does not include regular contact with or authority over amateur athletes who are minors.
2. The Quality Control System must include the Organization's written implementation protocol—clear action steps to effectuate policies—pertaining to all participant registration and onsite check-in. This written protocol must include and address the following:
 - a. One-day/short-term memberships
 - b. Day-of/on-site participant registration/substitutions (of athletes, staff, volunteers, vendors, coaches, officials, etc.)
 - c. Oversight procedures by the Organization when their staff is not on site at sanctioned events

SCORE:

Implemented

RATIONALE:

Requirement No. 1 is satisfied. U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) has a protocol within their Quality Control System (QCS) ensuring that individuals on the Organizational Exclusion List (OEL) are not permitted to participate in any capacity in any USSF sanctioned event. Additionally, prior to adding any individual to the delegation (participant) list, USSF manually verifies current SafeSport training for all individuals required to be SafeSport trained. If an individual required to have SafeSport training does not have current SafeSport training, then they will not be included on the delegation list therefore being prevented from participating in a sanctioned event.

Requirement Nos. 2(a and b) are not applicable. U.S. Soccer Federation does not allow one-day/short-term memberships or day-of/on-site participant registration/substitutions.

Requirement No. 2(c) is not applicable. U.S. Soccer Federation's does not allow sanctioned events to be run by anyone other than USSF staff. USSF maintains control over all sanctioned events/camps and states that they always have staff present at the events.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

No Corrective Actions required.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: N/A

DEADLINE: N/A

CORRECTIVE PLAN: No Management Response required.

AUDIT AREA: **RESPONSE & RESOLUTION**

REQUIREMENTS:

(Summarized here: see Appendix B for full requirements effective Jan. 1, 2023):

1. Organization must provide its Response & Resolution policies to the Center.
2. Organization must post Center-specified Response & Resolution policy elements—and corresponding details—to its public website no later than Jan. 1, 2023. These elements include:
 - a. Reporting Mechanism
 - b. Referral of Reports to the Center
 - c. Jurisdiction Notifications
 - d. Mandatory Reporting
 - e. Prohibition of Retaliation
 - f. Response & Resolution of Reported Allegations
 - g. No Interference
3. Organization must ensure:
 - a. policies include language preventing Organization from interfering with any Center investigation.
 - b. requests from the Center are responded to within 72 hours
 - c. Organization has an assigned contact person responsible for replying to requests from the Center
4. Organization must provide the Center its written policy for collecting Data of Matters Addressed by the Organization, encompassing all elements listed in Appendix B Section 5.
 - a. Policy must also include Organization’s protocol to collect such data from LAOs, if applicable

SCORE:

Implemented

RATIONALE:

Requirement No. 1 is satisfied. U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) had its Response and Resolution standards posted on their website by January 1, 2023 (December 20, 2022).

Requirement No. 2(a) is satisfied. The ‘report a concern’ page on the US Soccer Federation’s (USSF) website has a direct link to the Center stating that: ‘Allegations of sexual misconduct involving Participants with the USOPC, U.S. Soccer, any other National Governing Body, or any Local Affiliated Organizations, should be promptly reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport which retains exclusive jurisdiction over the response and resolution to allegations of sexual misconduct by participants. The page also states that ‘Potential violations of the SafeSport Code/participant safety policies, including reports of emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and violations of the MAAPP’ can be reported to the Center or directly to USSF. To allow individuals to report anonymously, USSF utilizes RealResponse text messaging, Integrity Hotline (reporting by phone) and online reporting platform (i-Sight reporting). All options mentioned do not require any fees, cost or financial barriers to report. And the website clearly defines respective jurisdictional authority of the Center and U.S. Soccer Federation.

Requirement Nos. 2(b, c, d, e and g) are satisfied.

Requirement No. 2(f) is satisfied. U.S. Soccer Federation clearly states how USSF will respond to and resolve reported allegations of abuse and misconduct that fall within its jurisdiction. U.S. Soccer Federation has a tracking system (i-Sight) that includes: jurisdiction, jurisdiction date, jurisdiction rationale detail, incident reports, feedback, case stage, resolution, related cases, related profiles, date case was created, initial reporter name, initial reporter registered to IR, external record source and case team and others. U.S. Soccer Federation’s Vice President of Safeguarding and Safe Sport Coordinator are the designated representatives USSF states in its policy as the individuals responsible for ensuring that the Response and Resolution policy is followed.

AUDIT AREA: **RESPONSE & RESOLUTION**

Requirement No. 3(a) is satisfied. US Soccer Federation's Response and Resolution Policy states that 'U.S. Soccer will not interfere in, attempt to interfere in, or attempt to influence the outcome of any Center investigation'.

Requirement No. 3(b) is satisfied. The U.S. Soccer Federation's Response and Resolution policy states that all requests from the Center will be responded to within 72 hours. Auditor reviewed findings of this standard that occurred between January 1, 2023, to audit date. Of the 553 requests made from the Center during this time period 393 were responded to within 72 hours. USSF does not have individual members. USSF's Local Affiliated Organizations do have members and therefore the LAO is in control over individual(s) membership information. Due to this structure, when requests are made from the Center, USSF states that it does not have this information readily accessible and has to research the possible location in the country where these individuals may be affiliated and then reach out to that LAO to request the information.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

No Corrective Actions required.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: N/A

DEADLINE: N/A

CORRECTIVE PLAN: No Management Response required.

AUDIT AREA: **RISK ASSESSMENT**

REQUIREMENTS:

During the Event Audit, the auditor also conducts a MAAPP Risk Assessment, which includes on-site observations, interviews of select individuals at the event and review of policies and procedures relative to the implementation of the 2022 MAAPP Required Prevention Policies. The Assessment focuses on:

1. General Observations
 - a. Event space/Event layout
 - b. Communications to participants
 - c. Credentialing system
2. Required Prevention Policies
 - a. How NGB has attended to the seven (7) prevention policies within the 2022 MAAPP
3. Response and Resolution
 - a. Specific policy items NGB is required to have posted publicly
 - b. How NGB addresses and tracks reports of misconduct that are not in the Center's jurisdiction

This section of the Audit Report details areas observed during the audit that were related to the Risk Assessment and were found to reflect increased risk to athlete safety and well-being.

RATIONALE:

There were no qualifying findings observed during the single-day event audit applicable to this section of the report.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

No Corrective Actions required.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: N/A

DEADLINE: N/A

CORRECTIVE PLAN: No Management Response required.

NOT IMPLEMENTED

A finding of this type indicates a minimal reduction in risk to Minor Athletes and reveals what is determined to be a poor environment of safety and well-being for Minor Athletes. This can result from, but is not limited to, the following:

- Complete absence of policies and/or relevant and supporting documentation where required
- Complete absence of communication to Adult Participants regarding specific policy/requirements
- Complete absence of reporting and oversight structure for Required Prevention Policy violations
- Less than 70% compliance on Education & Training requirements
- Failure to identify or track two or more categories of individuals required to be SafeSport trained
- Failure to check against two or more categories of individuals in Organization's Quality Control System at event

PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED

A finding of this type indicates a moderate reduction in risk to Minor Athletes and reveals what is determined to be a limited environment of safety and well-being for Minor Athletes. This can result from, but is not limited to, the following:

- Presence of policies but missing relevant and supporting documentation
- Presence of policies that do not meet the mandatory minimum requirements of the MAAPP
- Not adequately or consistently providing communication to Adult Participants regarding policy/requirements
- Lack of an adequate reporting and oversight structure for Required Prevention Policy violations.
- Above 70% and below 90% compliance on Education & Training requirements
- Failure to identify or track one or more categories of individuals required to be SafeSport trained
- Failure to check against one category of individuals in the Organization's Quality Control System at event

IMPLEMENTED

A finding of this type indicates a significant reduction in risk to Minor Athletes and reveals what is determined to be a satisfactory environment of safety and well-being for Minor Athletes. This can result from, but is not limited to, the following:

- Presence of policies and all relevant and supporting documentation provided where required
- Adequate and consistent communication to Adult Participants
- Adequate reporting and oversight structure for Required Prevention Policy violations
- 90% or higher compliance on Education & Training requirements
- Adequate tracking and inclusion of all individuals in all required categories in the Organization's Quality Control System at event

- 1) Organization's Response & Resolution standards must be posted on Organization's website no later than January 1, 2023.
- 2) Organization's Internal Response & Resolution Policies and Process:
 - a. **Reporting Mechanism:** The Organization must have a mechanism on their public website (such as a form or contact info for an athlete safety liaison) enabling individuals to report all concerns involving alleged sexual misconduct, physical misconduct, emotional misconduct, or violations of the MAAPP. The mechanism must:
 - i. Have no associated costs, fees, or other financial barriers attached to submitting a report
 - ii. Provide the option to report anonymously
 - iii. Clearly define for end users and provide online reporting mechanisms for the respective jurisdictional authority of the Center and the Organization (i.e., the Center has exclusive jurisdiction over allegations of sexual misconduct) and include a link to the Center's reporting portal (at uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern)
 - b. **Referral of Report to the Center:** Any report received by the Organization of an allegation that falls within the Center's exclusive jurisdiction must be referred by the Organization directly to the Center immediately and no later than within 24 hours.
 - c. **Jurisdiction Notification:** The Organization must promptly inform an identified reporting party of its jurisdictional determination regarding their report to the Organization, communicating that the matter either is being referred to the Center, is being addressed by the Organization, or is being referred to a local affiliated organization.
 - d. **Mandatory Reporting:** The Organization must have a mandatory reporting policy that comports with the mandatory reporting of child abuse provisions in the SafeSport Code, including mandatory reports to law enforcement, compliance with any other applicable reporting requirements under state law, and mandatory reports to the Center.
 - e. **Prohibition of Retaliation:** The Organization must have a policy expressly prohibiting retaliation before, during, and after the process (whether led by the Organization or by the Center) of resolving an abuse or misconduct allegation.
 - f. **Response and Resolution of Reported Allegations:** The Organization must establish a policy that clearly states how the Organization and its local affiliated organizations will respond to and resolve reported allegations of abuse and misconduct that fall within its jurisdiction, as well as those over which the Center declines jurisdiction. It should include:
 - i. A mechanism/system for tracking reported allegations within the Organization's (or its local affiliated organization's) jurisdiction, reflecting how allegations were responded to, and their respective outcomes
 - ii. The designation of a representative at the Organization who ensures the Response and Resolution policy is being followed
 - g. **No Interference:** The Organization shall not interfere in, attempt to interfere in, or attempt to influence the outcome of, any Center investigation.
- 3) **Responsiveness to Requests from the Center:** The Organization must have a designated representative(s) and an established policy to respond to requests from the Center within 72 hours for:
 - a. The eligibility status of a Participant
 - b. The existence of Organization-imposed temporary measures or safety plans

4) Policy to Enforce Sanctions and Temporary Measures:

The Organization must have a Quality Control System meeting U.S. Center for SafeSport standards that prohibits individuals with sanctions or temporary measures (issued by the Center or the Organization) from participating in any event, program, activity, or competition authorized by, organized by, or under the auspices of the Organization. The Quality Control System also must ensure that individuals who are required to be but are not SafeSport Trained are either prevented from participating or are in a role that does not include regular contact or authority over amateur athletes who are minors.

5) Policy to submit to the Center “Data of Matters Addressed by the Organization”

The Organization must annually submit to the Center data regarding:

- a. Reports of emotional or physical misconduct made to the Organization or its local affiliated organizations
 - i. Total reported incidents of alleged emotional misconduct
 - ii. Total reported incidents of alleged physical misconduct
 - iii. Total number of investigations of alleged emotional misconduct
 - iv. Total number of investigations of alleged physical misconduct
 - v. Total number of violations for emotional misconduct adjudicated by the Organization, separated by cases adjudicated by NGB and cases adjudicated by its LAOs
 - vi. Total number of violations for physical misconduct adjudicated by the Organization, separated by cases adjudicated by NGB and cases adjudicated by its LAOs
- b. Reports to the Organization or its local affiliated organizations that a Participant violated the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP)
 - i. Total reported incidents of alleged violations of the MAAPP, by policy type
 - ii. Total number of investigations of alleged violations of the MAAPP
 - iii. Total number of violations of the MAAPP, separated by cases adjudicated by NGB and cases adjudicated by its LAO
- c. Reports to the Organization or its local affiliated organization that a Participant engaged in retaliation
 - i. Total reported incidents of alleged retaliation
 - ii. Total number of investigations of alleged retaliation
 - iii. Total number of violations of retaliation policy separated by cases adjudicated by NGB and cases adjudicated by its LAOs