

2025 EVENT AUDIT REPORT

NGB NAME:	American Canoe Association
CITY/STATE:	Bryson City, NC
EVENT DATE:	July 19, 2025

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 2025 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	PARTIALLY 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 a copy of a direct communication (email or newsletter), sent to all Adult Participants annually (every 12 months), that offers training for parents and minor athletes regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse.

SCORE:

PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED

RATIONALE:

Requirement No. 1 is satisfied. The testing of individuals randomly selected in the below Requirement No. 1 (a-c) revealed an average of 100%.

Requirement No. 1(a) is satisfied. Of the 10 individuals randomly selected for testing, 10 (100%) properly completed the Center's training within the previous 12 months prior to the event.

Requirement No. 1(b) is satisfied. Of the 5 individuals randomly selected for testing, 5 (100%) were properly included in, or excluded from, the list of individuals who were required to be SafeSport Trained.

Requirement No. 1(c) is satisfied. Of the 12 staff and board members randomly selected for testing, 12 (100%) were current with their annual SafeSport Training.

Requirement No. 2 is partially satisfied. On July 3, 2025, the American Canoe Association (hereinafter ACA) sent an email to all participants that offered the Center's parent and minor athlete training. This communication was not within 12 months of the previous December 6, 2023, communication.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. ACA must create a written protocol to ensure that the organization offers training for parents and Minor Athletes regarding the prevention and reporting of child abuse annually, at least every 12 months.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: Krista Lenzmeier

DEADLINE: January 8, 2026

CORRECTIVE PLAN:

1. The ACA will create a written protocol and add it to the QCS under a new section titled “annual communication” that will ensure that the ACA offers SafeSport training for parents and Minor Athletes regarding the prevention and reporting of child abuse once a year.

AUDIT AREA: COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Organization 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:
 - MAAPP requirements (either full policy or summary)
 - detail reporting protocols and explicitly state how to report each of the following: suspected sexual misconduct, emotional misconduct, physical misconduct and violations of the MAAPP
2. Provide Organization's written protocol for communicating - to all participants within the Organization's events, programs, activities or competitions authorized by, organized by or under the auspices of the Organization - the Center-approved MAAPP and reporting protocols for all concerns involving suspected sexual misconduct, physical misconduct, emotional misconduct or violations of the MAAPP.
3. Provide direct communication of the Organization's Center-approved 2025 MAAPP to all members and Adult Participants within current membership cycle.
4. Organization must have Center-approved 2025 MAAPP posted to its web site by Organization's effective date.
5. Provide proof of a direct communications (either by email, newsletter, hard copy or other electronic medium) of the Center's most recent Code, sent within current membership cycle to all members of Adult Participants. The communication must include: "The USOPC, all NGBs and all LAOs must comply with the policies and procedures within the Code."
6. Provide proof of communication of Quality Control System sent to all event directors of all of Organization's events, programs, activities or competitions authorized by, organized by or under the auspices of the Organization.

SCORE:

IMPLEMENTED

RATIONALE:

Requirement No. 1 is satisfied. The event started on July 19, 2025. On July 16, 2025, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) sent an email to all event participants that included ACA's MAAPP and the categories of misconduct that can be reported: suspected sexual misconduct, emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and violations of the MAAPP. The email, however, directed all reporting to the ACA reporting page rather than delineating that suspected sexual misconduct should be reported to the Center and that emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and violations of the MAAPP can be reported via the ACA reporting page. This finding does not impact the score.

Requirement No. 2 is satisfied. ACA provided a written protocol that requires either ACA or the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) to communicate to all event participants, including day of participants, ACA's MAAPP and reporting protocols. While the written protocols related to day-of participants are complete, the communication requirements related to reporting for all others only require that the reporting mechanism be shared. The protocol does not explicitly require communication of the full reporting protocols for concerns related to sexual, emotional, physical misconduct, and MAAPP violations. This finding does not impact the score.

Requirement No. 3 is satisfied. On July 3, 2025, ACA sent an email to ACA members and Adult Participants its Center-approved 2025 MAAPP.

Requirement No. 4 is satisfied. ACA posted its Center-approved 2025 MAAPP by the effective date of January 1, 2025.

Requirement No. 5 is satisfied. On July 3, 2025, ACA sent an email to all ACA members and Adult Participants the Center's most recent Code.

Requirement No. 6 is satisfied. Upon the sanctioning of events, ACA sends an email to the Event Director with the Quality Control System document attached. For this event, ACA sent an email to the event director on July 2, 2025.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. ACA must update their communications template with event participants to direct all reports of suspected sexual misconduct directly to the Center and to report emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and violations of the MAAPP to ACA's reporting mechanism. A copy of the template must be submitted to the Center by the Corrective Action deadline.
2. ACA must update its written protocol for communications to all event participants to include explicit reporting protocols for alleged sexual, physical, emotional misconduct and MAAPP violations.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: Krista Lenzmeier

DEADLINE: January 8, 2026

CORRECTIVE PLAN:

1. ACA will update their email template with event participants to direct all reports of suspected sexual misconduct directly to the Center and to report emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and violations of the MAAPP to ACA's reporting mechanism. A copy of the template will be submitted to the Center by the Corrective Action deadline.
2. ACA will update its written protocol in the QCS to include explicit reporting protocols for alleged sexual, physical, emotional misconduct and MAAPP violations to all event participants.

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 (OEL) are unable to participate in any event, program, activity, or competition authorized by, organized by, or under the auspices of the Organization.
2. Organization or Event Director must implement a Quality Control System to 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.
3. The Quality Control System written policy must include the Organization's implementation protocol - clear action steps to effectuate policies - pertaining to all participant registration and onsite check-in. This written policy and protocols must include and address the following:
 - a. Day-of participant registration/substitutions (athletes, staff, volunteers, vendors, coaches, officials etc.) and short-term memberships.
 - b. Oversight procedures by the Organization when the staff is not on site at events, programs, activities or competitions authorized by, organized by or under the auspices of the Organization

SCORE:

IMPLEMENTED

RATIONALE:

Requirement No. 1 is satisfied. ACA's written Quality Control System (QCS) includes the requirement for the Athlete Safety and Compliance Manager (ASCM) to check all event participants against ACA's Organizational Exclusion List (OEL) to ensure that individuals on the OEL are unable to participate in the event. For each event, participants are directed to register either through ACA's registration system or the Local Organizing Committee's registration platform. The ASCM then cross-checks the registration list with the OEL to ensure that no event participants are banned and/or suspended. The ACSM will note each registrant's eligibility status on the "Registrant Spreadsheet" that is sent to the event organizer. This procedure was followed at the audited event.

Requirement No. 2 is satisfied. ACA's written QCS includes the requirement for the Athlete Safety and Compliance Manager to verify SafeSport training for required Adult Participants (Coaches, Chief Official, Chief Judge, Jury Members, Starting Line Officials, Course Umpires, Adult Athletes, Non-emergency Medical Personnel, NGB Board and Staff). Participants are directed to register in advance through either ACA's registration system or the Local Organizing Committee's (LOC) registration platform. ACA utilizes the event participant lists to manually check for valid SafeSport training (via the Center's Learning Management System) for all adult participants required to be trained. The protocol was followed at the audited event.

Requirement No. 3(a) is satisfied. ACA's QCS encompasses the requirement for day-of participation to follow the same procedures in Requirement No. 1 and 2. There was no day-of participation at the audited event. ACA does not have short-term memberships.

Requirement No. 3(b) is satisfied. ACA's QCS includes the requirement for the QCS to be enforced on the day of the event by an on-site representative of ACA, such as the ACA Executive Director or the Athlete Safety and Compliance Manager (ACSM). If neither the Executive Director nor ACSM attends the event, the policy will be administered by another ACA employee as designated by the Executive Director in consultation with the ASCM.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

No Corrective Actions are required.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: Not Applicable.

DEADLINE: Not Applicable.

CORRECTIVE PLAN: No Management Response is required.

AUDIT AREA: RESPONSE AND RESOLUTION

REQUIREMENTS:

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. 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 provide to the Center its policy to ensure:
 - a. requests from the Center are responded to within 72 hours
 - b. Organization has an assigned contact person responsible for replying to requests from the Center
4. Organization must provide to the Center its written policy for collecting and annually submitting to the Center, 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 and submit to the Center such data from LAOs, if applicable

SCORE:

IMPLEMENTED

RATIONALE:

Requirement No. 1 is satisfied. ACA provided its Response and Resolution policies.

Requirement No. 2 (a-g) is partially satisfied. ACA has posted to its public website the Center-specific Response and Resolution policies and the policies address all the corresponding elements listed in Appendix B Section 2 (b-c & e-g). ACA's online reporting mechanism webpage addresses the Center's exclusive jurisdiction related to suspected sexual misconduct, but it does not fully and consistently capture the full scope of the Center's jurisdiction related to child abuse matters. This omission does not fully meet Requirement No. 2 (a), but the finding does not impact the score. Furthermore, the Response and Resolution Policy does not fully meet Requirement No. 2 (d). The Policy states that child abuse and sexual misconduct concerns must be reported to law enforcement or child protective services. However, the Policy does not specifically state that the applicable federal and state laws for mandatory reporting must be followed too.

Requirement No. 3 (a-b) is satisfied. ACA provided its written policy stating that the ACA Executive Director or Athlete Safety and Compliance Manager will respond to requests from the Center within 72 hours.

Requirement No. 4 is satisfied. ACA provided its written policy for collecting Data of Matters Addressed by ACA, and it encompassed all elements listed in Appendix B Section 5.

Requirement No. 4(a) is satisfied. ACA provided its written policy, which states that Local Affiliated Organizations (LAOs) are permitted to respond to and resolve allegations. All LAO data is submitted to ACA for submission to the Center.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. ACA must update the language in the reporting mechanism regarding the Center's exclusive jurisdiction to include suspected child abuse.
2. ACA must update its Response and Resolution policies to require compliance with the applicable federal and state laws on the mandatory reporting of child abuse and sexual misconduct.
3. ACA must update its reporting website and related forms to clearly reflect that the Center's exclusive jurisdiction applies to both sexual misconduct and child abuse.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: Krista Lenzmeier

DEADLINE: January 8, 2026

CORRECTIVE PLAN:

1. ACA will update the language in the reporting mechanism (form on website), as well as the verbiage on the website page linking to the form, regarding the Center's exclusive jurisdiction to include suspected child abuse, in addition to the existing language regarding suspected sexual misconduct.
2. ACA will update its Response and Resolution policies to require compliance with both applicable federal and state laws on the mandatory reporting of child abuse or sexual misconduct.
3. ACA will update its reporting website and related forms to clearly reflect that the Center's exclusive jurisdiction applies to both sexual misconduct and child abuse.

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 2025 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 prevention policies within the 2025 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 could include items that were found to reflect increased or mitigated risk to athlete safety and well-being.

RATIONALE:

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

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

No Corrective Actions are required.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL: Not Applicable.

DEADLINE: Not Applicable.

CORRECTIVE PLAN: No Management Response is required.

APPENDIX A: SCORING GUIDE

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
- Failure to identify or track two or more categories of individuals required to be trained
- Failure to check against two or more categories of individuals in Organization's Quality Control System at an event
- Less than 70% compliance on Education & Training requirements

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
- Failure to identify one or more categories of individuals required to be trained
- Failure to check against one category of individuals in the Organization's Quality Control System at an event
- Above 70% and below 90% compliance on Education & Training requirements

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
- Adequate tracking and inclusion of all individuals in all required categories in the Organization's Quality Control System at event
- 90% or higher compliance on Education & Training requirements

APPENDIX B: RESPONSE AND RESOLUTION STANDARDS

- 1) Organization's Response & Resolution standards must be posted on Organization's website.
- 2) Organization's Internal Response & Resolution Policies and Process:
 - a. Reporting Mechanism: The Organization must have a mechanism on its public website (such as a form or contact info for an athlete safety liaison) enabling individuals to report all concerns involving suspected 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 LAOs 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 LAO's) jurisdiction, reflecting how allegations were responded to, and their respective outcome
 - 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 LAOs
 - 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 LAOs 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 LAOs