Abuse Prevention Policy

Prevention standards, reporting procedures, and response expectations

CSA is committed to an environment in which children can participate in sports without abuse, harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. This policy applies to every CSA event, to adults in leadership or support roles, and to minors serving as assistant coaches or referees where appropriate.

1 | Zero-tolerance conduct

- Physical abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation, grooming, neglect, threats, verbal or emotional abuse, hazing, and bullying are prohibited.
- No corporal punishment, humiliation, sexual jokes or comments, inappropriate touching, requests for secrecy, or private gifts intended to create an exclusive relationship.
- No harassment or retaliation against anyone who raises a good-faith safety concern or reports suspected misconduct.

2 | Supervision and boundaries

- CSA activities are group activities. Staff must follow CSA's separate One-on-One Interaction Policy. Isolated adult-child interactions are not part of normal CSA programming.
- Coaches and staff must remain in approved activity areas, supervise participants within their assigned roles, and promptly address unsafe conduct.
- Physical contact, when necessary for safety or instruction, must be brief, age-appropriate, nonsexual, and observable. Ask permission when practicable.
- No staff member may transport a child alone, arrange private off-site meetings, or use private social media messages or texts with a minor participant for league purposes.
- Restroom or changing-area assistance should be provided by the child's parent/guardian. Staff must not enter a changing area alone with a child except when necessary to respond to an immediate safety emergency.

3 | Selection, preparation, and supervision of personnel

CSA will use role-appropriate screening and oversight of coaches, officials, and volunteers, including any checks required by law or its insurer. CSA will verify completion of applicable Ohio-required concussion training for coaches and referees and annual sudden-cardiac-arrest training for coaches before assigning those roles. Everyone working with children must understand these boundaries and reporting responsibilities. CSA will take corrective steps when these standards are not followed.

4 | How to report a concern

A child, guardian, volunteer, or staff member may raise concerns with CSA leadership through the published CSA contact information. If the concern involves a league leader, it can be reported directly to law enforcement or a public children services agency without contacting that leader. CSA will not require a parent or child to confront an accused person.

5 | Immediate action and outside reporting

- Immediate danger or an emergency: call 911 and protect the child from further harm.
- Suspected abuse or neglect: promptly contact law enforcement or the appropriate county public children services agency. Individuals who are mandatory reporters under Ohio law must make the legally required report; internal notice is not a substitute.
- Tell CSA leadership: notify the league director or another uninvolved CSA leader so reasonable protective measures can be taken. Do not promise absolute confidentiality or attempt your own investigation.
- Preserve information: record what was observed or disclosed in the child's words, without leading questions, and preserve relevant messages or other evidence.

6 | Response and protection against retaliation

CSA may separate the individual involved from participants pending review, cooperate with investigators, restrict program access, or permanently remove someone from CSA activities. Actions will be based on safety, available information, and applicable law. CSA prohibits retaliation against anyone who makes a good-faith report or assists a safety review. Information will be shared only as needed for child safety, reporting, or investigation.

An internal CSA report does not replace calling 911 or reporting suspected child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities.