



SafeSport Policy:

On February 14, 2018 the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” (S.534) was passed by Congress, requiring youth sports organizations to implement the following steps toward preventing sexual abuse of minors:

- * **Mandatory Reporting:** any adult — board member, employee, coach (paid or volunteer, head or assistant), team administrator/manager, or other volunteers — interacting with an amateur athlete in the program has a duty to report abuse and/or suspected abuse within a 24-hour period of awareness. EVERY adult is a mandatory reporter.
- * **Prevention Training:** consistent training must be offered and provided to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors, and educational training for children to better understand appropriate vs. inappropriate behavior, both in terms of adult-to-child and child-to-child interaction;
- * **Prevention Policies:** all youth sport organizations must establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor (under the age of 18) and an adult who is not their parent/guardian; anti-retaliation policies; and other relevant policies.

REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Coaches, volunteers, parents and players are asked to report any sexual misconduct, inappropriate or suspicious behaviors to a Herndon Youth Soccer representative. All reports of inappropriate behaviors or suspicions of abuse will be taken seriously and will be reported, in accordance with our policies and state law, to law enforcement or appropriate agency.

CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATION

Any person accused of committing a prohibited act or any act considered to be harmful to a child will be immediately suspended from all Herndon Youth Soccer activities. This suspension will continue during any investigation by Herndon Youth Soccer, law enforcement or any child protective agency. Failure to report a prohibited act as designated in this policy is in and of itself a violation and grounds for dismissal or removal. Coaches or volunteers who fail to report a prohibited act may be restricted from participation in any future Herndon Youth Soccer activity.

We are required to report suspected child abuse within 24 hours to the local law enforcement agency, or local child protective services agency that has jurisdiction to investigate reports of child abuse or to protect child abuse victims, or to the FBI.

Education-Training

Any individual affiliated with Herndon Youth Soccer, to include board members, coaches, assistant coaches, managers and staff must complete sexual abuse training every 2 years. Sexual Abuse Training must be completed through SAFE SPORT SYSTEMS. Beginning in the fall of 2020, VYSA will require all participants to be SafeSport Trained.

SAFESPORT TRAINING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Go to; [SAFESPORT TRAINING LINK](#)
2. Applicants may need to create an account and then verify their account with a link emailed to them from SafeSport.
3. On the "Add Membership" form, select 'U.S. Soccer' as your organization.
4. Enter Access Code: (will be provided every year) This code will allow VYSA Team Officials to take the training for free.
5. There are 3 modules in order for the applicant to be SafeSport trained:
 - a. Sexual Misconduct
 - b. Emotional & Physical Misconduct
 - c. Mandatory Reporting
6. Have everyone save a copy of their certificate for their own files!

FAQ can be found here: <https://safesport.org/help/index>

VYSA SafeSport Policy:

<https://bsbproduction.s3.amazonaws.com/portals/27433/docs/vysa%20safe%20sport%20policy%20updated.pdf>

Adopted 7/15/2021 by HYS Board of Directors