

Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, became effective February 14, 2018. The new law requires reporting within 24 hours to each of the following:

- 1. The U.S. Center for SafeSport - <https://www.safesport.org/report-a-concern>**
- 2. Local law enforcement – (515) 987-1073**
- 3. Vision Soccer Academy – executivedirector@visionsocceracademy.com or (515) 978-8040**
- 4. United States Soccer - <https://www.ussoccer.com/integrity-hotline> or (312) 528-7004**

According to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, the Act “extends the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, **within 24 hours** to certain adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes at a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body,” including U.S. Soccer.

Any individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child abuse will now be **subject to criminal penalties** including fines and up to one (1) year in jail.

Individuals who are coaches for VSA would include:

	<u>Extra Programs</u>	<u>Recreation</u>	<u>Classic</u>	<u>Academy</u>	<u>Select</u>
<u>Head Coach</u>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<u>Team Assistant Coach</u>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<u>Team Volunteer Coach</u>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<u>Paid/Non-Paid Coaches</u>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Also, we at VSA will begin to work on the following:

1. Implement and abide by the policies and procedures to prevent emotional, physical, and child abuse of amateur athletes;
2. Establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete (who is a minor) and an adult;
3. Provide consistent training to adults in contact with amateur athletes; and
4. Prohibit retaliation

PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

On February 14, 2018, the **Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017** was signed into law and became effective immediately. The legislation is available for download [HERE](#). The U.S. Center for SafeSport has released a fact sheet about the legislation which can be found [HERE](#).

In addition to the U.S. Center for SafeSport's factsheet, which provides information regarding the entire law, we wanted to provide additional detail on the specific mandatory reporting of child abuse requirements included in the new legislation because these requirements may impact you immediately:

- The bill amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 to extend the **duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to all adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes** by a national governing body, a member of a national governing body, or an amateur sports organization that participates in interstate or international amateur athletic competition. These individuals are called "covered individuals" in the new legislation.
- **Child abuse is defined as physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent treatment of a child.**
- Per current federal regulations, reports of child abuse should be made 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. These regulations have not yet been updated to reflect the recent change in the law. Until such time as the regulations are updated, U.S. Soccer will make reports to (1) local law enforcement where any alleged incident took place to the extent it can be determined and the incident occurred in the United States, (2) local law enforcement where the victim resides if different than (1), and (3) the FBI.
- These obligations are in addition to any State law requirements that an individual may have in a particular jurisdiction.

As a reminder, as a member or affiliate of U.S. Soccer, you may be subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport under certain circumstances. The Center serves an important investigatory and remedial function where law enforcement may choose or be unable to act.

If you have any questions, you can contact either Lydia Wahlke (lwahlke@ussoccer.org) or Greg Fike (gfake@ussoccer.org) in the U.S. Soccer legal department.