

AMITY TOWNSHIP ATHELETIC CLUB, INC.

**Child Abuse**  
**Mandatory Reporting Policy**

**PURPOSE:** The Amity Township Athletic Club, Inc. (hereinafter “AC”) does not tolerate child abuse of any kind. It is the goal of the AC to recognize and protect its minor patrons (children under the age of 18 years) from recognized child abuse. In recognition of the fact that child abuse can manifest itself or become evident or obvious at events and activities that are operated by the AC, the AC has enacted this policy to apply to any and all activities that occur at or take place under the name of the Amity Township Athletic Club, Inc. including, but not limited to, all sports programs (i.e. soccer program, basketball program, lacrosse program, swim team, etc.) and all other activities taking place on AC property (i.e. operation of the swimming pool, all charitable activities/fundraising events, property maintenance activities, etc.) or at AC sanctioned events regardless of their location.

It is the further purpose of this policy to comply with any and all provisions of Pennsylvania’s Child Protective Services Law (23 Pa.C.S. §6301 *et seq.*) which may now, or at any time in the future, be applicable to the AC in any manner whatsoever.

**BACKGROUND:** As of January 1, 2015, the AC officially fits the definition of a “program, activity or service” under Pennsylvania’s Child Protective Services Law. According to 23 Pa.C.S. §6311(a)(7), an adult individual who is paid or unpaid, who, on the basis of the individual’s role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity or service, accepts responsibility for a child shall make a report of suspected child abuse (in other words, they are a “mandatory reporter”). Furthermore, any individual supervised or managed by the above mandatory reporter are also deemed to be mandatory reporters under 23 Pa.C.S. §6311(a)(12). Under Pennsylvania law, a “mandatory reporter” shall make a report of suspected child abuse if the mandated reporter has *reasonable cause* to suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse. *See* 23 Pa.C.S. §6311(b).

**POLICY:** Any individual (including, but not limited to, any employees, volunteers, parent volunteers operating under the supervision of a volunteer coach and/or any other persons associated with and/or affiliated with the AC who accepts responsibility for a child for a scheduled practice, game or otherwise, shall immediately make an oral report of any suspected child abuse to the Statewide toll-free **ChildLine** at **1-800-932-0313**. Said reporter shall also make a written report, which may be submitted electronically, within 48 hours to the department or county agency assigned to the case. Furthermore, said reporter shall inform the President of the AC immediately after reporting the suspected child abuse to ChildLine so that the AC can ensure that appropriate reporting guidelines are being followed. The reporting of suspected child abuse by the above individuals is NOT discretionary. They MUST report suspected child abuse in accordance with Pennsylvania law if they have reasonable cause to suspect that it has occurred.

For the purposes of this policy, child abuse shall be defined as set forth in Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law (23 Pa.C.S. §6301 *et seq.*). More specifically, 23 Pa.C.S. §6303(b.1) defines "child abuse" as meaning intentionally, knowingly or recklessly doing any of the following:

- (1) Causing bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- (2) Fabricating, feigning or intentionally exaggerating or inducing a medical symptom or disease which results in a potentially harmful medical evaluation or treatment to the child through any recent act.
- (3) Causing or substantially contributing to serious mental injury to a child through any act or failure to act or a series of such acts or failures to act.
- (4) Causing sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any act or failure to act.
- (5) Creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- (6) Creating a likelihood of sexual abuse or exploitation of a child through any recent act or failure to act.
- (7) Causing serious physical neglect of a child.
- (8) Engaging in any of the following recent acts:
  - a. Kicking, biting, throwing, burning, stabbing or cutting a child in a manner that endangers the child.
  - b. Unreasonably restraining or confining a child, based on consideration of the method, location or the duration of the restraint or confinement.
  - c. Forcefully shaking a child under one year of age.
  - d. Forcefully slapping or otherwise striking a child under one year of age.
  - e. Interfering with the breathing of a child.
  - f. Causing a child to be present at a location while a violation of 18 Pa.C.S. §7508.2 (relating to operation of methamphetamine laboratory) is occurring, provided that the violation is being investigated by law enforcement.
  - g. Leaving a child unsupervised with an individual, other than the child's parent, who the actor knows or reasonably should have known:
    - i. Is required to register as a Tier II or Tier III sexual offender under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 Subch. H (relating to registration of sexual offenders), where the victim of the sexual offense was under 18 years of age when the crime was committed.
    - ii. Has been determined to be a sexually violent predator under 42 Pa.C.S. §9799.24 (relating to assessments) or any of its predecessors.
    - iii. Has been determined to be a sexually violent delinquent child as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. §9799.12 (relating to definitions)
  - h. Causing the death of the child through any act or failure to act.

"Recent" as stated above shall mean an abusive act that has occurred within two (2) years from the date that ChildLine is called.