



AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION (ACA)

POLICY TYPE: SafeSport
POLICY TITLE: *SafeSport Policy*
ORIGINAL: 8/15/2018

POLICY NUMBER 001
REVISION: 1
REVISED:

THE ACA AND SAFESPORT

We all play a role in reducing misconduct in sport. SafeSport provides resources for all members of the sport community, sport organizations, clubs, programs, teams, coaches, parents/guardians, volunteers and athletes to identify and report potential misconduct, to implement ways to reduce the opportunity for such behavior and to enact plans to promptly respond if it does occur.

The ACA has ZERO TOLERANCE for misconduct. As a community, we have an opportunity to be part of the SafeSport solution. Start now by visiting www.americancanoe.org/SafeSport and download the ACA SafeSport Handbook.

The ACA Board of Directors

ACA SAFESPORT POLICY

ACA Bylaws - SafeSport:

This policy supports and is subordinate to the following article and sections of the ACA bylaws:

ARTICLE XI – SAFESPORT AND ANTI-DOPING

Section 1 – Purpose. As a member NGB of the USOC, the ACA is required to adhere to the safe sport rules and regulations of the USOC. Additionally, USOC Bylaw Section 8.7(l) provides that, as a condition of membership in the USOC, each NGB shall comply with the policies and procedures of the independent safe sport organization designated by the USOC to investigate and resolve safe sport violations. The USOC has designated the U.S. Center for Safe Sport as that organization. The current safe sport rules, policies and procedures are available at the offices of the ACA or on-line at the following websites: www.safesport.org and www.americancanoe.org.

Section 2 – Compliance. As a condition for participation in any international competition, or any national competition sanctioned by the ACA, each ACA member athlete, coach, trainer, agent, athlete support personnel, medical or para-medical personnel, team staff, official and other person who participates in any international competition, or any national competition sanctioned by the ACA, agrees to comply with and be bound by the safe sport rules, policies and procedures of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport and to submit, without reservation or condition, to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport for the resolution of any alleged violations of those rules, policies and procedures, as they may be amended from time to time. To the extent any ACA rule is inconsistent with the rules of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport, such rule is hereby superseded.

Purpose of this policy:

The purpose of this risk management policy is to reduce and/or prevent occurrences of misconduct in the paddlesports community as well as to reduce the liability potential for the organization. Misconduct can negatively impact participants, staff members, family, friends, and the sport.

Specifically, this policy directs the publication of an ACA SafeSport Handbook to address the following areas/types of misconduct and set forth boundaries of appropriate and inappropriate conduct: sexual misconduct, including child abuse; grooming behavior; physical misconduct; emotional misconduct; bullying; harassment; hazing; social media and electronic communications; locker rooms and changing areas; travel; reporting misconduct; screening staff and volunteers; and monitoring for compliance.

The ACA SafeSport Handbook will serve as part of the training for those who agree to educate themselves on the specified forms of misconduct. All ACA members are expected to abstain from misconduct in violation of the policies herein.

Policy Components:

The ACA Executive Director and Staff shall maintain and update an ACA SafeSport Handbook to help guide members and athletes. The ACA rules and procedures specified in the ACA SafeSport Handbook are to be considered part of this policy.

The intent is for the ACA SafeSport Handbook to be a living document. The ACA Board of Directors will periodically update requirements and directs that the handbook be amended as needed to keep current with best practices.

The SafeSport Policy of the ACA Board requires the following topics to be addressed in the ACA SafeSport Handbook:

- Overall guidance on SafeSport topics
- Appropriate web sites for relevant topics for SafeSport
- Purpose of the ACA SafeSport Handbook and its connection to the SafeSport Code
- The mission and vision of the U.S Center for SafeSport
- Definitions of misconduct
- Reporting procedures
 - How to report anonymously
 - How to access via the ACA website
- Application to clubs and training sites
- Who is required to take SafeSport training
- How to take SafeSport training
- Duplication of reporting options on the ACA website
- Responding to misconduct
- Whistleblower protection
- Dealing with media
- Screening volunteers
- Background checks
- Policy on sexual misconduct, including grooming behaviors
- Policy on physical misconduct
- Policy on emotional misconduct
- Policy on bullying, threats, and harassment
- Policy on hazing
- Policy on willfully tolerating misconduct
- Policy on use of social media and communications, either mobile or digital
- Policy on use of locker rooms and changing areas
- Travel guidelines
- Athlete Code of Conduct
- Coach/Staff/Volunteer/Athlete acknowledgement of the ACA SafeSport Handbook

Revisions:

Revisions to this policy shall be executed and be approved by the Board of Directors. All revisions must be consistent with the prevailing ACA Bylaws. The ACA Secretary shall maintain historical versions of this document.

Revision History		
Rev	Description of Changes	Date
0	Original document - Draft	6/10/2018
1	Draft v2	8/6/2018
2	ACA Board of Director Approval	8/15/2018