

As the athlete representatives on the Potomac Valley LSC, we would like to begin a discussion on Safe Sport that encourages a culture of safety on the decks, in the locker rooms, and during travel. We believe that the best method of accomplishing this goal is by enhancing the current Safe Sport material available through PVS and empowering the athletes through age appropriate training. The following are our initial observations of possible improvements to the existing PVS Safe Sport page and guidelines.

1. The development of the Safe Sport web page to promote transparency, reporting, and links to USA Swimming resources, etc. The web site should have the mission and vision statement clearly written on the front page.
2. The Safe Sport Committee should include an athlete representative and parent (non athlete) volunteer.
3. Development and tracking of Parents Athlete Protection Online Course completion rates for each team. Results would be tabulated quarterly and clubs achieving completion rates of 25% or 50% would be entitled to receive grants of \$100 or more, not to exceed \$200 (for both parent and athlete participation) in any calendar year. This program should be implemented no later than September 1, 2015.
4. Development and tracking of a similar program for athletes who complete the On Line Course no later than September 1, 2015.
5. Designation of a Safe Sport Liaison in each club (must be a member of USAS) that would be knowledgeable of USAS Safe Sport policies and best practices concerning safe sport. This individual would also help the club reach compliance goals mandated by USAS and promote USAS Safe Sport educational programs within the club on or before September 1, 2015.
6. Inclusion of an anti-bullying policy as part of Safe Sport to include cyberbullying between athletes and development of reporting guidelines or methods as these situations develop.
7. Travel guidelines for athletes that encourages parent chaperones and/or participation.
8. Development of an action plan in the event of inappropriate situation, bringing professionals to the teams involved to offer counseling and guidance to the athletes within 48 hours. Reporting requirements should include notifications to appropriate legal authorities in the case of alleged child sexual abuse immediately and USA Swimming Safe Sport Staff within one business day.
9. Adoption of the USA Swimming Model Safe Sport Policies or similar document for all PVS member clubs by September 1, 2015. Development of member club travel policies, Electronic Communication Policies, Anti-Bullying Policies, and Locker Room Monitoring Policies (and related forms) by each member of Potomac Valley Swimming. Teams may adopt the USA Swimming Model Policies.

This list is not meant to be all an inclusive list, but rather a starting point for consideration. We welcome your comments and feedback, as we strive to encourage a culture of athlete safety.