



Tips for Event Producers and Affiliate Members

USASF Initiative to Prevent Child Abuse and Sexual Exploitation

What is the issue?

We've learned from unfortunate and even tragic incidents in youth sports that our youth are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. It's up to all of us to be vigilant regarding their safety and protection. Sexual exploitation is the sexual abuse of children and youth through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, other basics of life, and/or money. It includes involving children and youth in creating pornography and sexually explicit websites and can often occur without their knowledge.

(Source: *Darkness to Light*)

What can we do?

Education and Awareness is the key!

The USASF challenges you to think **AAA** before anything you do in All Star. From choosing a uniform or creating choreography to crafting a marketing campaign or posting pictures or videos online, ask yourself these Triple AAA questions:

Is it **A**thletic?

Is it **A**ge Appropriate?

What does it **A**mplify?

For more information regarding the USASF effort to prevent Child Sexual Abuse, visit usasf.net for downloadable and shareable resources.

Join the effort by implementing a training and education resource for you and your staff.

Education and Training Recommendations

- 1 Any person(s) responsible for taking photos of children on behalf of your organization should take the Stewards of Children Training available at d2l.org.
- 2 Before posting pictures of minors on any social media platform or including in any marketing piece ask yourself:
 - Does the child look their age?
 - Does the photo appear to exploit the child in a sexual manner?
 - Does the angle from which the photo is taken leave the athlete's body too exposed?
- 3 Have our employees and volunteers been properly screened? One of the best ways to protect children is to surround them with adults who are concerned for every child's welfare and safety. A comprehensive screening process consists of:
 - Criminal background checks
 - In-person interviews
 - Reference checks
 - Ongoing observation
- 4 Have we done a search of the State and National Public Sex Offender Websites for all employees? A list of state agencies is available online.



Tips to protect children from online predators in photos

DO

- 1 Encourage at least two athletes per photo (this avoids photos of individuals that can be easily photoshopped and then sold to predators)
- 2 Take images that reflect:
 - Athletic Skills
 - Team activities/Fun
 - Competitive achievements
 - Include adults in photos if possible
- 3 Encourage kids to talk to you about anyone who asks them to provide photos.
- 4 Before you post, ask yourself: Do the athletes look their age ?

DON'T

- 1 Post photos of athletes without their permission.
- 2 Post photos or videos that appear provocative. If you are uncomfortable, do not post it.
- 3 Share (on social media or anywhere) a minor's personal information, location, age or name.