



Statement from USASF

Memphis – August 30, 2021 - Sexual misconduct continues to be a societal problem of great concern. Recent media coverage focused on allegations of misconduct in cheerleading and inaccuracies about our organization. Often, what is aired or cited is missing critical pieces of the full story as well as what has been done more recently, and each day since, to combat this societal problem.

The USASF's mission promotes all aspects of athlete safety. The USASF deplores any allegations of sexual abuse of our athletes. We endeavor to support victims with proper processes. We are committed to this mission each day for our athletes.

So far this year, USASF has:

- **Focused on Education** by partnering with Safe@AllStar (www.SafeAtAllStar.com) to provide best-in-class, sport-specific, athlete safety and awareness training to help prevent sexual abuse.
- **Improved Reporting Process** by adding 3rd party consultants to help facilitate accurate reporting as well as review, investigate, respond and resolve each report received.
- **Publicly Identified**, through the creation of a public USASF Adult Member Directory (<https://www.usasf.net/member-directory>), those members in good standing as well as a Unified Suspended Ineligible Public List (<https://www.usasf.net/suspended-ineligible-members>) of those who are not. *(There has been a shift in the way youth sports organizations, like our own, can publicly identify individuals facing allegations and USASF's practices have evolved as well).*
- **Expanded Resources** for athlete protection now consists of more than 20 staff and 3rd-party consultants, working on awareness, education, intake, investigations, response, and resolution.

Here are a few things everyone can do **today** to further the commitment to safety in All Star:

- **Check the new USASF Adult Member Directory** on the USASF website to make sure all those involved with your program, are members in good standing and have completed the necessary safety steps for membership eligibility.
- Make sure you have **reviewed all the new educational information** on Safe@AllStar for **Coach** sexual abuse and awareness training, **Athlete**-specific training, by age (P.A.S.S. and Safe & Secure), hiring and training screening for **Owners**, and **Parent** awareness training. **Reporting assistance** is also included with 24-hour access to a confidential hotline with a child protection expert for consultation.
- **We encourage everyone in All Star to be a member of the USASF**, because we have no jurisdiction over non-members, be they gyms or individuals. Belonging to the USASF enables each member to access the education, consistent requirements and expectations of proper behavior and conduct, background-checks, reporting through the USASF as needed and be accountable to one another.

Supporting safety, athlete protection and wellness requires the participation of everyone: The USASF is committed, collectively and individually, and we hope to lock arms with every athlete, parent, coach, owner, event producer and affiliate, to protect the greatest and most important part of All Star: the athletes.