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USA Swimming sued over sex assault

Associated Press

Updated: November 10, 2011, 11:01 PM ET

INDIANAPOLIS -- The family of an Indiana teenager filed a civil lawsuit against USA Swimming and others Thursday, saying officials didn't do enough to protect the girl from the sexual assaults by her coach.

The suit, filed in Marion County Superior Court, levels accusations against the umbrella group for U.S. amateur swimming, Indiana Swimming, the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township and others. All are listed as defendants along with Christopher Wheat, the former coach.

Wheat was a coach for the Lawrence Swim team, a club sanctioned by USA Swimming. He was arrested in October 2009 and was jailed after pleading guilty last year to two counts of felony sexual misconduct with a minor and one count of felony child solicitation.

Attorney Jonathan Little, who is representing the family, says swimming officials didn't take action after complaints of inappropriate behavior by Wheat.

USA Swimming, in a statement released Thursday night, said it has not received a lawsuit but denied the claims made by Little.

ALSO SEE

- USA Swimmir
- USA Swimmir
- USA Swimmir
- USA Swimmir

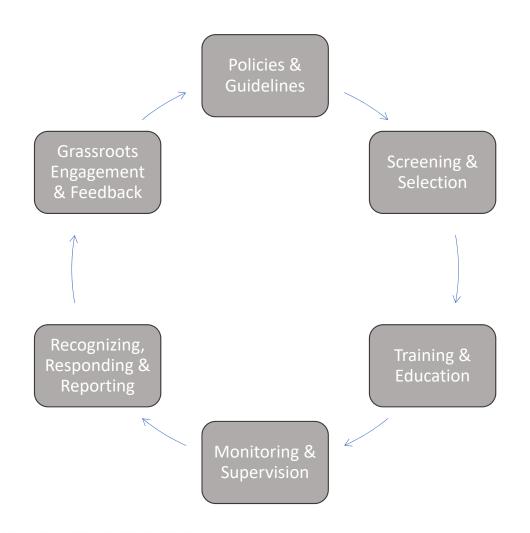






"A movement needs people. It is an uprising, a rebellion against the status quo, a groundswell of momentum. It must mean something, and it must be worth fighting for".











Breaks in Culture

- Peer-Peer Bullying
- Coach-Athlete Bullying
- Parent/Coach, Official/Parent
 Conflict
- Boundary Violations
- Inappropriate Communication
- Abuse at home, selfharm/suicide concerns
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse



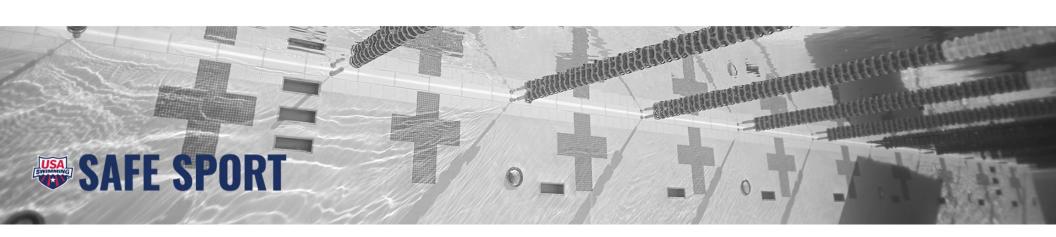
What We Do

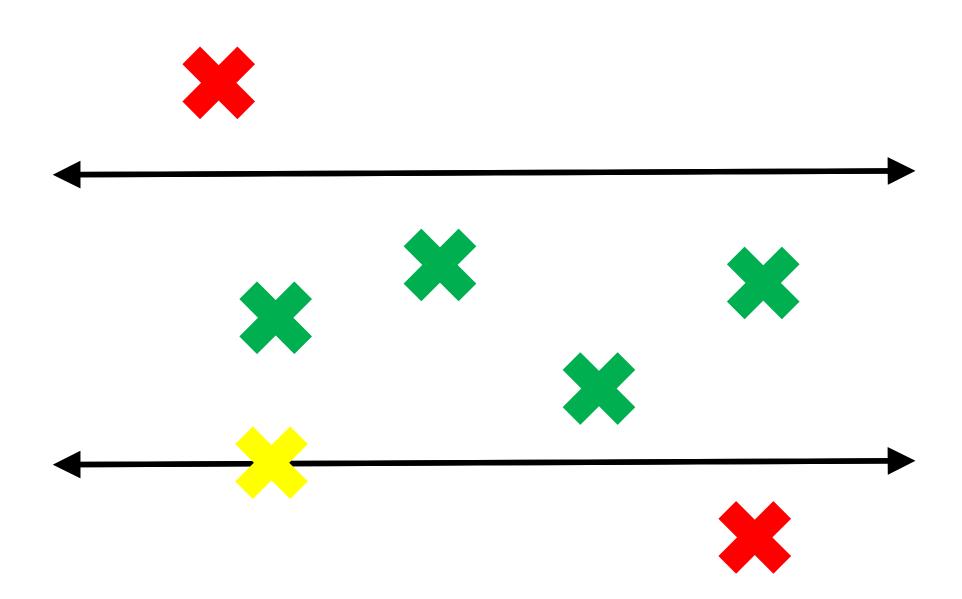
Prevention

- Online & In Person Training
- Club Resources
- Volunteer Engagement
- Policies & Processes

Response

- Club Advice & Consultation
- Case Management
- Disciplinary Proceedings





False Allegations?

Rare

< 5% of Reports

Custody Disputes

Real Abuse, Wrong Abuser

Avoid

Follow Policies & Guidelines

Set Boundaries

Communicate



Safe Sport Zone Chair

Charge: Each Zone shall have a Zone Safe Sport Chair. The purpose of the Zone Safe Sport Chair is to assist in the training of, and dissemination of information to, the LSC Safe Sport Chair. She/he will be responsible to the Safe Sport Committee.

Requirements

- 1. Be a registered non-athlete member of USA Swimming;
- 2. Successfully pass the required USA Swimming criminal background check;
- 3. Complete the USA Swimming athlete protection training; and
- 4. Shall reside in his/her zone.

Selection

- 1. Volunteers will be solicited or recruited from LSC Safe Sport Chairs.
- 2. The Safe Sport Committee shall review the list of volunteers and select potential Zone Chairs by popular vote.
- 3. The proposed Zone Chairs shall be forward for confirmation to the candidate's Zone Co-Directors.

Term of Service

- 1. Two (2) year appointment
- May be re-appointed for up to two (2) additional two (2) year terms, but shall not serve more than six (6) consecutive vears
- 3. May serve beyond 6 years, following a lapse of one year after serving six (6) consecutive years (term limit legislation is on the Proposed Amendments to Rules and Regulations agenda for convention).

Responsibilities

- 1. To serve as a liaison between the USA Swimming Safe Sport Committee and the LSC Safe Sport Chairs from the Zone;
- 2. To assist the LSC Safe Sport Chair and serve as a resource in the performance of his/her duties;
- 3. To assist in the dissemination of information and programs from the Safe Sport Committee to the LSC level;
- 4. Bring forward issues and barriers to Safe Sport initiatives, as well as recommendations for programs and education from the LSC/Zone level to the Director of Safe Sport Office/USA Swimming Safe Sport Committee;
- Serve as a mentor to new LSC Safe Sport Chairs.
- 6. To complete training requirements, including:
 - a. Attend a training session regarding the role and responsibilities of the Zone Safe Sport Coordinator;
 - b. Attend the Safe Sport meetings at the USA Aquatic Sports Convention annually, or if unable to do so, arrange for an LSC Safe Sport Coordinator/Chair from their Zone to represent them;
 - c. Attend the Safe Sport Zone Workshop in his/her Zone, or arrange for an LSC Safe Sport Coordinator/Chair from their Zone to represent them.

LSC Safe Sport Chair

Charge: Each LSC shall have an LSC Safe Sport Coordinator. The purpose of the LSC Safe Sport Coordinator is to spread the message of Safe Sport in the LSC and raise awareness for the effort among the LSC's member clubs.

Requirements

- Be a registered non-athlete member of USA Swimming;
- 2. Successfully pass the required USA Swimming criminal background check;
- 3. Complete the USA Swimming athlete protection training; and
- Attend the Local Swimming Community Safe Sport Chair Workshop in the first year in the role and subsequently every other year.

Selection and Term of Service

Selection and Term of Service shall be dictated by each LSC's Board of Directors.

Responsibilities

- Be knowledgeable about all Safe Sport Program components and generally be able to describe the Safe Sport Program
 Framework.
- 2. Work with your LSC webmaster to post Safe Sport materials and/or link to USA Swimming Safe Sport program site and be able to direct members to relevant materials.
- 3. Work to encourage and increase training opportunities for the LSC, possibly including:
 - a. Implementation of Safe Sport into Swimposium, House of Delegates, or other LSC hosted meetings/workshops;
 - b. Work with meet hosts to include Safe Sport information/fliers in meet information, heat sheets, meet packets, etc.;
 - Develop strategy to encourage parents and athletes to take the free trainings provided by USA Swimming for Safe Sport; and
 - Share successful ideas with national office staff to share across other LSCs.
- 4. Serve as an information resource for LSC clubs and membership help to identify and connect them with local educational partners and resources.
- Solicit and receive feedback and suggestions on the Safe Sport policies and programs from the LSC clubs and membership, and provide that feedback to the USA Swimming Safe Sport Committee and national office staff.
- Understand the complaint reporting structure and immediately refer all reports of Safe Sport related violations to the national office.
- Perform other functions as necessary in the fulfillment of USA Swimming's continuing efforts to foster safe, healthy and positive environments for all its members.

Club Safe Sport Chair

Charge: The purpose of the Club Safe Sport Chair is to identify, plan, and execute efforts to raise awareness for Safe Sport within the club's coaches, parents, and athletes.

Requirements

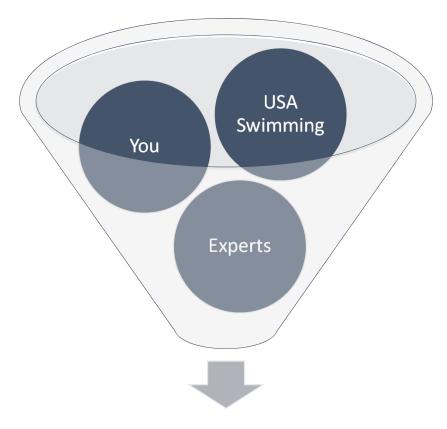
- 5. Be a registered non-athlete member of USA Swimming;
- 6. Successfully pass the required USA Swimming criminal background check;
- 7. Complete the USA Swimming athlete protection training; and
- 8. Attend the Local Swimming Community Safe Sport Chair Workshop in the first year in the role and subsequently every other year.

Selection and Term of Service

Selection and Term of Service shall be dictated by each member club.

Responsibilities

- 1. Serve on Club Board of Directors/Reports directly to the Owner
- 2. Be a resource for the club on how to create and foster positive Safe Sport culture.
- 3. Work with Club Leadership to:
 - a. Update Club Safe Sport website content.
 - b. Include Safe Sport information/fliers in Club meet information, heat sheets, meet packets, etc.
 - c. Coordinate the successful completion of the Safe Sport Certified Club application.
- 4. Works with new athletes and parents to:
 - a. Educate them about the Safe Sport Program.
 - b. Encourage participation in online Athlete Protection Training.
- 5. Organize in-person training.
 - Secure trainer.
 - b. Coordinate logistics club members: room/location, any refreshments, communicates date/time/location.
- 6. Solicit and receive feedback and suggestions on the Safe Sport policies and programs from the club's membership, and provide that feedback to the LSC's Safe Sport Chair.



Changeable, Community-Based Standards



and my coach wants us to stay until the end of the meet. is it okay if i come to practice around 5:15-5:30?

9/28/16, 11:08 AM

Yes that's not a problem. I will probably have you hop in and loosen down from the meet so we can finish the week off strong. If you feel like you did yesterday, I would probably skip swimming and recover at home. I'd like to sit down with you at some point before the next swim meet and put together a goal sheet for it.

okay sounds good. thank you. i am leaving school now for my race and will let you know when i am on my way.

Okay sounds good. Good luck in your race:)

thank you so much!!

this is why you're my fav

Just cuz I like you

baes for life!

I think I'm more than just a BAE to you

if you're more than a bae to me than what are you to me?

More than a BAE lol

Duh

I don't understand what you see in me!

some people i just click with

i'm very much like you in the way of just a few close friends and you are one of hem

I definitely think of you more than a friend. Things I have told you I've never told anyone. I'm not a real emotional person. I try to stay pretty level headed so majority of the things I go through or think about I don't tell anyone. Just keep to myself

aww blessed that you trust me with these things:) you'll never lose ur trust in me and i'm here for you even tho i'm younger i can still give advice and be someone to listen:)

Lol you are very young

still

That doesn't matter to you?

I'll always be here for the same. Whatever you ever need I am here.

The pitch:

"Hi, my name is Cathy Vaughan and I'm the Safe Sport Chairperson for Utah Swimming. Can I share a short message with you?" (Often, they've seen me approaching other tents by this time. The other interactions have apparently been friendly and not too long so they usually say "Yes.")

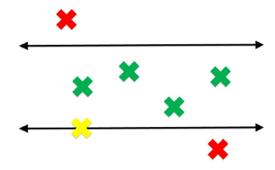


- E ducation
- Policies
- ACTION

Prevent*Respond*Report tinyurl.com/UTS afeS port

(I show the "Safe Sport IS" picture and say something like) Safe Sport is basically 3 things: Education, Policies and Action. The action comes from me and you. It also comes from our coaches, officials and others who work together to help keep our swim community safe for everyone, especially athletes.

(Next Picture) Education and policies help us know what's okay and what's not. Then, the action comes as we work together to keep the "good stuff" happening (I point to the green "x's") and speak up when something seems off. (Point to the yellow and red.)

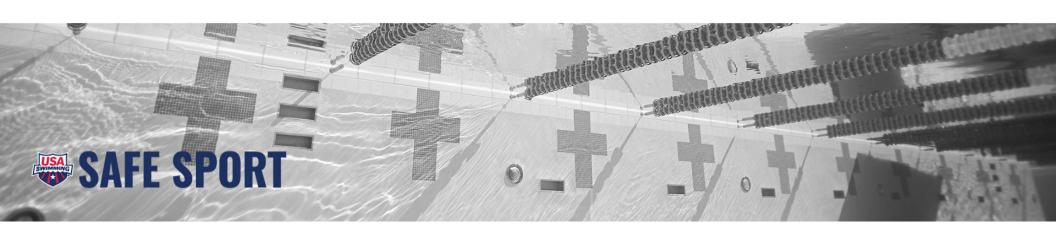








BREAK TIME





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Safe Sport Recognition – Clubs Statistics

9/9/19 12:14 PM

Started and Completed Counts by Zone

	Eastern	Southern	Central	Western	Total
Started Safe Sport Recognition	218	184	230	219	851
Safe Sport Recognized	15	21	17	13	66
Total Completed Any Level	15	21	17	13	66
Total Combined (Started + completed)	233	205	247	232	917

Top 10 LSCs (Ranked by count of clubs that have completed any level)

1 8 FG 2 6 CO 3 5 NC 4 4 IN 5 3 CA IL OK PV 6 2 BD MD NE NI OH 7 1 AR CT FL GA HI IE LA MA MR MV MW NJ SR UT 8 0 AD AK AM GU IA LE MI MN MS MT ND NM NT OR OZ F	Rank	# Clubs Completed a Level	LSC(s)
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6 2 BD MD NE NI OH 7 1 AR CT FL GA HI IE LA MA MR MV MW NJ SR UT 8 0 AD AK AM GU IA LE MI MN MS MT ND NM NT OR OZ F	4	4	IN
7 1 AR CT FL GA HI IE LA MA MR MV MW NJ SR UT 8 0 AD AK AM GU IA LE MI MN MS MT ND NM NT OR OZ F	5	3	CA IL OK PV
8 0 AD AK AM GU IA LE MI MN MS MT ND NM NT OR OZ F	6	2	BD MD NE NI OH
	7	1	AR CT FL GA HI IE LA MA MR MV MW NJ SR UT
	8	0	





Topics of Conversation

- Zone Goals
- What is working? What is not?
- What do you need help with?
- Exciting initiatives?
- Who is doing trainings? How are they going?
- How do you table at meets?
- What are you hearing about SS in your LSC?



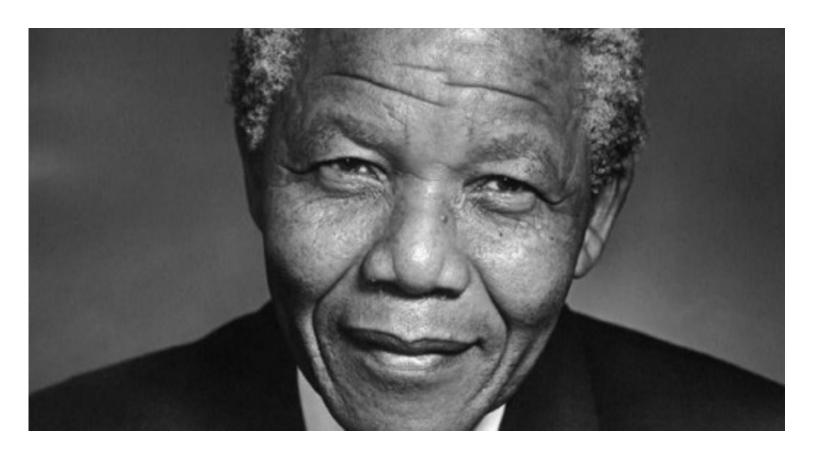




Final Thoughts

- Coaching Boys Into Men &
 Athletes as Leaders
- Ordering Swag
- May 1-3- Zone Workshop- Chicago, IL
- Q&A





"Safety and security don't just happen; they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear."

Nelson Mandela

www.usaswimming.org/protect
www.usaswimming.org/ssrp
www.usaswimming.org/maapp



