

# MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

**Covered Organizations/LAOs are required to implement the following athlete abuse prevention policies**

To satisfy these requirements, USA Volleyball provides these policies to USAV member clubs. Clubs may choose to implement stricter standards.

## **SafeSport Club Policies**

1. One-on-One Interactions, including meetings and individual training sessions (Clubs are required to establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on one interactions, as set forth in federal law)
2. Massages and rubdowns/athletic training modalities Locker rooms and changing areas
3. Social media and electronic communications
4. Local travel
5. Team travel

These policies shall apply to the following:

- 1) Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a Palm Beach Juniors Club
- 2) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
- 3) Any adult authorized by PALM BEACH JUNIORS that may have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor
- 4) Adult staff and board members of a PALM BEACH JUNIORS

(Collectively "Applicable Adult" for the purposes of this policy)

## **POLICY 1 - ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS**

Observable and interruptible One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a PALM BEACH JUNIORS are permitted if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult.

One-on-one interactions between minor athletes and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a Covered Organization/LAO are prohibited, except in the circumstances described in meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers of this section and under emergency circumstances.

Meetings between Applicable Adults and minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a PALM BEACH JUNIORS may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult.

If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of a PALM BEACH JUNIORS, the door to the office must remain unlocked and open. If available, it will occur in an office that has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.

### **Meetings with mental health care professionals and health care providers**

If a mental health care professional and/or health care provider meets with minor athletes at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of PALM BEACH JUNIORS, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy provided that:

The door remains unlocked and another adult is present at the facility.

The other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance by the mental health care professional and/or health care provider, with a copy provided to the organization.

### **Individual training sessions**

Individual training sessions between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of PALM BEACH JUNIORS if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. It is the responsibility of the Applicable Adult to obtain the written permission of the minor's legal guardian in advance of the individual training session if the individual training session is not observable and interruptible by another adult. Permission for individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.

## **POLICY 2 - MESSAGES AND RUBDOWNS/ATHLETIC TRAINING MODALITIES**

Any massage or rubdown/athletic training modality performed at a facility or a training or competition venue under the jurisdiction of PALM BEACH JUNIORS must be conducted in an open and interruptible location. Any massage of a minor athlete must be done with at least one other adult present and must never be done with only the minor athlete and the person performing the massage or rubdown/athletic training modality in the room.

### **LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS**

Non-exclusive facility If PALM BEACH JUNIORS uses a facility not fully under their jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, Applicable Adults in categories 1 through 4 are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth herein.

#### **Use of recording devices**

Use of any device's (including a cell phone's) recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras in locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a facility under the jurisdiction of PALM BEACH JUNIORS is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by the PALM BEACH JUNIORS and two or more Applicable Adults are present.

#### **Undress**

Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Applicable Adult at a facility under the jurisdiction of PALM BEACH JUNIORS intentionally expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.

#### **One-on-one interactions**

Except for athletes on the same team, at no time are unrelated Applicable Adults permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area when at a facility under the partial or full jurisdiction of PALM BEACH JUNIORS, except under emergency circumstances.

If PALM BEACH JUNIORS is using a facility that only has a single locker room or changing area, separate times will be designated for use by Applicable Adults, if any.

#### **Monitoring**

PALM BEACH JUNIORS will regularly and randomly monitor the use of locker rooms and changing areas at facilities under their jurisdiction to ensure compliance with these policies.

### **POLICY 3 - SOCIAL MEDIA & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

As part of PALM BEACH JUNIORS emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

#### **Content**

All electronic communication originating from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

#### **Open and transparent**

Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), another Applicable Adult or the minor athlete's legal guardian will be copied.

If a minor athlete communicates to an Applicable Adult (with authority over the minor athlete) privately first, said Applicable Adult should respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another Applicable Adult or the minor athlete's legal guardian.

When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to the entire team, said Applicable Adult will copy another adult.

Minor athletes may "friend" the organization's official page.

#### **Facebook, Myspace, blogs, and similar sites**

Coaches may not have athletes of PALM BEACH JUNIORS's Team join a personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official PALM BEACH JUNIORS's Team page and coaches can communicate to athlete members through the site. All posts, messages, text, or media of any kind between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.

#### **Twitter, instant messaging and similar media**

Coaches and athletes may "follow" each other. All posts between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

#### **Email and similar/electronic communications**

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. All email content between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about

team activities. Where the coach is a staff member and/or volunteer, email from a coach to any athlete we recommend come from the club website email center.

### **Texting and similar electronic communications**

Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes. All texts between coach and athlete must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

### **Electronic imagery**

From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other publicly obtainable images of the athlete – individually or in groups – may be taken. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in club videos, posted on club or club associated websites, or offered to the club families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the default policy of PALM BEACH JUNIORS to allow such practices as long as the athlete or athletes are in public view and such imagery is both appropriate and in the best interest of the athlete and the club. Imagery must not be contrary to any rules as outlined in PALM BEACH JUNIORS 's Participant Safety Handbook.

### **Request to discontinue all electronic communication or imagery**

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches or Applicable Adults subject to this policy. (Photography or videography). PALM BEACH JUNIORS will abide by any such request that their minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

### **Misconduct**

Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violations of our Participant Safety Handbook.

### **Violations**

Violations of PALM BEACH JUNIORS 's Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, a PALM BEACH JUNIORS administrator or a member of PALM BEACH JUNIORS 's Participant Safety Committee for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed under PALM BEACH JUNIORS 's Disciplinary Rules and Procedure.

## **LOCAL TRAVEL & TEAM TRAVEL**

This policy shall apply to:

- 1) Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
- 2) Any adult authorized by PALM BEACH JUNIORS to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor
- 3) Adult staff and board members of PALM BEACH JUNIORS (Collectively "Applicable Adult" for the purposes of this policy)

### **POLICY 4 - LOCAL TRAVEL**

Local travel consists of travel to training, practice, and competition that occurs locally and does not include coordinated overnight stay(s).

Transportation

Applicable Adults who are not also acting as a legal guardian, shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and must have at least two minor athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor athlete's parent/legal guardian in advance of each local travel.

### **POLICY 5 - TEAM TRAVEL**

Team travel is travel to a competition or other team activity that the organization plans and supervises.

#### **Team/competition travel**

When only one Applicable Adult and one minor athlete travel to a competition, the minor athlete must have his/her legal guardian's written permission in advance and for each competition to travel alone with said Applicable Adult.

#### **Hotel Room**

Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with a minor player. (Unless coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player) However, a parent/legal guardian may consent to such an arrangement in advance and in writing. Furthermore, a parent/legal guardian may consent in advance and in writing to the minor athlete sharing a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an adult athlete.

Coach or his/her designee will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms in a supervised location. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made to each room by at least two properly background screened adults. At no time should one adult be present in room with minor players, regardless of gender.

Team personnel should ask hotel to block adult pay per view channels.

### **Meetings**

Meetings shall be conducted consistent with the PALM BEACH JUNIORS policy for oneon-one interactions Individual meetings between coach and player may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public setting or with additional adults present with one of those adults being the same gender as the player.