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United States / United Kingdom

# USBC ATHLETE SAFETY & RVP HANDBOOK



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## Overview

The United States Bowling Congress' Athlete Safety Program combines the U.S. Center for SafeSport Policies and USBC's Registered Volunteer Program into one program. The program is designed to create awareness about emotional, physical and sexual abuse through education and prevention policies.

The USBC Athlete Safety Program accomplishes three important goals:

1. Requires all volunteers who have authority over USBC Youth members to be Registered Volunteers. A Registered Volunteer must comply with the following requirements:
  - Prior to attending a USBC Youth activity or within 45 days of being in a Registered Volunteer role, whichever occurs first:
    - Complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport training on a yearly basis
    - Pass a background screen through the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI) every two years
    - Be a USBC member in good standing
  - Report any child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the U.S. Center for SafeSport and USBC
  - Adhere to the USBC Athlete Safety Prevention Policies
  - Adhere to the USBC Registered Volunteer Code of Conduct
2. Requires adult members 18 years of age or older who bowl in a league with USBC Youth members 17 years of age or younger to:
  - Prior to participating in the league, complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport training on a yearly basis
  - Report any child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the U.S. Center for SafeSport and USBC
  - Adhere to the USBC Athlete Safety Prevention Policies
3. Provides Prevention Policies for adults to adhere to during any certified competition or USBC activity where USBC Youth members are involved.

This Athlete Safety & RVP Handbook, which will govern the program, has been developed in compliance with the U.S. Center for SafeSport Policies and Procedures and the National Council of Youth Sports recommendations.



## Terminology

**Adult Participant:** Adult members 18 years of age or older who have regular contact with a minor.

**Minor, child or minor athlete:** An amateur athlete under 18 years of age.

**A facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC:** Any facility where a USBC activity is being held.

**USBC:** In this document, it refers to the management of the league, tournament or association having jurisdiction over the competition, practice, training or event. This is either the league officers, tournament management, local or state board of directors or USBC National Headquarters.

**Registered Volunteer:** Anyone 18 years of age or older who has authority over minor athletes and are within USBC governance structure.

**Registered Volunteer Role:** Specific roles or positions within USBC governance structure. Those roles are:

- USBC headquarters employees
- USBC national board and youth committee members
- USBC Team USA and Junior Team USA members
- State and local youth committee members and directors
- State and local association board members
- State and local association managers
- USBC league officers in leagues with members age 17 or younger
- USBC Youth tournament managers
- USBC trained coaches

**Regular Contact with a Minor:** Competitions with a prearranged schedule of more than one week, i.e. USBC league competition where members age 17 or younger are competing.



## USBC Athlete Safety Policies

The USBC has adopted policies, created by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, designed to create awareness about emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Adherence to these policies by USBC members is a crucial step in ending abuse.

### Part I – Education and Training Policy

#### A. Adult Members

Registered Volunteers and Adult Participants must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Core Center for SafeSport Training:

- Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins; or
- Within the first 45 days of initial membership, or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy.

Starting with the membership year (Aug. 1-July 31) after completion of the Core Center for SafeSport Training, each Registered Volunteer must complete an annual refresher course.

The SafeSport-trained course will help you recognize if an athlete is being abused. Most importantly, you will learn how to prevent this from happening or how to respond if the abuse already has happened. The training ensures you are a part of our daily effort to make athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation’s sport programs.

The SafeSport-trained course covers the following topics in depth:

- Mandatory Reporting
- Sexual Misconduct Awareness Education
- Emotional and Physical Misconduct

To start your training, visit [BOWL.com/RVP](http://BOWL.com/RVP).

#### B. Minor Athletes

Training will be offered annually, subject to parental consent, to members who are minors regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse.

Minor Athlete training will be available through an online platform provided by the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

#### C. Exemptions

Exemptions from this Education and Training Policy may be made on a case-by-case basis for victims/survivors. Requests may be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, [ngbservices@safesport.org](mailto:ngbservices@safesport.org).

The U.S. Center for SafeSport will work with USBC regarding appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities to satisfy the training requirements herein.



## Part II – Criminal Background Screen Policy

The National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI), a national leader in the field of background screening and a company specifically dedicated to the protection of children, will conduct the background screens for USBC. The screening through NCSI is required even if you have submitted to background checks through an employer or another organization.

Consistent and uniform implementation of the Criminal Background Screen Policy is critical to its success. All covered individuals must be treated the same and the same background screen criteria must be applied to all.

NCSI uses the most current records and technology available. A background check will be valid for two years and the \$30 fee (starting Aug. 1, 2020) will cover an initial full screen plus an annual recheck of national criminal and sex offender registry data. Payment is made directly to NCSI by using Visa or MasterCard (a \$1.25 processing fee may apply).

The NCSI background screen program focuses on criminal activities that pose a serious threat to children. It does not include credit checks or motor vehicle violations.

### Protecting the Rights of the Volunteers

This policy complies with the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), which provides specific protections to all USBC volunteers. Under the FCRA, an applicant is entitled to:

- Obtain a copy of their criminal history information
- Challenge the accuracy and completeness of the criminal history information

The FCRA also clearly establishes how criminal history records used during an appeal process and subsequent determinations must remain confidential.

NCSI will provide the highest possible levels of security to protect the privacy of USBC volunteers and their personal information according to the requirements of the FCRA.

### Disqualification Rules

A reportable record or disclosure that contains a disposition or resolution of a criminal proceeding, other than an adjudication of not guilty, for any of the below criminal offenses will be flagged as a Red-Light Review.

A Red-Light Review will result in disqualification of an individual from any involvement with USBC which requires one to be a Registered Volunteer. Disclosures, offenses pending disposition or convictions for any of the following offenses will result in a Red-Light Review. Further investigation will be required when no record of the individual can be found, information provided by the individual is missing or inaccurate, or the individual refuses to provide the required information. Failure to satisfy required information will result in a Red-Light Review.

The criteria against which individuals will be measured are:

1. Any felony, and
2. Any misdemeanor involving:
  - a. All sexual crimes, criminal offenses of a sexual nature to include but not limited to, rape, child molestation, sexual battery, lewd conduct, possession and distribution of child pornography, possession and distribution of obscene material, prostitution, indecent exposure, public indecency, and any sex offender registrant;
  - b. Any drug related offenses;



- c. Harm to a minor, including, but not limited to, offenses such as child abandonment, child endangerment/neglect/abuse, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and DUI with a minor;
- d. Violence against a person (including crimes involving firearms and domestic violence);
- e. Stalking, harassment, blackmail, violation of a protection order, and/or threats;
- f. Destruction of property, including arson, vandalism, and criminal mischief; and
- g. Animal abuse, cruelty, or neglect.

A Green Light means no disqualifying disclosure, offense pending disposition, or criminal record has been found in an individual's background screening.

### **Appeals Process**

USBC will ensure every USBC member who wishes to be a Registered Volunteer has a fair and equitable opportunity to do so. In the event a member wishes to challenge the results of a background screen, he/she will be granted the right to appeal by USBC. Upon appeal, the procedures in Article II of the USBC Bylaws, Disciplinary Procedures Supplement will be followed.



## Part III – Prevention Policies

### A. Required Policies

The following policies, created by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, have been adopted by USBC. These policies apply to USBC, state and local associations and any certified competition or activity where minor athletes are involved. Unless a policy is identified as recommended, any adult who is a Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant must adhere to the policy. Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC must adhere to policy numbers 1, 2 and 3.

### B. Minor athletes who become adult athletes

With the exception of athletes who are members of the same team, minor athletes who reach the age of 18 must adhere to the provisions found in the following policies when interacting with minor athletes who are 14 years of age or younger.

Minor athletes who reach the age of 18 and then obtain a Registered Volunteer position, such as becoming a coach or official, must also comply with these prevention policies regardless of the age of the minor athletes with whom they will interact.

### Prevention Policy #1: One-on-One Interactions

The majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations. By reducing such interactions between an adult and a child, programs reduce the risk of child sexual abuse. However, one-on-one time with trusted adults is also healthy and valuable for a child. These policies are intended to protect minors while allowing for these beneficial relationships.

#### A. Observable and interruptible

- One-on-one interactions between minor athletes and a Registered Volunteer or adult participant (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC are prohibited unless:
  - They occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult.
  - The meeting is with a mental health care professional and/or a health care provider. In these instances, the conditions of the meeting must follow the guidelines described in subpart C of this section.
  - Under emergency circumstances.

#### B. Meetings

- Meetings between minor athletes and a Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC 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 USBC, 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.



### **C. Meetings with mental health care professionals**

If a mental health care professional and/or a healthcare provider meets with a minor athlete at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy – provided that

- 1) the door remains unlocked,
- 2) another adult is present at the facility,
- 3) the other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring, and
- 4) written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance by the mental healthcare professional and/or healthcare provider, with a copy provided to USBC.

### **D. Individual training sessions**

Individual training sessions between minor athletes and Registered Volunteers or Adult Participant are permitted at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. It is the responsibility of the Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant 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. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session. 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.

### **E. Monitoring (Recommended Policy)**

When one-on-one interactions between minor athletes and a Registered Volunteer or Adult participant occur at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC, another Registered Volunteer will monitor these interactions. Monitoring includes knowing that the one-on-one interaction is occurring, the approximate planned duration of the interaction, and randomly dropping in on the one-on-one.

### **F. Out-of-program contacts (Recommended Policy)**

Registered Volunteers are prohibited from interacting one on one with unrelated minor athletes in settings outside of the program that are not observable and interruptible (including, but not limited to, one's home and individual transportation), unless parent/legal guardian consent is provided for each out-of-program contact. Such arrangements are nonetheless strongly discouraged.

### **Prevention Policy #2: Massage or rubdown/athletic training modality**

Any massage or rubdown/athletic training modality performed at a facility or a training or competition venue 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.

Written consent by a legal guardian shall be provided before providing each massage or rubdown on a minor athlete. Parents must be permitted to be in the room as an observer.



## **Prevention Policy #3: Locker Rooms and Changing Areas**

When USBC uses a facility not fully under our jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, adult members and Registered Volunteers are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth herein.

### **A. Use of recording devices**

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

### **B. Undress**

Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant at a facility under the jurisdiction of USBC intentionally expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.

### **C. One-on-one interactions**

- Except for athletes on the same team, at no time are unrelated Registered Volunteers or Adult Participants permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area when at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC, except under emergency circumstances.
- If USBC is using a facility that only has a single locker room or changing area, USBC will designate separate times for use by Registered Volunteers, if any.

### **D. Monitoring**

USBC will regularly and randomly monitor the use of locker rooms and changing areas at a facility under the jurisdiction of USBC to ensure compliance with these policies.

### **E. Other Components (Recommended Policy)**

- Registered Volunteers and Adult Participants make every effort to recognize when a minor athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, will check on the minor athlete's whereabouts.
- USBC discourages parents from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent. If this is necessary, parents should let a coach or administrator know about this in advance.

## **Prevention Policy #4: Social Media and Electronic Communications**

### **A. Content**

All electronic communication originating from Registered Volunteers or Adult Participants to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

### **B. Open and transparent**

- Absent emergency circumstances, if a Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant needs to communicate directly with an amateur athlete who is a minor via electronic communications, (including social media) another Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant, a group email box monitored by at least one other Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant, or the minor's legal guardian will be copied.
- If a minor athlete communicates to the Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant privately first, the response to the minor athlete will include copying another Registered Volunteer or



Adult Participant, a group email box monitored by at least one other Registered Volunteer, Adult Participant or the minor's legal guardian.

- A Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant communicating electronically to the entire team will copy another Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant or a group email box monitored by at least one other Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant.
- Minor athletes may "friend" the organization's official page.

### **C. Requests to discontinue**

Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by USBC, Registered Volunteers, or Adult Participants. USBC will abide by any such request that their minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

### **D. Hours (Recommended Policy)**

Electronic communications will generally only be sent between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. except for emergencies or during competition or competition travel that is outside the established hours.

### **E. Monitoring (Recommended Policy)**

- Registered Volunteers and Adult Participants will monitor their social media pages and remove any posts that violate USBC's Registered Volunteer Code of Conduct.
- Registered Volunteers and Adult Participants will inform the legal guardian of a minor athlete of any prohibited posts, as well as the organization's administrator, if applicable.

### **F. Electronic Communications (Recommended Policy)**

- Registered Volunteers and Adult Participants should not:
  - Communicate privately via electronic communications with minor athletes, except under emergency circumstances.
  - "Private message," "instant message," "direct message", or send photos via Snapchat or Instagram to a minor athlete privately.
  - Maintain social media connections with unrelated minor athletes and should not accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from minor athletes, unless the Registered Volunteer has a fan page, or the contact is deemed as celebrity contact vs. regular contact.

## **Prevention Policy #5: Local Travel**

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

### **A. Transportation**

Registered Volunteers or Adult Participants 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.

### **B. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement (Recommended Policy)**

We encourage parents/legal guardians to pick up their minor athlete first and drop off their minor athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.



## **Prevention Policy #6: Team Travel**

Team travel is travel to a competition or other team activity that the Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant plans and supervises.

### **A. Team/competition travel**

When only one Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant 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 the Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant.

### **B. Hotel rooms**

Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor athlete (unless the Registered Volunteer or Adult Participant is the legal guardian, sibling, or is otherwise related to the minor athlete). 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.

### **C. Meetings**

Meetings shall be conducted consistent with the organization's policy for one-on-one interactions – i.e., any such meeting shall be observable and interruptible.

### **D. Other Components (Recommended Policy)**

- Team travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all minor athletes, parents, Registered Volunteers, and Adult Participants who are traveling.
- During team travel, when doing room checks, attending team meetings and/or other activities, two-deep leadership and observable and interruptible environments should be maintained.
- Meetings should not be conducted in a hotel room.



## Part IV – Reporting Policy

### A. Procedure

- Alleged violations of USBC’s Athlete Safety Prevention Policies:
  - Involving sexual misconduct of a minor athlete are to be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, who will have the exclusive authority to investigate and resolve.
  - That are non-sexual in nature, USBC will retain the authority to investigate and resolve, and are to be reported to USBC, attention Rules and Compliance.
- There are no time limits on reporting possible violations of USBC’s Athlete Safety Prevention Policies.
- There is no fee to report violations of USBC’s Athlete Safety Prevention Policies.

### B. Anonymous Reporting

- Reports may be made anonymously. Anonymous reporting may make it difficult for USBC to investigate or properly address misconduct or abuse of a minor athlete. However, USBC recognizes it can be difficult for an athlete, teammate, friend or family member to report an allegation of misconduct and strives to remove as many barriers to reporting as possible.

### C. Whistleblower Protection

- Regardless of outcome, it is the policy of USBC to support the claimant(s) and his or her right to express concerns in good faith. USBC will not encourage, allow or tolerate attempts from any individual, group or organization to retaliate, punish, allow or in any way harm any individual(s) who reports a concern in good faith. Such actions against a claimant will be considered a violation of the USBC’s Athlete Safety Program and grounds for disciplinary action. However, this “Whistleblower” protection is not intended to shield claimants from discipline for engaging in other misconduct.

### D. Contact local authorities

- Contact your local authorities if you have a reasonable suspicion that child sexual abuse or neglect has occurred. All reports of child abuse or sexual assault of a minor must also be reported to local authorities. Reports of abuse not involving a minor may also be reported to local authorities.
- Contacting the local authorities does not negate one’s responsibility to report sexual misconduct cases to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.



## USBC Registered Volunteer Code of Conduct

Part of USBC's commitment is a mandatory agreement for all Registered Volunteers to abide by the USBC Registered Volunteer Program Code of Conduct.

A Registered Volunteer can be charged with the following code of conduct violation(s):

1. Consumption or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while working with youth.
2. Providing alcohol or drugs to youth or allowing consumption of same while under your supervision.
3. Physical, verbal, or sexual abuse of any child.
4. Failing to respect the privacy of youth in situations where privacy is required, for example changing clothes or taking showers (the only exception is when health or safety issues dictate specific action).
5. Disciplining by use of physical punishment or failure to provide necessities such as water, food, or shelter.
6. Inappropriately touching a youth's body. As a rule, this includes any area of the body that would be covered by a bathing suit. It is normally acceptable to touch a youth on the shoulders, arm or upper back.
7. Tickling, wrestling, or teasing a youth.
8. In the presence of a youth or parents or the use of social media where a youth or parents can view:
  - a. Inappropriate jokes or pictures
  - b. Intimate details of one's personal life
  - c. Any kind of sexual reference
9. Using profanity or any kind of harassment in the presence of a youth or parents.
10. Releasing a youth to anyone other than the authorized parent or guardian, or to a person designated by the parent/guardian.

The complaint should be in writing and detail the charge(s) against the Registered Volunteer and the RVP Code of Conduct involved. The complaint should be signed by the person(s) make the charge(s) and filed with USBC Headquarters. Anonymous and/or unsigned complaints concerning sexual misconduct will be forwarded to the U.S. Center for SafeSport for processing.

A violation of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension of USBC membership or termination of one's Registered Volunteer Status.



## SafeSport Code

The SafeSport Code, created by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, requires participants to abide by a set of procedures and prohibited conduct while participating in a sporting event.

The USBC has adopted the SafeSport Code in its entirety and all members of USBC are expected to abide by the Code. To view the code, please go to [safesport.org/policies-procedures](https://safesport.org/policies-procedures) or click [here](#).



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Athlete Safety Program

#### **What is the Athlete Safety Program?**

The United States Bowling Congress' Athlete Safety Program combines the U.S. Center for SafeSport Policies and USBC's Registered Volunteer Program into one comprehensive program. This program is designed to create awareness about emotional, physical and sexual abuse through education and prevention policies.

#### **Who is required to follow the policies of the Athlete Safety Program?**

USBC members age 18 and older who compete in a league with members age 17 or younger are considered adult participants and must adhere to the entire handbook with the exception of the Criminal Background Screen Policy and the RVP Code of Conduct Policy. Registered Volunteers are required to follow all policies.

#### **Why does the Athlete Safety Program require all individuals to be USBC members?**

USBC must have jurisdiction over those who are either adult participants or Registered Volunteers and having membership allows that. Having jurisdiction gives USBC and the U.S. Center for SafeSport the ability to investigate any conduct in violation of these policies.

#### **How will I know it when it's time to complete a requirement to remain in the program?**

Each individual will receive an email from USBC prior to expiration of a requirement informing them what requirement is due and to log into their Athlete Safety Portal to complete the process.

### Adult Participants

#### **Who is considered an Adult Participant?**

Adult members age 18 or older who compete in a league with youth members age 17 or younger.

#### **What is required of an Adult Participant?**

Prior to competing in a league with minor athletes, Adult Participants must complete the U. S. Center for SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training. Adult Participants must also adhere to USBC's Prevention Policies, Reporting Policy and the SafeSport Code.

#### **What is required of the adults who compete in an adult/youth league?**

Any individual age 18 and older is considered an Adult Participant and must complete SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training prior to participating in the league.

### U.S. Center for SafeSport Training

#### **How do I register for the training?**

Visit [BOWL.com/RVP](http://BOWL.com/RVP) for information.

#### **Why do we need to take the SafeSport Training?**

In February 2018, the United States passed a law authorizing the U. S. Center for SafeSport to develop training to prevent abuse. The law also requires USBC, as the National Governing Body for the sport of bowling, to offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse to adult



members who are in regular contact with minors. This training from the center allows USBC to comply with the law.

To view the law, click [here](#).

### **Can the SafeSport training be conducted in a group setting?**

No. Every Registered Volunteer must register through the SafeSport website and take the required training in order to get credit for completing the training. This online training is the only training program recognized by the U.S. Center for SafeSport for compliance with the requirement.

### **How do we verify if an individual has completed SafeSport training?**

A SafeSport icon has been added to each member's profile in the Find-a-Member feature. Anyone who has completed the training will either show a SafeSport icon or RVP icon.

### **How often do I have to complete SafeSport?**

After the initial SafeSport training, a refresher course will need to be completed each year and one month prior to renewing your Registered Volunteer status.

### **Is this training required if an 18-year-old only bowls in tournaments with minor athletes?**

No. The training is required for those who have regular contact with minor athletes. Since tournaments are not a competition with regular matches, adults are not under the same requirements in tournaments as they are in leagues. USBC does recommend anyone 18 years of age and older who competes with minor athletes to take SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training.

### **A member will turn 18 during the bowling season and competes in a USBC Youth certified league. Does he need to take SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training?**

Yes. Once the member turns 18, he is considered an Adult Participant and must complete the training prior to the next scheduled league session. Anyone under age 18 can take the training with parental consent, or once they turn 18 without consent.

### **Why do I need a USBC National ID number to register for the SafeSport Training?**

U.S. Center for SafeSport transmits your national ID number back to USBC so the training can be attached to your bowler profile. This way, USBC is able to determine when a member completes the required training.

## **Registered Volunteers**

### **Who must enroll to become a Registered Volunteer?**

Anyone age 18 or older who holds a position of authority or supervision over USBC Youth programs, has an opportunity to establish a position of trust, and/or has an opportunity to build a one-on-one relationship through USBC Youth programs with USBC Youth bowlers must become a USBC Registered Volunteer.

Specific roles or positions within the USBC governance that require one to be a Registered Volunteer include:

- USBC headquarters employees
- USBC national board and youth committee members
- USBC Team USA and Junior Team USA members
- State and local youth committee members and directors
- State and local association board members



- State and local association managers
- USBC Youth league officers
- USBC Youth tournament managers
- USBC trained coaches

### **What is required of the league officers in an adult/youth league?**

Any officer of the league must be a Registered Volunteer, which requires the U.S. Center for SafeSport training and a background screen through NCSI.

### **We don't have any youth bowlers in our association. Do we need to do this?**

Yes. Although the program was created with youth in mind, the concepts involved also are appropriate when dealing with adults and senior citizens in our associations. Keeping our members safe from abuse and inappropriate behavior of any kind is always a positive thing for our sport.

### **Do coaches who do not coach youth have to be a Registered Volunteer?**

Yes. USBC takes pride in our coaching certification and the individuals who have decided to earn the accreditation. USBC believes this additional training will not only make the coaches more marketable, it will give USBC more individuals in bowling centers who are trained to recognize and report abuse to help keep our youth safe.

### **Is there a way to become a Registered Volunteer and not use the Internet?**

In rare cases, the NCSI can perform the background screen; however, there will be an additional fee from NCSI.

The training through the SafeSport Center is only available online.

### **I applied for my RVP certification several months ago and haven't heard anything. What can I do?**

Usually, the screening process only takes a few days to complete. If you haven't heard anything, please check your email as NCSI may have tried to contact you for more information in order for them to complete the screening.

## **NCSI Background Screen**

### **How do I register?**

Log on to [BOWL.com/RVP](http://BOWL.com/RVP) and click on Athlete Safety Account Login. You will need a community login ID and password to start the background screen.

Once logged in, you will see your personalized Athlete Safety account. A Registered Volunteer must be a member of USBC and be up to date with their SafeSport training. If your status is green under those logos, you can click on the NCSI logo which will take you to the NCSI website where you can begin your background screen.

### **What is the cost for the background screen?**

Starting August 1, 2020, regardless of where one lives, the cost is \$30 (a \$1.25 processing fee may apply). The entire fee is paid directly to the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI), who will continue to perform the background screenings.



### **Who is responsible for the payment?**

Each individual who enrolls and/or renews will be responsible for the payment, by credit card. If the center or association has determined to pay for a screening(s), it will be up to them to reimburse the individual.

### **Why do I need a USBC National ID number to register for the background screening through NCSI?**

NCSI transmits your national ID number back to USBC so the background screen can be attached to your bowler profile. This way, USBC is able to determine when a member passes the requirement.

### **How do we verify the NCIS background screen has been completed?**

Every member who has completed SafeSport training and a background screen can be found on USBC's Find-a-Volunteer function on BOWL.com. In addition, each Registered Volunteer does have an RVP icon in their profile on the Find-a-Member function.

### **Who will be notified of an applicant's red light?**

NCSI will send a formal letter to the individual and notify USBC Headquarters. USBC then will follow up with the individual informing them of their ineligibility and right to appeal the designation.

### **How will the association know who is given a green light and a red light?**

Individuals will know who has a green light determination in two ways. First, they are wearing an RVP badge; second, by searching "find a volunteer" on BOWL.com.

Any individual who does not show on the "find a volunteer" feature of BOWL.com is not permitted to work with USBC Youth members either because they have not gone through the process or has received a red light determination.

### **Can we still access find-a-volunteer to determine who is a Green Light?**

Yes, that will be the easiest way to find a Registered Volunteer.

### **How often will the Find A Registered Volunteer database be updated?**

Daily. USBC receives the information once a day from both SafeSport and NCSI. The database is then updated each time we receive the information.

### **I have had a background screening for my job. Why do I need another one?**

The screening that is done for the RVP program is dedicated to the protection of children. Screenings you may have had done for your job or other organizations may not screen for the same items as is done for RVP. Also, it is important that all individuals applying for RVP certification be treated the same way and the same background screening criteria must be used for everyone.

## **Association Board Requirement**

### **We have board members that have not completed the RVP process. Are they still eligible to serve on our Board?**

No. To be eligible to serve on a USBC board, you must complete both the SafeSport training and go through the background screen conducted by NCSI for USBC.

### **We have board members that do not wish to participate. What do we do?**

You should ask them to resign. If they do not want to resign, your board should proceed using the board removal procedures found in the USBC Association Policy Manual, Chapter Sixteen, Section E.



## **When do new board members have to be Registered Volunteers before they can serve on the board?**

Newly elected or appointed board members have 45 days from the date they take office or before contact with a USBC Youth member, whichever occurs first, to become a Registered Volunteer.

## **RVP ID cards**

### **Will USBC still supply RVP lanyards/ID cards?**

Yes, for those who complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport training and a background screen through NCSI for USBC.

### **I use a nickname or my middle name. Can I have that on my badge instead of my full name?**

RVP badges are printed using the information that comes to us from NCSI, which is your full, given name found on your government issued IDs and documents. Nicknames are not allowed.

## **Reporting**

### **Who do I contact to report abuse?**

The U.S. Center for SafeSport handles ALL reports of sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Make a report to the Center if you have a reasonable suspicion of sexual misconduct such as child sex abuse, non-consensual sexual conduct, sexual harassment or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power.

Contact your local law enforcement authorities if you have a reasonable suspicion that child sexual abuse or neglect has occurred. All reports of child abuse or sexual assault of a minor must also be reported to local law enforcement authorities. Reports of abuse not involving a minor may also be reported to local law enforcement authorities.

Contact USBC to report other forms of misconduct such as emotional or physical misconduct, bullying, hazing or harassment.