

INTRODUCTION

USA Basketball, like other members of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement, is committed to creating and maintaining a sport community where all those who participate can work and learn together in an atmosphere free from all forms of emotional, physical and sexual misconduct. Every member of USA Basketball's community plays an important role in creating conditions that protect the physical and emotional well-being of its participants. The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Basketball and this USA Basketball Participant Safety and Protection Handbook (the "Handbook") allows USAB to uphold its commitment to creating the safest possible environment for participation in basketball.

To aid in promoting open dialogue, training and resources about misconduct in sport, and the safety and well-being of all participants, USA Basketball has adopted the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement (the "Code") and its appendices (collectively, the "Code") issued by the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Response and Resolution Office ("Office"). To the extent any USA Basketball rule, practice, policy or procedure, ("USAB rule") is inconsistent with the Code, rules, policies or procedures of the U.S. Center for SafeSport, such USA Basketball rule is hereby superseded.

Individuals within USA Basketball's jurisdiction and/or disciplinary authority are responsible for knowing the information, policies, and procedures outlined in this Handbook, Code, and their related policies. Those subject to USA Basketball's jurisdiction and/or disciplinary authority as defined in this Handbook, are subject to the rules, policies, and procedures of the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the "Center") and shall submit, without reservation or condition, to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center of SafeSport for the resolution of any alleged violation of the Center's rules, policies and procedures, or the Code. Ignorance of any rule or regulation is not a defense to a violation or alleged violation of any USA Basketball rule, regulation, policy or procedure.

For the avoidance of doubt, a violation of any of the Code or any of the Center's rules, policies and procedures, will be considered a *per se* violation of this Handbook. USA Basketball will mirror and enforce any decision and/or sanction imposed by the Center.

USA Basketball, the Center, and the Office reserve the right to make changes to the Handbook and Code, respectively, and other related rules, policies, and procedures, as necessary. Once posted online, changes are effective immediately unless otherwise noted.

Through education, resources, training, and adherence to the rules, policies, and procedures contained in the Code and this Handbook, we will help those who participate in USA Basketball's programs prevent, recognize, reduce and respond to misconduct in basketball and in sport.

MISSION

USA Basketball's Athlete and Participant Safety and Protection Program supports USA Basketball's mission by adhering to the following departmental mission:

To promote, sustain and encourage institutional accountability for the health, safety, and well-being of all USA Basketball participants.

CORE VALUES

USA Basketball's Athlete and Participant Safety & Protection Program abides by the following core values which underlie our work and help us to fulfill our mission:

Safety & Protection:

We are committing to safeguarding participants from all forms of misconduct and make their health and well-being an organizational priority.

Teamwork

Each participant is a necessary and valued member of USA Basketball's pledge to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all participants and we work as a collaborative unit to achieve our mission and goals.

Integrity

We abide by moral and ethical principles, including honesty, fairness and respect to achieve our mission and shared goals.

Accountability

We, the organization, its leadership and participants, hold ourselves accountable for the protection of our participants and for the prevention of misconduct. We count it as a duty and our paramount responsibility to protect our participants and sport from all forms of misconduct and abuse.

ABOUT

United States Olympic Committee

The United States Olympic Committee (“U.S. Olympic Committee” or “USOC”) serves as both the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States. The Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act appointed the USOC as the coordinating body for all Olympic-related athletic activity in the United States. The USOC oversees the recognition of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and promulgates policies and procedures that NGBs are required to abide by. The USOC’s bylaws require USA Basketball to comply with the policies and procedures of the USOC and the USOC-designated independent safe sport entity, the U.S. Center for SafeSport. In addition, USA Basketball must maintain an effective athlete safety policy program of its own, and the Handbook assists USA Basketball in meeting that obligation.

Additional information regarding the U.S. Olympic Committee can be found at www.teamusa.org.

U.S. Center for SafeSport

The U.S. Center for SafeSport is an independent nonprofit committed to ending all forms of abuse in sport. The Center provides services to sport entities on abuse prevention techniques, policies and programs and provides a safe, professional and confidential place for individuals to report sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Federal law authorizes the Center to develop training, policies and procedures for implementation by national governing bodies or Paralympic sports organizations to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse of any amateur athlete. The U.S. Olympic Committee has also entrusted the Center with the authority to respond to reports of sexual misconduct within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements.

Additional information regarding the Center can be found at www.safesport.org.

USA Basketball

USA Basketball (“USAB”) is the national governing body for men’s and women’s basketball in the United States. As the recognized governing body for basketball in the United States by the International Basketball Federation (“FIBA”) and the United States Olympic Committee, USA Basketball is responsible for the selection, training, and fielding of USA teams that compete in FIBA sponsored international basketball competitions, and the development of basketball initiatives that address player development, coach education, licensing and safety in the United States. Supporting the health and safety of its participants remains a key element and driving principle of USA Basketball’s role as the national governing body for basketball in the United States.

USA Basketball National Teams

USA Basketball's Men's, Women's and 3x3 teams compete on behalf of the United States in various international competitions including the Olympics, FIBA Basketball World Cups, FIBA Americas Championships, the Nike Hoop Summit and Youth Olympic games among other competitions. A commitment to athlete safety is a cornerstone of our National Teams' programs and compliance with all protocols and directives is imperative to ensure success.

USA Basketball Youth Development

The USA Basketball Youth Development division is tasked with the development of youth basketball initiatives that address player development, coach education and most importantly, safety, while promoting, growing, and elevating the game. Current youth initiatives include coach licensing and education, organization, youth clinics and the U.S. Open Basketball Championships. The division's flagship coach licensing program is focused on developing an inclusive basketball community of educated coaches and administrators while ensuring the safety of those with whom they may interact.

Additional Resources

[Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act](#)

[SafeSport Authorization Act \(2018\)](#)

[IOC Framework for Safeguarding Athletes and Other Participants from Harassment and Abuse in Sport](#)

[IOC Consensus Statement on Sexual Harassment & Abuse in Sport](#)