



Idaho Youth Soccer Association
131 SW 5th Avenue, Suite C
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IYSA Risk Management Policy

1.0 Purpose

1.01 The Idaho Youth Soccer Association (hereinafter referred to as IYSA) establishes this Risk Management and Athlete Safety Policy to protect Youth Participants throughout Idaho. This policy establishes minimum safety, conduct, reporting, and supervision standards for all Adult Members interacting with Youth Participants in IYSA programs or affiliated leagues.

1.02 The IYSA Risk Management Program is designed to protect and promote the welfare and safety of Youth Participants and to protect coaches, administrators, and volunteers who participate in IYSA activities.

1.03 This policy aligns with requirements from:

- The U.S. Center for SafeSport
- U.S. Soccer Federation SafeSport Program
- Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP)
- Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017
- Idaho Code §33-1625 (Youth Athlete Concussion and Head Injury Law)

2.0 Applicability

This policy applies to all individuals aged 18 or older who participate in IYSA programs and have direct or indirect contact with Youth Participants. This includes, but is not limited to, coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, trainers, volunteers, referees, club administrators, board members, and contractors. These individuals are collectively referred to as “Adult Members.” For the purposes of this policy, “Youth Participants” include any registered youth soccer player as well as minor referees registered with the Idaho State Referee Committee (ISRC).

3.0 U.S. Center for SafeSport Compliance

IYSA, as a youth sports organization, fully complies with policies established by the U.S. Center for SafeSport to prevent emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of Youth Participants. All Adult Members are required to adhere to SafeSport policies, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), as well as any other policies, procedures, trainings, or guidelines mandated by SafeSport. In the event of a conflict, SafeSport policies shall govern. Adult Members must complete SafeSport training prior to interacting with Youth Participants and must renew this training annually to remain in compliance.

4.0 Authority and Risk Management Framework

4.01 IYSA has adopted a comprehensive Risk Management Program designed to create a safe environment for all participants and to reduce potential risks associated with youth sports activities. IYSA is committed to supporting its member organizations in implementing this program and requires adherence to its standards.



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4.02 IYSA reserves the right to deny, suspend, or remove any individual from participation in IYSA programs when risk management concerns are identified. This authority applies to all Adult Members, including but not limited to coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, board members, administrators, volunteers, employees, and independent contractors.

4.03 IYSA recognizes and enforces disciplinary actions, sanctions, and eligibility decisions issued by U.S. Youth Soccer and its affiliated State Associations.

4.04 Each member organization shall designate a Risk Manager responsible for implementing and overseeing compliance with IYSA Risk Management policies at the local level. The Risk Manager shall serve as the primary point of contact for risk-related issues, including background checks, incident reporting, and policy enforcement.

4.05 In addition to participant safety, IYSA is committed to ensuring proper oversight of organizational risks. This includes promoting sound financial management practices, safeguarding organizational assets, and encouraging member organizations to adopt policies that ensure fiscal accountability and transparency.

4.06 IYSA also requires that all equipment and facilities used in its programs meet established safety standards. This includes ensuring that portable soccer goals are properly secured at all times to prevent injury.

4.07 Member organizations are expected to actively assess risks within their programs and take appropriate steps to reduce, transfer, or eliminate those risks.

4.08 Member organizations are expected to follow a structured risk management process that includes identifying potential risks, assessing their impact, implementing appropriate controls, and regularly reviewing mitigation strategies.

4.09 Risks within IYSA programs may include, but are not limited to, those related to participants and personnel, facilities and equipment, financial operations, event operations, and the reputation and goodwill of the organization.

4.10 IYSA reserves the right to take immediate action when necessary to protect the safety and well-being of Youth Participants, including the temporary suspension or restriction of any Adult Member pending further review.

5.0 Prohibited Conduct

5.01 IYSA takes a firm stance against abuse of any kind directed at Youth Participants. All forms of abuse, harassment, bullying, hazing, emotional misconduct, and physical misconduct are strictly prohibited.

5.02 Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment

5.02.01 Any sexual activity involving a Youth Participant is strictly prohibited. This includes sexual contact with a Youth Participant that is accomplished through deception, manipulation, force, or threat of force, regardless of



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the age of the individuals involved, as well as any sexual interaction between an Adult Member and a Youth Participant, regardless of whether deception occurs or the Youth Participant understands the sexual nature of the activity.

5.02.02 Examples of conduct that may constitute sexual abuse or sexual harassment and are prohibited by this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Unnecessary touching, patting, hugging, pinching, or brushing against a person's body;
Staring, ogling, leering, or whistling at a person
- Continued or repeated verbal abuse of a sexual nature
Sexually explicit statements, sexual flirtations, advances, propositions, subtle pressure for sexual activity, comments, questions, jokes, or anecdotes
- Graphic or degrading comments about a person's clothing, body, or sexual activity
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects, cartoons, posters, calendars, or pictures
- Sending suggestive or obscene letters, notes, messages, or invitations
- Harassing use of electronic mail, text messages, instant messaging, social media, or telephone communication systems
- Any other physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment

5.03 Power Imbalance

Any sexual interaction between a Youth Participant and an individual with evaluative, direct, or indirect authority is prohibited. Such relationships involve an imbalance of power and are likely to impair judgment or be exploitative. This section does not apply to a pre-existing relationship between two spouses or life partners.

5.04 Bullying

5.04.01 Bullying in any form is prohibited. It is defined as intentional, persistent, and repeated behavior, whether physical or non-physical, that is committed or knowingly tolerated and is intended, or reasonably likely, to cause fear, humiliation, or physical harm to a Youth Participant. Bullying often seeks to socially exclude, diminish, or isolate a participant as a condition of inclusion.

5.04.02 Bullying does not include appropriate team activities intended to promote team cohesion or establish team norms.

5.05 Hazing

5.05.01 Hazing is strictly prohibited. This includes coercing, requiring, forcing, or willfully tolerating any humiliating, unwelcome, or dangerous activity that serves as a condition for joining a group or being socially accepted by its members.



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5.05.02 Hazing does not include group or team activities that are meant to establish normative team behaviors or promote team cohesion.

5.06 Emotional Misconduct

5.06.01 Emotional misconduct is prohibited in all forms. It consists of deliberate, non-contact behaviors that have the potential to cause emotional or psychological harm to a participant. Examples include verbal acts, physical acts, acts that deny attention or support, or any conduct described as emotional abuse under federal or state law, such as child abuse or neglect.

5.06.02 Acceptable coaching practices, including skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline, or improving athletic performance, do not constitute emotional misconduct.

5.07 Physical Misconduct

5.07.01 Physical misconduct in any form is prohibited. This includes contact or non-contact behaviors that result in, or reasonably threaten to result in, physical harm to another participant, or any conduct classified as physical abuse under federal or state law, including child abuse, neglect, or assault.

5.07.02 Legitimate coaching practices such as skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, and appropriate discipline are not considered physical misconduct. For instance, hitting or punching may be appropriate and regulated in combat sports, but such conduct has no place in soccer.

6.0 Mandatory Reporting

6.01 All Adult Members must report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to appropriate law enforcement and/or child protective services within 24 hours, as required by federal law and the Protecting Youth Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017.

6.02 Individuals who report in good faith are entitled to immunity from liability to the extent provided under applicable federal law. Reports must be made regardless of how the information is received, including second-hand or anonymous disclosures, and regardless of whether the matter has also been reported to SafeSport or IYSA.

6.03 IYSA prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports concerns in good faith or participates in an investigation.

6.04 Reporting & Response Protocol

IYSA requires all Adult Members and member organizations to follow the reporting and response process below to ensure consistent handling of all concerns involving Youth Participants.

6.04.01 Reporting Requirements



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All concerns involving Youth Participants must be reported through the appropriate channels based on the nature of the allegation:

- **Emergency / Immediate Danger**
If there is an immediate risk of harm, contact law enforcement (911) immediately.
- **SafeSport-Related Misconduct**
Reports involving sexual misconduct, abuse, or violations of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code must be reported to:
 - The U.S. Center for SafeSport using [SafeSport Reporting Form](#)
 - Local law enforcement, when the allegation involves a minor
- **IYSA Reporting**
All concerns must also be reported to the IYSA Risk Manager using the [IYSA Incident Reporting Form](#).
- **Club-Level Reporting**
 - Reports may be made to a Member Organization Risk Manager, but such reports must be escalated to IYSA in accordance with this policy.

6.04.02 Mandatory Internal Notification

All Adult Members must notify IYSA within 24 hours of becoming aware of any potential violation involving a Youth Participant, even if external reports have already been made.

6.04.03 Intake and Initial Review

Upon receipt of a report, the IYSA Risk Manager or designee will:

- Confirm receipt within 48 hours
- Determine required reporting pathways (SafeSport, law enforcement, internal review, or combination)
- Confirm whether mandatory external reporting obligations have been met and, if not, initiate required reports immediately.
- Begin formal documentation of the incident

6.04.04 Interim Measures

IYSA may implement immediate protective actions to ensure participant safety and program integrity, including:

- Temporary suspension from IYSA activities
- Restriction from contact with Youth Participants
- Changes of duties or supervision requirements



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- Other protective measures as needed

Interim measures are precautionary and may be implemented immediately without prior notice to protect Youth Participants or program integrity.

6.04.05 Investigation and Coordination

Allegations falling under SafeSport jurisdiction shall be deferred to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, and IYSA will cooperate fully with any such investigations. Matters involving potential criminal conduct shall be handled by the appropriate law enforcement authorities. For concerns that do not fall under SafeSport or criminal jurisdiction, IYSA may conduct internal reviews to address potential policy violations. Nothing in this section limits the authority of law enforcement or SafeSport to conduct independent investigations.

6.04.06 Documentation and Recordkeeping

All reported incidents must be documented in writing and maintained securely. Documentation shall include, at a minimum:

- Date and time of report
- Names of involved parties
- Description of the incident
- Actions taken
- Reporting pathway followed

Records will be maintained in accordance with applicable laws and IYSA retention policies and accessed only by authorized personnel.

6.04.07 Confidentiality

IYSA will make reasonable efforts to maintain confidentiality throughout the reporting and response process, consistent with the need to:

- Protect Youth Participants
- Comply with legal obligations
- Conduct a thorough and fair review

6.05 Failure to report as required by this policy may result in removal from participation and/or additional disciplinary action.

7.0 Retaliation Prohibition



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IYSA strictly prohibits retaliation, intimidation, or harassment against any individual who reports suspected abuse, participates in an investigation, or provides information in good faith. Any Adult Member found engaging in retaliatory behavior is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from participation in IYSA programs.

8.0 Sexual Abuse Awareness and Prevention Training

8.01 IYSA shall provide sexual abuse awareness and prevention training, including SafeSport training, to all Adult Members, as well as to any Youth Participants who turn 18 or are 18 during the seasonal year. Adult Members and eligible Youth Participants are required to complete this training before any interaction with Youth Participants. A refresher course is required on an annual basis, beginning in the calendar year following completion of the initial training.

8.02 Subject to parental consent, IYSA shall also make training available on an annual basis to Youth Participants regarding the prevention and reporting of child abuse, ensuring that participants understand how to recognize and report inappropriate behavior.

9.0 One-on-One Interactions

The majority of child sexual abuse occurs in isolated, one-on-one situations. Limiting such interactions reduces risk, while still allowing safe, healthy one-on-one time with trusted adults. For purposes of this policy, ‘observable and interruptible’ means within sight or hearing of another adult who can intervene if necessary.

9.01 Limiting One-on-One Interactions Between Adult Members and Youth Participants

9.01.01 Adult Members interacting with Youth Participants who are not their legal guardians must follow these guidelines:

- One-on-one interactions are permitted only when another Adult Member can directly observe and interrupt the interaction at all times.
- Isolated one-on-one interactions are prohibited except in emergency circumstances.
- When one-on-one interactions occur at facilities, at least one other adult must monitor the interaction. Monitoring includes knowing the interaction is occurring, the planned duration, and periodically observing the interaction.
- Meetings involving an Adult Member and multiple Youth Participants should include another adult whenever possible and must occur where interactions can be easily observed and are interruptible.
- One-on-one meetings in offices must have the door unlocked and open. If the office has windows, blinds or curtains should remain open.



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- One-on-one interactions conducted virtually (e.g., video calls, online coaching, or private messaging) must also be observable and interruptible, which means by another adult or require parental/guardian supervision.
- One-on-one interactions must never occur in private residential settings.
- Adult Members must obtain written permission from the Youth Participant's legal guardian before any one-on-one meeting.
- Individual training sessions are permitted if they are observable and interruptible by another adult.
- Written permission for individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months.
- Parents or legal guardians must be allowed to observe all one-on-one training sessions.

9.02 Supervision

9.02.01 Generally, no Youth Participant should be left alone at a training session, practice, game, or any other IYSA activity until they are picked up by a parent, legal guardian, older sibling, or other designated adult.

9.02.02 The last adult present—beyond the Adult Member responsible for the activity—must remain on-site until the Youth Participant has been safely picked up.

9.03 Non-Affiliated Adults

9.03.01 Any adult not formally affiliated with IYSA, or its sanctioned programs/events, is prohibited from interacting one-on-one with unrelated Youth Participants in settings outside of IYSA activities. This includes, but is not limited to, interactions in private homes, restaurants, or during individual transportation.

9.03.02 All Adult Members and volunteers must ensure that Youth Participants are only under the supervision of approved IYSA Adult Members or their parent/legal guardian and must never permit non-affiliated adults to have unsupervised access to Youth Participants.

9.04 Establishing Boundaries & Avoiding Gifts

9.04.01 Individuals who groom children may provide special gifts or privileges as a strategy to gain trust or fulfill a perceived need, potentially leading to abuse.

9.04.02 Accordingly, IYSA strongly discourages Adult Members from giving gifts or granting special privileges to individual Youth Participants. Any gift or privilege provided must be equally available to the entire team to ensure fairness and maintain appropriate boundaries.

10.0 Appropriate Physical Contact



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10.01 IYSA adheres to the following principles and guidelines regarding physical contact between Adult Members and Youth Participants. These guidelines and principles also apply to contact between Youth Participants.

10.02 Physical contact with Youth Participants for safety, consolation, and celebration has multiple criteria in common which make it both safe and appropriate. These criteria include:

- The physical contact takes place in public
- There is no potential for, or actual, sexual contact during the physical contact
- The physical contact is for the benefit of the Youth Participant, not to meet an emotional or other need of an Adult Member

10.03 Appropriate physical contact may include:

- Spotting an athlete so that they will not be injured by a fall or piece of equipment (off-field training/weight training)
- Positioning a Youth Participant's body so that they more quickly acquire an athletic skill, gain a better sense of body awareness, or improve balance and coordination
- Making Youth Participants aware that they might be in harm's way due to other athletes or equipment in use

10.04 Celebrations are physical by nature, and IYSA recognizes that participants often express their joy of participation, competition, achievement, and victory through physical acts. We encourage these public expressions of celebration, which may include:

- Greeting gestures such as high-fives, fist bumps, and brief "side hugs"
- Congratulatory gestures such as celebratory hugs, "jump-arounds," and pats on the shoulder for any form of athletic or personal accomplishment

10.05 It may also be appropriate to console an emotionally distressed Youth Participant (e.g., after an injury or loss). Appropriate consolation includes, when done publicly:

- Embracing a crying athlete in a public place or circumstance
- Putting an arm around a Youth Participant while verbally engaging them to help calm them ("side hugs")
- Assisting a fallen Youth Participant off the playing surface and encouraging them to continue participation

10.06 Massage and Other Athletic Training Interactions



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10.06.01 Any massage or other athletic training therapy or modality must be provided by a non-Adult Member who is a licensed athletic trainer or other certified professional. Such activities should never be conducted with only the Youth Participant and one adult in the room.

10.06.02 Where possible, without compromising a Youth Participant's privacy, such activities should be performed in open/public areas (e.g., a training room, but not behind a screen) and, in all cases, must take place in an observable and interruptible location.

10.06.03 Even if a coach is a licensed professional provider, the coach must not perform a massage or athletic training therapy or modality on a Youth Participant under any circumstances.

10.06.04 Icing and taping, though not limited to certified professionals, should—where possible and without compromising a Youth Participant's privacy—be performed in open/public areas (e.g., on the bench or in a locker room with others present).

10.06.05 Icing and taping near intimate areas of the body ("bathing suit areas") is not permitted by a non-licensed medical professional and, in any event, may not be conducted with only the Youth Participant and the adult alone in a room.

11.0 Communication (Electronic and/or In-Person)

11.01 Electronic communications are an essential aspect of communication. The specific rules below may reference certain forms of communication, and the application of these principles may vary depending on the app, platform, or method used. However, regardless of the means, the following principles apply to all forms of communication and shall guide Adult Member behavior when communicating with Youth Participants:

- All electronic communication originating from Adult Members to Youth Participants must be professional in nature.
- Communication or conversation (in-person or electronic) regarding illegal or age-inappropriate topics (including drugs, alcohol use, sexually explicit language or imagery, or discussion of an adult's personal life, social activities, relationships, or family issues) is not permitted.
- All communications must comply with the Prohibited Conduct sections of this policy.
- Adult Members are not permitted to communicate privately with Youth Participants via electronic communications, except under emergency circumstances.
- Absent emergency circumstances, if an Adult Member with authority over a Youth Participant needs to communicate directly with that participant via electronic communication (including social media), another Adult Member or the participant's parent and/or legal guardian must be copied.



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- If a Youth Participant initiates private communication, the Adult Member must respond while copying another Adult Member or the participant's parent and/or legal guardian.
- Communications must be open and transparent. The content of any electronic communication should generally be group-based and readily available to share with the Youth Participant's family, the applicable club, and IYSA.
- When an Adult Member with authority over Youth Participants communicates electronically with an entire team, that Adult Member must copy another adult. This applies to direct messages, group chats, and team communication platforms unless the communication is already fully group-based and accessible to parents.
- Parents and/or legal guardians may request in writing that their Youth Participant not be contacted through any form of electronic communication. IYSA and its member organizations will honor such requests, absent emergency circumstances.
- Adult Members with authority over Youth Participants are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated Youth Participants or accept new personal page requests, unless the account is an official/public ("fan") page or similar.
- Youth Participants may "friend" or follow a member organization's official page.
- Administrators, coaches, staff, and/or volunteers are strictly prohibited from using applications or features that automatically delete, conceal, or obscure communications to communicate with Youth Participants.
- Communication platforms that allow direct messaging must default to group-based communication when used for Youth Participants.
- Electronic communications will generally only be sent between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., unless emergency circumstances exist or during competition travel.

11.02 Imagery

11.02.01 In posting imagery, Adult Members are expected to be sensitive to the status of Youth Participants. Any imagery posted to a team website or social media must be soccer-related, taken in a public setting, and age-appropriate.

11.02.02 Under no circumstances should imagery depict conduct that would violate any provision of this policy. Requests from parents and/or legal guardians to remove imagery in which their child is recognizable and individually featured will be honored to the extent practicable.



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11.03.03 Adult Members must not post imagery in any public forum that includes identifying information or location details of Youth Participants. This includes, but is not limited to, game or practice schedules, addresses, phone numbers, school information, or other personal details.

12.0 Locker Rooms / Changing Areas

12.01 Youth Participants are particularly vulnerable in locker rooms and changing areas due to varying stages of dress and undress, and because they are often less supervised than at other times. The risk of Youth Participant-to-Youth Participant misconduct—including sexual abuse, bullying, harassment, and hazing—increases when Adult Members are not actively monitoring these areas. This is especially true in locker rooms. Adult Members must avoid unnecessary entry into locker rooms and must remain outside the area whenever supervision can be maintained from a reasonable distance.

12.02 The following guidelines are intended to maintain personal privacy and reduce the risk of misconduct:

- The use of cell phones or other mobile devices with recording capabilities (including voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras) is prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, changing areas, or similar spaces.
- Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Adult Member be undressed (partial or full nudity where private body parts are exposed) in front of Youth Participants.
- Adult Members are not permitted to be alone with a Youth Participant in a locker room, restroom, or changing area, except under emergency circumstances.
- Locker rooms, restrooms, and changing areas should be regularly and randomly monitored to ensure compliance with this policy.
- Adult Members must make reasonable efforts to be aware when a Youth Participant enters a locker room or changing area during practice or competition. If the participant does not return in a timely manner, the Adult Member should check on the participant's whereabouts.
- Parents and/or legal guardians are discouraged from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is necessary. When necessary, entry should be limited to a parent or legal guardian of the same gender as the Youth Participants present, when required by facility constraints.
- When using facilities not under IYSA jurisdiction (e.g., shared training or competition venues), Adult Members are still required to adhere to all guidelines outlined in this policy.
- When supervision by Adult Members is required in locker rooms or changing areas, at least one supervising adult must be the same gender as the Youth Participants present.

13.0 Travel and Transportation

13.01 Local Travel



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13.01.01 Local travel includes trips to training, practice, or competitions that occur within the community and do not involve overnight stays. Adult Members who are not the Youth Participant's parent or legal guardian must not travel alone in a vehicle with an unrelated Youth Participant, except in emergency circumstances. Whenever possible, travel should include at least two Youth Participants or another adult to maintain appropriate supervision and reduce risk.

13.01.02 Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to review the U.S. Center for SafeSport Parental Toolkit and the One-on-One Interactions section of this policy before consenting to allow their Youth Participant to travel with an unrelated adult. IYSA recommends that parents/legal guardians coordinate to drop off their Youth Participant last and pick them up first when participating in shared travel or carpool arrangements.

13.01.03 For safety reasons, fifteen-passenger vans are prohibited for any local travel under IYSA programs.

13.02 Team Travel

13.02.01 Team travel refers to trips to competitions or other team activities that are planned and supervised by the organization. Parental or legal guardian consent must be obtained for each Youth Participant prior to any team travel.

13.02.02 Adult Members who are not the Youth Participant's parent or legal guardian must not travel alone in a vehicle with an unrelated Youth Participant, except in emergency circumstances. Whenever possible, travel should include at least two Youth Participants or another adult to ensure proper supervision and safety.

13.02.03 For safety reasons, fifteen-passenger vans are prohibited for any team travel under IYSA programs.

13.03 Driving

13.03.01 Adult Members transporting Youth Participants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Hold a valid driver's license and maintain an acceptable driving record.
- Be at least 21 years of age.
- Ensure that all vehicle occupants wear seatbelts at all times.
- Have successfully completed an approved IYSA criminal background check.
- May not consume alcohol (beer, wine, liquor) during team or local travel.
- Cellular phones should not be used while the vehicle is in motion.
- Cellular phones may only be used in emergency situations when the vehicle is not in motion.

13.03.02 These requirements apply to all Adult Members transporting Youth Participants under IYSA programs, regardless of the number of participants in the vehicle.



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13.04 Overnight Stays

13.04.01 Overnight team travel occurs when a team or club sponsors, coordinates, or arranges for Youth Participants to stay away from home for competitions locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally. Due to the extended distances and duration, Adult Members often accompany Youth Participants to ensure proper supervision.

13.04.02 Adult Members who are not the parent or legal guardian of a Youth Participant must not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with any Youth Participant. Adult Members should not enter a Youth Participant's room alone except in cases necessary for the participant's safety, such as an emergency. All meetings or one-on-one interactions during overnight travel must comply with the policy's One-on-One Interactions section and must never occur in an individual hotel room.

13.04.03 Whenever possible, Youth Participants should be housed in interior, non-first-floor rooms away from exits or ends of hallways. Adult Member rooms may be located in similar areas, if necessary, with doors kept open whenever possible. Hotel front desk personnel should be provided with contact information for Adult Members supervising Youth Participants and may be asked to notify staff if participants leave the hotel or engage in inappropriate behavior. The front desk should be asked to block pay TV channels, including adult content and video games, if possible.

13.04.04 Adult Members are responsible for monitoring Youth Participants whenever they are not practicing, training, competing, or preparing for competition. This includes performing frequent, unscheduled room checks with another adult present. All team meetings, room checks, and other activities should be conducted in observable and interruptible environments with at least two adults present at all times.

13.04.05 Youth Participants should engage in daily communication with their parents or legal guardians who are not traveling with the team. Participants typically share rooms with two to four same-sex Youth Participants, grouped by relative age and gender. Youth Participants aged 18 or older must not share a room with participants under 18.

13.04.06 Special arrangements requested by parents, guardians, or Youth Participants should be accommodated whenever possible, and hotel management should be notified of any unique requirements. All Adult Members must immediately report any concerns regarding physical or sexual abuse, misconduct, or policy violations to IYSA, the appropriate authorities, and the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

13.05 Recommended Travel Supervisory Ratios

Age of Youth Participant	Youth Participant : Supervisory Ratio
Elementary Aged	4 : 1



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Middle / Junior High	6 : 1
High School	8 : 1

13.05.01 Adult Members must remain in locations accessible to Youth Participants during team travel and overnight stays. Youth Participants should never be left unsupervised outside of scheduled team activities, and at least two adults should be present whenever youth are gathered for meetings, training, or recreational time.

14.0 Concussion Management

14.01 IYSA and its affiliates shall follow Idaho Code §33-1625, which establishes requirements for concussion education, removal from play, and medical clearance before return. All Youth Participants and their parents or legal guardians must receive information on concussion signs, symptoms, and risks, and provide written acknowledgment of having received this information.

14.02 Any Youth Participant suspected of sustaining a concussion must be immediately removed from play or practice. The participant may not return until a qualified healthcare professional provides written clearance confirming the athlete is symptom-free and able to safely resume activity. All procedures shall align with current CDC concussion guidelines to protect the health and safety of Youth Participants.

14.03 As an organizational requirement, all IYSA Adult Members, including coaches, trainers, and other personnel who interact with Youth Participants, must complete the CDC HEADS UP Concussion in Sports training. This ensures that Adult Members understand concussion prevention, recognition, and management, to reinforce a safe environment for all Youth Participants. All Adult Members must provide proof of completion of the CDC HEADS UP Concussion in Sports training prior to interacting with Youth Participants.

14.04 Failure to comply with concussion management requirements may result in removal from participation and/or disciplinary action in accordance with IYSA policies.

15.0 Background Screening / Criminal History Checks

IYSA is committed to safeguarding the well-being of all participants, including minors and vulnerable individuals. To uphold this commitment, all Adult Members in positions of authority or with regular contact with Youth Participants are required to undergo criminal background screening.

15.01 Applicability and Scope

This policy applies to all individuals who are formally authorized, approved, appointed, or otherwise credentialed by IYSA to hold a position of authority over Youth Participants or have regular contact with them. This includes, but is not limited to, coaches, assistant coaches, personal care assistants, contractors, employees,



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and individuals interacting regularly with athletes at IYSA-affiliated sites. IYSA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to designate any individual as subject to this policy.

15.02 Timing of Background Checks

Criminal background checks are completed prior to an individual assuming any new role or participating in an IYSA event or program. After the initial check, background screenings are conducted annually for as long as the individual qualifies as a Subject. IYSA-affiliated sites and third-party vendors or contractors must comply with these requirements and provide proof of completed background checks when requested.

15.03 Components of Background Checks

Background screenings conducted by IYSA include multiple comprehensive checks to ensure thorough vetting. These include:

- Social Security Number validation and address history verification
- Multi-jurisdictional criminal database searches covering all U.S. states and territories, including Washington DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico.
- County and state criminal record checks for all areas of residence over the past seven years
- Sex offender registry searches nationwide
- National watch list reviews
- U.S. Center for SafeSport disciplinary record checks
- Comprehensive international records checks for individuals who lived abroad for six consecutive months in the past seven years
- Professional license and certification verification for certain medical roles

15.04 Eligibility Determinations

15.04.01 IYSA evaluates the results of all background screenings to determine an individual's eligibility to participate in its programs. These determinations are made with the primary goal of protecting Youth Participants while ensuring fairness and consistency in the review process. In evaluating background check results, IYSA may consider factors such as the nature and severity of the offense, the date of the occurrence, patterns of behavior, and the relevance of the conduct to the individual's role.

15.04.02 An individual may be disqualified from participation if the background screening reveals any of the following:

- Any felony involving controlled substances within the past ten (10) years



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- Any offense involving actual or threatened violence against another person within the past ten (10) years
- Any offense involving a minor, regardless of when it occurred
- Any substantiated SafeSport violation or disciplinary action
- Any criminal offense of a sexual nature, including but not limited to rape, child molestation, sexual battery, lewd conduct, possession or distribution of child pornography, prostitution, or any offense requiring registration as a sex offender
- Any other criminal offense or pattern of behavior that, in the sole discretion of IYSA, presents a risk to Youth Participants or undermines the integrity of IYSA programs

15.04.03 All eligibility determinations are made within discretion of IYSA, consistent with applicable laws, SafeSport requirements, and organizational policies.

15.05 Background Check Process

15.05.01 Once a criminal background check is completed, IYSA reviews the findings in accordance with its policies and procedures. Individuals are designated as either “cleared” or “flagged”:

- A cleared designation indicates that no disqualifying offenses were found, and the individual is approved to volunteer, be employed, or participate in IYSA events or programs.
- A flagged designation indicates that the background check revealed disqualifying information. Appeals shall be submitted in writing and reviewed by the Judicial Ethics Committee (JEC) and/or the Appeals Committee. Individuals will be provided written notice of any preliminary determination impacting their eligibility, along with a defined period of time to respond, dispute inaccuracies, or submit an appeal. A final written decision will be issued following committee review.

15.05.02 These procedures ensure a consistent, fair, and thorough approach to safeguarding Youth Participants while maintaining compliance with applicable federal, state, and organizational standards. IYSA reserves the right to take additional action as necessary to protect participants and uphold the integrity of its programs.

15.05.03 All risk management records, including background screening results and related documentation, shall be treated as confidential and maintained in accordance with applicable privacy laws. Access to such information shall be limited to authorized individuals, and misuse or unauthorized disclosure may result in disciplinary action.

15.05.04 Unauthorized disclosure of background check results or eligibility determinations is strictly prohibited.

16.0 Amendments

This policy may be amended by a majority vote of the IYSA Board of Directors with or without notice. The policy shall also automatically be considered amended to remain in compliance with updates to the Protecting



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Youth Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017, the most current SafeSport Code, MAAPP, or other applicable federal, state, or organizational mandates regarding youth athlete safety.