

USA Softball Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy

In an effort to further protect our members, USA Softball has implemented a Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAP), which is part of a congressional mandate that limits one-on-one interactions between minor athletes and adults who are not their parent/legal guardian. Topics such as one-on-one meetings/training, social media, electronic communications (such as text messages and email), and travel are just a few of the areas that this policy addresses. These policies, which were developed by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, further assist in the protection of minor athletes and coaches and are included in the SafeSport training.

To emphasize these points USA Softball of Montana lists some of the areas below.

Adult members who have regular contact with or authority over amateur athletes who are minors should adhere to the following policies:

- Meetings between Applicable Adults and minor athletes while involved in aspects of the softball program 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, 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, 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 health care professional and/or health care provider.
- Individual training sessions between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted 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. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.
- It is recommended that out-of-program one-on-one contacts by Applicable Adults with unrelated minor athletes be prohibited 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. Nonetheless, such arrangements are strongly discouraged.