

## Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017

Amends two federal statutes: (1) the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 and (2) the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

### (1) Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990

- Duty to Report. Extends the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to certain adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes at an event sanctioned by an NGB.
- Criminal Penalties. An individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child sexual abuse is subject to criminal penalties.
- Civil Remedies. Amends the federal civil remedy provisions and extends the civil statute of limitation to 10 years from the date the victim discovers the violation or injury (currently, 10 years from the date the cause of action arose). The bill also extends the statute of limitations for a minor victim of a federal sex offense to file a civil action to 10 years (currently, 3 years) from the date such individual reaches age 18.

### (2) Amateur Sports Act of 1978

- Expands USOC Purpose. Expands the purpose of the USOC to include: *“to promote a safe environment in sports that is free from abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete.”*
- Center Designation. Designates the US Center for SafeSport (the “Center”) to serve as the independent national safe sport organization and to exercise jurisdiction over the USOC and NGB, and to exercise such jurisdiction with regard to safeguarding athletes from abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse, in sports.
- Education and Outreach. The Center shall maintain an office for *education and outreach* to develop training, oversight practices, policies, and procedures to prevent abuse. Compliance with the policies and procedures developed by the Center are incorporated as duties of NGBs and are therefore a requirement of NGB status.
- Response and Resolution. The Center shall maintain an office for *response and resolution* that shall establish mechanisms that allow for the reporting, investigation, and resolution of alleged sexual abuse.
- Policies. The policies and procedures developed by the Center must include the following:
  - *Mandatory Reporting...* requires that (a) all adult members of an NGB body or a facility under the jurisdiction of an NGB or at any event sanctioned by an NGB, and (b) all adults authorized by such members to interact with an amateur athlete, immediately report an allegation of child abuse of an amateur athlete who is a minor to: (i) the Center, and (ii) to law enforcement.
  - *One-on-One Interactions...* include reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility under the jurisdiction of an NGB without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult, except under emergency circumstances.
  - *Prohibit Retaliation...* include procedures to prohibit retaliation, by any NGB against any individual who makes a report.
  - *Oversight Procedures...* Include oversight procedures, including (a) regular and random audits of each NGB to ensure that policies and procedures are followed correctly and (b) that consistent training is offered and given to (i) all adult members who are in regular contact with minor athletes, and (ii) subject to parental consent, to minors, regarding prevention of child abuse.
  - *Mechanism for Reporting...* A mechanism for NGBs to share reports of suspected child abuse.
  - *Summary Suspensions...* NGBs may prohibit an adult who is subject to an allegation of child abuse to interact with minor athletes until resolution of the allegation.