



## CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

### How to Recognize, Reduce and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse

#### What you need to know to protect athletes

Youth sport programs in the United States are incredibly successful at enriching the lives of athletes and their communities. However, high levels of participation and engagement also increase the risk of child sexual abuse. The same activities and relationships that help athletes develop and progress are also the ones that can allow offenders to have direct contact with their targets. Since the stakes are so high, every member of the sport community must make addressing child sexual abuse a top priority.

#### Definition

Child sexual abuse involves any sexual activity with a child where consent is not or cannot be given. This includes sexual contact with a child accomplished by deception, manipulation, force or threat of force, regardless of the age of the participants. It also includes all sexual interactions between an adult and a child, regardless of whether there is deception or the child understands the sexual nature of the activity.

#### Peer-to-Peer Child Sexual Abuse

Approximately one-third of all child sexual abuse occurs at the hands of other children. Sexual contact between minors can also be abusive. Whether or not a sexual interaction between children constitutes child sexual abuse turns on the existence of an aggressor, the age difference between the children, and/or whether there is an imbalance of power and/or intellectual capabilities.

#### Examples of Child Sexual Abuse

- Sexual penetration
- Sexual touching
- Non-contact sexual acts (e.g., verbal acts, sexually suggestive electronic or written communications, exposure or voyeurism)

#### Reporting Child Sexual Abuse

It's critical for clubs, coaches, staff members, volunteers and parents to report suspicions or allegations of child sexual abuse, including actions between children that may constitute sexual abuse, to the proper officials and appropriate law enforcement authorities.

By working together, we can create safe conditions for sport and protect athletes.

