

Senate Bill 534:

PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017

U.S. SENATE BILL 534

In General. --The United States Center for Safe Sport shall—

(1) Serve as the independent national safe sport organization and be recognized worldwide as the independent national safe sport organization for the United States; (2) exercise jurisdiction over the corporation, each national governing body, and each Paralympic sports organization with regard to safeguarding amateur athletes against abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, in sports; (3) develop training, oversight practices, policies, and procedures to prevent the abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of amateur athletes participating in amateur athletic activities through national governing bodies and Paralympic sports organizations; (4) maintain an office for response and resolution that shall establish mechanisms that allow for the reporting, investigation, and resolution, pursuant to subsection (c), of alleged sexual abuse in violation of the Center's policies and procedures; and (5) ensure that the mechanisms under paragraph (4) provide fair notice and an opportunity to be heard and protect the privacy and safety of complainants.

Summary of Impacts for Youth Leagues, Coaches and Administrators (this is just a quick overview as this information just became relevant)

Area One: Mandatory Reporting

- 1) Report any observed act or suspicion of abuse within 24 hours.
(Potentially serious legal consequences for failure to report)**
- 2) Offenses can be physical, mental/emotional or sexual. They include hazing, harassment and bullying.**
- 3) Offenses can be committed in person or via media sources.**
- 3) Listen to and take seriously any observed or reported offense.**
- 4) There must be tools available for “anonymous reporting”.**
- 5) MANDATORY Background checks. We are reviewing vendors. We will have our own direct link on the website.**

Area Two: Abuse Awareness Training

5) Education/Training is required of directors, coaches & staff. Essentially, anyone who has “regular and routine access to athletes”, will be required to have this training. We are reviewing vendors. A link will be available on the website.

6) One on one, Coach-Player contact in closed/confined areas should be eliminated. Protect everyone.

8) Local, overnight and travel procedures must be established for coaches as well as athletes.

9) Must enforce zero tolerance policy

Area Three: Compliance Plan

10) National and state organizations, leagues, as well as any program or individual team within those entities or independent must spell out a plan for compliance.