



USA GYMNASTICS.

# We Care – USA Gymnastics prioritizes athlete welfare

*The Safe Sport Timeline below highlights USA Gymnastics' key actions and policy developments designed to promote a safe environment for our gymnastics community.*

1990

### Permanently Ineligible Membership List Established

Termination of professional membership results in being placed on the publicly available Permanently Ineligible for Membership list. This lifetime ban restricts these individuals from being involved or associated with USA Gymnastics sanctioned events.

[www.usagym.org/ineligible](http://www.usagym.org/ineligible)

1994

### Board of Directors adopts Code of Ethics

General principles guide conduct in situations with ethical implications.

1996

### Member Club Program Launched

Baseline membership for clubs.

1998

### Safety/Risk Management Course Mandated

Required for professional members (coaches, officials); course must be taken every four years.



### Athlete Wellness Program Introduced

Educational program designed to promote the welfare of the sport's participants; also launched the National Sports Science and Healthcare Referral Network.

2005

### Safe Sport training offered at Regional and National Congresses

Sexual misconduct awareness sessions are offered annually at National and Regional Congresses.

2007

### Criminal Background Screening Required

Mandated for professional members every two years. NCSI, the agency used by USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic Committee, screens for criminal background, sex offender registry and identity verification.



### Bylaws Amended

Expedited process to remove membership for individuals convicted of certain categories of crimes (sexual, against minors) is passed.

2009

### Participant Welfare Policy Created

The Policy outlines the scope of USA Gymnastics' commitment to promoting a safe environment, as well as the requirements and expectations of its members, including definitions of physical and sexual abuse; reporting procedures for suspected abuse; misconduct/grievance procedures; member obligations and recommendations; standards of behavior; and education and communication about the policy. [www.usagym.org/welfare](http://www.usagym.org/welfare)

### Code of Ethics Updated

Additions address sexual misconduct and consequences of associating with individuals on the Permanently Ineligible List.

2011

### Member Club

#### Requirements Established

Member Clubs must have a policy consistent with USA Gymnastics' Participant Welfare Policy; certify that no persons permanently ineligible for USA Gymnastics membership are or will be associated with the organization or its activities in any way; and employ at least one staff member who holds a current professional membership.



### Event Sanctioning Policy Expanded

USA Gymnastics expands its sanction policy so that only a Member Club of USA Gymnastics can host a sanctioned event.

2012

### Athlete Registration Streamlined

Only Member Clubs may apply for USA Gymnastics membership for an athlete and/or register a team of athletes into sanctioned events.

### Safe Sport Partners Identified

Educational partners provide content for educational initiatives that range from building awareness to empowering action. They include the U.S. Olympic Committee, Child Lures Prevention, Darkness to Light and Stop It Now!

### Clubs Care/We Care

#### Campaigns Launched

Educational initiatives target clubs and parents to raise awareness about child sexual abuse.

[www.usagym.org/ClubsCare](http://www.usagym.org/ClubsCare)

[www.usagymclub.com](http://www.usagymclub.com)



2013

### Safety/Risk Management Course Updated

Course and Handbook include an expanded chapter on sexual misconduct prevention.

### Child Sexual Misconduct Education Offered

Made available within USA Gymnastics University, "Stewards of Children" is a child sexual abuse prevention training created by Darkness to Light.

### Medical Task Force Established

Comprised of leading gymnastics-knowledgeable medical professionals, the task force will review best practices related to athlete medical care and resources.

2014

### Prohibited Conduct Defined

Introduced policy on prohibited conduct to national team coaches/staff and USA Gymnastics staff.

### Athlete Participation Policies Strengthened

Athlete members must be affiliated with a USA Gymnastics member club to participate in USA Gymnastics sanctioned events.