

TOGETHER WE CAN!





USA Gymnastics Webinar
Safe Sport Series

“How To Talk About Child Sexual

Abuse Prevention”

with Toby Stark



1 in 10 children are sexually abused by their 18th birthday.

90% of those children are abused by someone they know, love and trust.

We don't have the luxury of avoiding this conversation.



Depending on whether you are a club owner or coach...

1. Your staff & volunteers
2. Your colleagues
3. Your gym parents
4. Your gymnasts



Child sexual abuse prevention is no different than other safety precautions you regularly talk about.



Staff & Volunteers

You already talk about expectations and requirements for job responsibilities and behavior.

Now add... “appropriate behavior with gymnasts.”



Prohibited Behaviors

Code of Conduct

**Athlete Protection Policy –
Member Requirement**



USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy

www.usagym.org/safesport



What to Say...

“Zero Tolerance”

“Consequences for breaking policy”

“Benefits of training requirements”

Act Accordingly. Act Consistently.



Colleagues

Talk about it!

If you see something that doesn't seem right...say something.

Silence is a perpetrator's best weapon.



Gym Parents

They need to know their child's safety is your highest priority.

Child sexual abuse prevention is no different than other safety precautions you regularly talk about.



If you are a club owner...Brag!

Your policies

Strictly and consistently enforced

Staff training

In Parent Meetings

On Registration Forms

Website [link to www.usagym.org/safesport]

Gym Signage



If you are a coach...Brag!

The gym's athlete protection policies

Your understanding and implementation of policies



Give parents a copy of the athlete protection policies.

Knowledge and empowerment help protect our gymnasts.



Gymnasts

In an age-appropriate way...

How people are/are not allowed to treat them and how they are/are not allowed to treat others.

Child sexual abuse prevention is no different than other safety precautions you regularly talk about.



8 years old and younger...

1. All the ways you keep them safe at the gym
2. Examples of no one-on-one

9 years old and older...

1. The gym's athlete protection policy
2. Briefly outline the prohibited behaviors

Suggest people they can talk to if they don't feel safe.
Encourage them to *always* talk to their parents if they don't
feel safe.



Please...

Start these conversations...

Continue and strengthen these conversations...

Help and support each other...



Thank you for your commitment to an
empowered and safe environment for gymnasts!

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