

USA SOFTBALL™

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING SAFESPORT AND THE USA SOFTBALL COMPLAINT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.

What types of conduct might subject to a USA Softball Member to discipline and ineligibility?

- Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Physical violence, such as an attack on an umpire, tournament official or participant immediately preceding, during or immediately following a game or arising out of USA Softball Activities.
- Commission of fraud, such as playing under an assumed name, falsifying an affidavit or roster or giving false information to tournament officials.
- Participating when they do not meet the eligibility requirements of USA Softball.
- Knowingly competing with or against individuals or teams which are suspended from USA Softball play.
- Commission of any act while participating in USA Softball activities such as: failure to pay indebtedness, destruction of property, violation of state or local laws or any other acts that are contrary to the objectives and purposes of USA Softball or arising out of USA Softball Activities.
- Violation of USA Softball substance abuse policies and procedures.
- Forfeiting a game in championship play.
- Bullying, hazing, harassment, emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and sexual misconduct (including child sexual abuse and sexual harassment) as defined by the USOC SafeSport program at www.safesport.org.
- Interference with any USA Softball Hearing Process as cited in this Constitution.
- Other misconduct that reasonably calls into question the participants suitability to participate in the applicable activity.

(as of Nov 2017)

What is the Center for SafeSport?

The Center for SafeSport is an initiative started by the United States Olympic Committee whose mission is to make athlete well-being the centerpiece of sports participation. SafeSport requires that athletes participate in sports free from bullying, hazing, sexual misconduct or any form of physical or emotional abuse. The Center is headquartered in Denver, Colorado and administers complaints and imposes discipline on behalf of each National Governing Body of the United States Olympic Committee.

Who specifically is subject to the Jurisdiction of the Center for SafeSport?

Only those members of USA Softball that are designated as “Covered Individuals” are subject to the jurisdiction of the Center for SafeSport. All other members remain subject to the disciplinary procedures of USA Softball.

USA Softball’s designated ‘Covered Individuals’ for SafeSport purposes, are, as follows:

1. National Office Staff
2. National Teams, including:
 - a. Staff
 - b. Coaches
 - c. Players
 - d. Athletic Trainers
 - e. Medical Personnel
 - f. Umpires appointed by the NGB to national championship events or international events
3. Local Association Softball Officials, including:
 - a. Board of Directors
 - b. Commissioners appointed by USA Softball
 - c. JO Commissioners appointed by the USA Softball Commissioners
 - d. Player Representatives appointed by USA Softball Commissioners
 - e. Umpires-In-Chief appointed by USA Softball Commissioners
 - f. National Championship Tournament Directors appointed by USA Softball or USA Softball Commissioners
4. A.C.E. Program Coaches of the USA Softball’s Local Association Members

Form and Manner of SafeSport Sexual Misconduct Disciplinary Complaints. For Disciplinary Complaints involving sexual misconduct against any ‘Covered Individual’, Complaints shall be made directly to SafeSport pursuant to the SafeSport rules and procedures at www.safesport.org. To the extent a Disciplinary Complaint alleges any form of sexual misconduct, it will be administered by the Center for SafeSport of Denver, Colorado (www.safesport.org) and, in lieu of reporting to USA Softball, should be reported directly to the Center for SafeSport by calling (720) 524-5640 (M-F 8am-5pm MT) or online at www.safesport.org. The Center For SafeSport administers its investigations, complaints and discipline pursuant to its own procedures and SafeSport Code, which can be found at www.safesport.org.

Is Reporting Mandatory? Yes, Adult Covered Individuals are REQUIRED to report suspected sexual misconduct to the Center for SafeSport. A failure to timely report may subject the person to discipline by the Center for SafeSport.

What procedures govern Complaints and Discipline not administered by the Center for SafeSport ? All non-SafeSport disciplinary complaints will be administered by the USA Softball Local Association Commissioner for the area in which the offending conduct occurred, in accordance with the procedures and rules outlined in Article 305 of the USA Softball Code at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/about/about-us> and for National Team Athletes, in accordance with the procedures and rules outlined in Article 105 of the Board of Directors Policy for International play at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/about/national-team>, all complaints and appeal requests will be submitted to the USA Softball Executive Director. The five-day reporting requirement does not apply to SafeSport.



Where do I report a concern of misconduct?

Type of conduct	Enforcement authority	Who to report to*
Sexual misconduct	U.S. Center for SafeSport— Response & Resolution Office (exclusive authority)	U.S. Center for SafeSport— Response & Resolution Office
Other misconduct— emotional and physical misconduct	USA Softball	USA Softball Local Association Commissioner for the area in which the offending conduct occurred.
Other misconduct— proactive policies (e.g., travel policies)	USA Softball	USA Softball Local Association Commissioner for the area in which the offending conduct occurred.

**If conduct could also constitute child abuse and neglect, it should be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities. If you believe you are the victim of crime, you also always have the option of reporting to law enforcement.*

For more information please access <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/resources/safesport> on the USA Softball website.