



Frequently Asked Questions

Athlete Safety Program

What is the Athlete Safety Program?

The United States Bowling Congress' Athlete Safety Program combines the U.S. Center for SafeSport Policies and USBC's Registered Volunteer Program into one comprehensive program. This program is designed to create awareness about emotional, physical and sexual abuse through education and safety policies.

Who is required to follow the policies of the Athlete Safety Program?

USBC members age 18 and older who compete in a league with members age 17 or younger are considered Adult Participants and must adhere to the entire handbook with the exception of the Criminal Background Screen Policy. Registered Volunteers are required to follow all policies.

Why does the Athlete Safety Program require all individuals to be USBC members?

USBC must have jurisdiction over those who are either Adult Participants or Registered Volunteers and having membership allows that. Having jurisdiction gives USBC and the U.S. Center for SafeSport the ability to investigate any conduct in violation of these policies.

How will I know it when it's time to complete a requirement to remain in the program?

Each individual will receive an email from USBC prior to expiration of a requirement informing them a requirement is due and to log into their Athlete Safety Portal to complete the process.

How do I log into my Athlete Safety Portal?

Your Athlete Safety Portal can be found by using your community login on BOWL.com. After logging in, click MY USBC and select Athlete Safety.

Adult Participants

Who is considered an Adult Participant?

Any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

- A member of USBC;
- An employee or board member of USBC, a local or state association;
- Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USBC, a local or state association,
- Authorized, approved, or appointed by USBC, a local or state association, to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.
- Individuals in a Registered Volunteer role.

For a complete list of positions within the above roles, please see the Terminology section on page 2.

What is required of an Adult Participant?

Prior to competing in a league with Minor Athletes, Adult Participants must current with USBC's Education and Training Policy which requires *SafeSport Trained* Core Course and subsequent Refresher Courses every year after Adult Participants must also adhere to USBC's Safety Policies, Reporting Policy, Code of Conduct and the SafeSport Code.

What is required of the adults who compete in an adult/youth league?

Any individual age 18 and older is considered an Adult Participant and must adhere to USBC's Education and Training Policy which requires *SafeSport Trained* Core Course and subsequent Refresher Courses every year after.



U.S. Center for SafeSport Training

How do I register for the training?

A link to the training is on BOWL.com in your Athlete Safety Portal. You can access the portal by using your community login. After logging in, click MY USBC and select Athlete Safety.

Why do we need to take the SafeSport Training?

In February 2018, the United States passed a law authorizing the U. S. Center for SafeSport to create awareness about emotional, physical and sexual abuse through education and safety policies.. The law also requires USBC, as the National Governing Body for the sport of bowling, to offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse to adult members who are in regular contact with minors. This training from the center allows USBC to comply with the law.

To view the law, click [here](#).

Can the SafeSport training be conducted in a group setting?

No. Training is only available through the SafeSport website. This online training is the only training program recognized by the U.S. Center for SafeSport for compliance with the requirement.

How do we verify if an individual has completed SafeSport training?

A SafeSport icon has been added to each member's profile in the Find-a-Member feature. Anyone who has completed the training will show a SafeSport icon.

How often do I have to complete SafeSport Training?

After the initial *SafeSport Trained Core Course*, a refresher course will need to be completed within one year from your completion date.

Is this training required if an 18-year-old only bowls in tournaments with Minor Athletes?

No. The training is required for those who have regular contact with Minor Athletes. Since tournaments are not a competition with regular matches, adults are not under the same requirements in tournaments as they are in leagues. USBC does recommend anyone 18 years of age and older who competes with Minor Athletes to take SafeSport Training on a yearly basis. However, Adult Participants must follow the policies under Section 3 of this manual anytime they are competing with Minor Athletes

If members turn 18 during the bowling season and competes in a USBC Youth certified league, do they need to take *SafeSport Trained Core Course* ?

Yes. Once a member turns 18, they are considered an Adult Participant and must complete the training prior to the next scheduled league session. Anyone under age 18 can take the training with parental consent, or once they turn 18 without consent.

Why do I need a USBC National ID number to register for the SafeSport Training?

U.S. Center for SafeSport transmits your national ID number back to USBC so the training can be attached to your bowler profile. This way, USBC is able to determine when a member completes the required training.



Registered Volunteers

Who must enroll to become a Registered Volunteer?

Anyone age 18 or older who holds a position of authority or supervision over USBC Youth programs, has an opportunity to establish a position of trust, and/or has an opportunity to build a one-on-one relationship through USBC Youth programs with USBC Youth bowlers must become a USBC Registered Volunteer.

Specific roles or positions within the USBC governance that require one to be a Registered Volunteer include:

- USBC headquarters employees
- USBC national board and youth committee members
- USBC Team USA and Junior Team USA members
- State and local youth committee members and directors
- State and local association board members
- State and local association managers
- USBC Youth league officers
- USBC Youth tournament managers
- USBC trained coaches
- SMART Providers

What is required of the league officers in an adult/youth league?

Any officer of the league must be a Registered Volunteer, which requires the U.S. Center for SafeSport training and a background screen through NCSI.

We don't have any youth bowlers in our association. Do we need to do this?

Yes. Although the program was created with youth in mind, the concepts involved also are appropriate when dealing with adults and senior citizens in our associations. Keeping our members safe from abuse and inappropriate behavior of any kind is always a positive thing for our sport.

Do coaches who do not coach youth have to be a Registered Volunteer?

Yes. USBC takes pride in our coaching program and the individuals who have decided to earn the accreditation. USBC believes this additional training will not only make the coaches more marketable, but it will also give USBC more individuals in bowling centers who are trained to recognize and report abuse to help keep our youth safe.

I submitted the information for my background screen several months ago and haven't heard anything. What can I do?

Usually, the screening process only takes a few days to complete. If you haven't heard anything, please check your email as NCSI may have tried to contact you for more information in order for them to complete the screening.



NCSI Background Screen

How do I register?

A link to the background screen is on BOWL.com in your Athlete Safety Portal. You can access the portal by using your community login. After logging in, click MY USBC and select Athlete Safety.

A Registered Volunteer must be a member of USBC and up to date with their SafeSport training. If your status is green under those logos, you can click on the button below the NCSI logo which will take you to the NCSI website where you can begin your background screen.

Note, if you just completed your SafeSport training you will need to wait 24 hours for the NCSI button to appear.

What is the cost for the background screen?

The cost is \$30 (a \$1.25 processing fee may apply) regardless of where one lives. The entire fee is paid directly to the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI), who will continue to perform the background screenings.

Who is responsible for the payment?

Each individual who enrolls and/or renews will be responsible for the payment, by credit card. If the center or association has determined to pay for a screening(s), it will be up to them to reimburse the individual.

Why do I need a USBC National ID number to register for the background screening through NCSI?

NCSI transmits your national ID number back to USBC so the background screen can be attached to your bowler profile. This way, USBC is able to determine when a member passes the requirement.

How do we verify the NCIS background screen has been completed?

Every member who has completed SafeSport training and a background screen can be found on USBC's Find-a-Volunteer function on BOWL.com. In addition, each Registered Volunteer does have an RVP icon in their profile on the Find-a-Member function.

Who will be notified of an applicant's red light?

NCSI will send a formal letter to the individual and notify USBC Headquarters. USBC then will follow up with the individual informing them of their ineligibility and right to appeal the designation.

How will the association know who is given a green light and a red light?

Individuals will know who has a green light determination in two ways. First, they are wearing an RVP badge; second, by searching "Find a Volunteer" on BOWL.com.

Any individual who does not show on the "Find a Volunteer" feature of BOWL.com is not permitted to work with USBC Youth members either because they have not gone through the process or has received a red light determination.

Can we still access Find-a-Volunteer to determine who is a Green Light?

Yes, that will be the easiest way to find a Registered Volunteer.

How often will the Find A Registered Volunteer database be updated?

Daily. USBC receives the information once a day from both SafeSport and NCSI. The database is then updated each time we receive the information.



I have had a background screening for my job. Why do I need another one?

The screening that is done for the RVP program is dedicated to the protection of children. Screenings you may have had done for your job or other organizations may not screen for the same items as is done for RVP. Also, it is important that all individuals applying for RVP certification be treated the same way and the same background screening criteria must be used for everyone.

Association Board Requirement

We have board members that have not completed the RVP process. Are they still eligible to serve on our Board?

No. To be eligible to serve on a USBC board, you must complete both the SafeSport training and go through the background screen conducted by NCSI for USBC.

We have board members that do not wish to participate. What do we do?

You should ask them to resign. If they do not want to resign, your board should proceed using the board removal procedures found in the USBC Association Policy Manual, Chapter Sixteen, Section E.

When do new board members have to be Registered Volunteers before they can serve on the board?

Newly elected or appointed board members have 45 days from the date they take office or before contact with a USBC Youth member, whichever occurs first, to become a Registered Volunteer.

RVP ID cards

Will USBC still supply RVP lanyards/ID cards?

Yes, for those who complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport training and a background screen through NCSI for USBC.

I use a nickname or my middle name. Can I have that on my badge instead of my full name?

RVP badges are printed using the information that comes to us from NCSI, which is your full, given name found on your government issued IDs and documents. Nicknames are not allowed.

Reporting

Who do I contact to report abuse?

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (USCSS) has exclusive jurisdiction to handle ALL reports of sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Make a report to USCSS if you have a reasonable suspicion of sexual misconduct such as child sex abuse, non-consensual sexual conduct, sexual harassment or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power. Reports to the USCSS can be done online at uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/

Contact your local law enforcement authorities if you have a reasonable suspicion that child sexual abuse or neglect has occurred. All reports of child abuse or sexual assault of a minor must also be reported to local law enforcement authorities. Reports of abuse not involving a minor may also be reported to local law enforcement authorities.

Other forms of misconduct such as emotional or physical misconduct, bullying, hazing or harassment can be reported to USCSS or USBC. You can report forms of misconduct to USBC at BOWL.com/RVP.

USBC ATHLETE SAFETY & RVP HANDBOOK

GET BEHIND
SCREENING.
EDUCATION.
PREVENTION.
REPORTING.



How do I report a violation of a policy within USBC's Athlete Safety Program or USCSS MAAPP's?

A violation of any policy within USBC's Athlete Safety Program (MAAPP's) can be reported in the same manner as any report of abuse. Any violation which involves sexual conduct must be reported to USCSS and can be done online at uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/. Other violations can be reported to the Center or USBC at BOWL.com/RVP.