

USASA ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY AGAINST ABUSE

The following guidelines and procedures are established for our staff, volunteers and participants. All members of USASA are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines. Coaches, players, managers, club team officials, and volunteers that are registered through USASA are expected to adhere to this policy.

1. Abuse of any kind is not permitted within our organization. USASA does not tolerate physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse or misconduct from our players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, or spectators.
2. Physical and sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, biting, indecent or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical contact, any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, are strictly prohibited within our organization.
3. Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is also prohibited. These include, but not limited to, making abusive statements in regard to a person's race, gender, religion, nationality/ethnicity, sex or age.
4. All coaches, officials, and volunteers are appointed through the registration process as protection advocates of this policy. Every member is responsible for reporting any cases of questionable conduct or alleged mistreatment toward participants by any coach, official, volunteer, player, parent, sibling, or spectator.
5. USASA recommends that every activity sponsored by its member organizations put a BUDDY SYSTEM in place. Each youth participant should be assigned a buddy during sponsored activities. No child should go anywhere to the bathroom, locker rooms, or other location, without his or her buddy.
6. To further protect youth participants, as well as the coaches, volunteers, and officials, we strongly recommend that no adult person allow himself/herself to be alone with a child during sponsored activities.
7. Do not drive alone with a child participant (other than your own children) in the car.
8. Do not take a child alone to the locker room, bathrooms or any other private room.
9. If you must have a private conversation with a youth participant, do it within view of others, in the gym or on the field, instead of in a private setting.
10. When traveling overnight with youth participants, children should be paired up with other children of same gender and similar age group, with chaperones in separate but nearby rooms.
11. Children should be empowered to trust their feelings and let them know that their concerns and fears are important by listening to them. Open communications between children and parents, or between children and other adults in the organization may help early warning signs of abuse to surface.
12. The USASA Board of Directors and the risk management committee will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. This information will be communicated to the

authorities for investigation and be reviewed by the organizations directors. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly.

13. Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily or may be suspended by the board until the matter is resolved. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt in the alleged abuse, the continued presence of the person could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to the participants. A person who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated within the organization. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his/her former position.