June 19, 2019

Regional Commissioners
USA Volleyball

Dear Regional Commissioners:

As you are aware, the U.S. Center for SafeSport ("Center") has released the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies ("MAAPP"), with a required implementation date of June 23, 2019. This is a requirement that has been imposed on us (and all NGB’s by the Center) and one that we must adhere to. Please allow this communication to clarify and address the largest areas of concern we have received from some of you in regards to it’s implementation.

1. Timing for Implementation. We understand that the timing between the release of information and the timing of implementation is not ideal. While MAAPP has been in development for some time, the Center continually pushed back the implementation date several times. In many new policy instances, the Center has announced implementation dates that have not materialized. In fact, this MAAPP policy had an original implementation date of January 2019 (which was then pushed). USA Volleyball felt it was critical to wait until the information had been finalized and was actually moving forward before releasing it to you so as not to provide any misinformation.

2. Application of the MAAPP policy to the Regions. Many of you have noticed language used by the Center in their model policies regarding the strong recommendation versus required application to the Regions. The Center’s language is broad as it needs to be applicable to 50 NGB’s who all have different structures. USAV specifically asked of the Center (and in fact told them that our interpretation was that in our case it should be a strong recommendation) however the Center replied that for USAV, the Regions must abide by the MAAPP policy as well.

3. Education and Training Policy versus Required Prevention Policies. There appears to be some confusion around the application of these two policies which are both included in the Center’s MAAPP document.

   a) **Part I of MAAPP is the Education and Training Policy** which specifically applies to all adults, i.e., anyone age 18 or older. This means that upon the date of a member turning 18, they must comply with this policy and take the Core Center for SafeSport Training. In order to make this easier for our membership, USAV received permission from the Center to allow 17 year-olds to take the Core training (with parental consent) so as not to force them to take it directly on their 18th birthday. This language is included in the USAV MAAPP policy.

   b) **Part II of MAAPP are the Required Prevention Policies (one-on-one interactions, massages, locker rooms, social media, travel, etc.)** and their application. This policy applies to adults with an exception granted to 18-year-olds playing on the same team as minors (although they must comply if they are...
Our correspondence to the players was sent to ensure that we were in compliance with Part I of the MAAPP policy (which does not include the exceptions).

Again, we understand that implementing MAAPP is challenging for all of us. However, as you all know, one of USA Volleyball’s top priorities is safety for all participants. We have made a commitment to safety of our membership and to adhere to the mandates of the Center. USAV strives to create a safe sport environment for all to enjoy.

If you have any further questions as we work through implementation of MAAPP, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,

Jamie