

# USA Gymnastics SAFE SPORT POLICY

## SAFETY CHAMPION



### Commonly Asked Questions:

1. Does the Safety Champion have to submit any paperwork to USA Gymnastics?
  - A. USA Gymnastics will not require any paperwork or reporting from the Safety Champion.
2. How do I become a Safety Champion?
  - A. Talk to your club owner and ask them to list you as the Safety Champion on their club membership with USA Gymnastics.
3. Will the Safety Champion be asked to take reports or conduct Safe Sport investigations?
  - A. At no time will the Safety Champion be asked to conduct an investigation or become involved in a Safe Sport matter unless they are considered a witness. It is not advisable to take reports or change the reporting procedures of the club. All reports should continue to go directly to the club, USA Gymnastics, or the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
4. What will USA Gymnastics do to help me with my duties as Safety Champion?
  - A. USA Gymnastics will create signage, trainings, and offer suggestions on how to create a culture of safety within the club. You can expect the following:
    - Templates for signs to place around the club
    - Ideas for fun safety activities
    - Trainings related to Safe Sport, safety, or topics related to wellness
    - Quarterly newsletters

The Safety Champion program is a new initiative by USA Gymnastics to help bring the message of safety and wellness to member clubs in a more personal and unique way. There is no such thing as being “too safe,” and a safety champion cultivates a culture of safety with the staff, parents, and athletes of their member club. What is a Safety Champion?

A Safety Champion is a person who champions a safe, club atmosphere and serves as a liaison between USA Gymnastics and the club on matters related to safety that include:

- Upcoming educational initiatives
- Policy clarification
- Delivering messages of safety and wellness to club staff, parents, and athletes

### Why does my club need a Safety Champion?

A Safety Champion is a person who works with the club’s management to set a good example, and to encourage and inspire staff, parents, and athletes to make positive changes that help create and maintain a safe club atmosphere. The activities of a Safety Champion can have a very positive effect on the safety culture in the club. They can be the link between management and club staff and a key component of successful safety programs.

The perks that come with having a dependable Safety Champion for your club include:

- A positive and organic culture of safety
- Encouraging your employees to independently improve their personal safety practices
- Improved communication between the management, staff, parents and athletes about safe practices.
- A more proactive staff, with a far more nuanced level of safety awareness.
- A reduced number of accidents
- Employees who are pushing for positive changes and higher safety standards

### What are the requirements to become a Safety Champion?

A Safety Champion must be a member of the club, preferably a staff member who is not the club owner, who is passionate about club safety and takes an active role in providing a club culture of safety. The Safety Champion must take U110: SafeSport Core and participate in a virtual Safety Champion training annually.

Safety Champions may:

- Speak to club staff, parents, or athletes about safety, Safe Sport, or health and wellness initiatives
- Talk to other staff or parents about club policy
- Talk to athletes about safety, sportsmanship, and anti-bullying initiatives
- Invite guest speakers to talk with staff and parents

