



YMCA OF DELAWARE

SWIM TEAM – ATHLETE PROTECTION COMMITMENT

Keeping children and teens safe has always been the YMCA’s top priority.

Thank you for your continued Swim Team support and involvement with the YMCA of Delaware. This document is to inform you of federal law requirements for volunteers as it relates to the **Federal Safe Sport Act**.

The Safe Sport Act was created in reaction to the abuse found within various youth sports organizations, including USA Gymnastics. This act will ensure a new standard of care that will affect youth serving organizations across the country. The purpose of the law is to expand existing mandated reporting laws to all youth sport organizations that participate in international or interstate sporting events, which includes all YMCA of Delaware Swim Team Programs.

As part of **The Safe Sport Act**, youth sports organizations are:

- Required to establish reasonable procedures which limit one-on-one interactions between an adult and an amateur athlete who is a minor – without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult.
- Required to provide consistent training to staff and volunteers to cover prevention and reporting of sexual abuse for all adults in contact with athletes.
- Required to establish policies that protect those making reports from retaliation.

As part of **The Safe Sport Act**, adults (staff or volunteer) involved with youth sports organizations are:

- Deemed as mandated reporters regarding child abuse
- Required to report any incidents or suspected incidents of child abuse within 24-hours to the appropriate local authorities.
- Required to report any incidents or suspected incidents of child abuse within 24-hours to the US Center for Safe Sport if their swim team is under a National Governing Body (NGB).

All YMCA of Delaware Swim Teams are under the NGB of USA Swimming

As a community-based organization committed to protecting all children, the YMCA of Delaware encourages all Swim Team families to complete **annual training** around child abuse prevention and your responsibilities as a mandated reporter of suspected child abuse. In partnership with Praesidium Inc, the YMCA of Delaware will provide these trainings at no-cost for all swim team families & volunteers. These trainings will educate you in actual prevention techniques such as understanding “grooming” practices as well as how to identify those who have been abused.

Volunteer Opportunities & Compliance Requirements

	Volunteer Application	Background Check	References	Training: Athlete Protection – Swim Edition	Training Mandated Reporter
Committee Member	X			X	X
USA Swim Official	X	X	X		
YMCA Swim Official	X	X	X	X	X
Volunteer Coach	X	X	X	X	X
Locker Room Monitor (Swim Meets)				X	X
Timers & All Other Volunteer Roles around Athletes					X

USA Swimming Officials complete most trainings through USA Swimming ; All other trainings, including background checks and references are completed by & paid for by the YMCA of Delaware.

When can I begin my online trainings?

Within 48-hours after the YMCA of Delaware receives your volunteer application, you should receive an e-mail from “armatusadmin@praesidiuminc.com ([Click Here for Sample](#))”. This specific e-mail will provide you instructions and access to the online training platform known as Armatus. Once logged in, you will see two online child protection trainings available and once completed, the YMCA of Delaware will receive an alert that your training is complete. There will not be a requirement to print your completion certificate and provide to your Swim Team Leadership.

If you would like to be an advocate for child safety and learn more about ways to keep kids safe and mandatory reporting responsibility, let us know. These trainings are free and anyone is welcome to be signed up to take the courses. If you are interested to take the training, please e-mail Deric Clinton at dclinton@ymcade.org.

What if I've taken similar child protection trainings elsewhere?

Many youth serving organizations around the country do offer or are beginning to require similar trainings. If you are or were affiliated with a youth serving organization and have already completed Duty to Report-Mandated Reporter training, you will find below a link to submit equivalent training (*must have completed the training on or after August 1, 2020*). Your certificate will be reviewed to ensure the training agency which provided you the training satisfies our requirements. If approved, you will not be required to complete "Duty to Report – Mandated Reporter" Training offered by the Y, however you will be required to complete the provided Athlete Protection – Swim Edition training if you are volunteering in a capacity where additional training is required. All trainings must be renewed on a yearly basis.

Submit Equivalent Training: [Click Here](#)

What policies and resources are available from the YMCA of Delaware?

YMCA of Delaware Resources & Guidelines
Child Protection Guide, Click Here
Child Safe Procedures, Click Here
Child Protection Policies & Procedures, Click Here
Volunteer & Employee Code of Conduct, Click Here
Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (USA Swimming), Click Here

What if I suspect a child has or is being abused?

Guidelines for Responding to Incidents or Allegations of Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you witness abuse, interrupt the behavior immediately.• If abuse is disclosed to you, assure the individual disclosing that he or she was correct to tell you.• Protect the alleged victim from intimidation, retribution, or further abuse.• Immediately report the allegation or incident to the proper YMCA of Delaware authorities, State of Delaware 24 Hour Division of Family Services Child Abuse & Neglect Report Line at 1-800-292-9582 and the U.S. Center for Safe Sport at 720-531-0340.• Be sure to document the incident, disclosure, or any circumstances causing your suspicion of abuse. State only the facts.• It is not your job to investigate the incident, but it IS your job to report the incident to your Swim Team Leadership and/or Branch Executive in a timely manner.• Check back to make sure appropriate steps were taken. If not, report again to your Branch Executive or YMCA of Delaware Association Office.

Report Child Abuse **Local Authorities (Delaware)**
800-292-9582
Delaware Website: [Click Here](#)

Report Child Abuse **U.S. Center Safe Sport**
720-531-0340
U.S. Center Safe Sport Website: [Click Here](#)

Should you have any questions, or would like additional information, please feel free to contact one of us.

Sincerely,

Deric Clinton

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