



TO: Member League/Club Presidents, Registrars and Administrators
FROM: Paul R. Emhoff, President
CC: Board of Directors and Staff
DATE: August 30, 2019
RE: Ohio North Athlete and Participant Safety Program

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Paul R. Emhoff

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U.S. Soccer required its Organization Members, including Ohio North, to adopt an Athlete and Participant Safety Program by February 14, 2019 and effect compliance on or before September 1, 2019. Our adoption of an Athlete and Participant Safety Program meets our compliance obligations set forth by Public Law 115-126, *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017* (the "[SafeSport Act](#)") as well as U.S. Soccer's Policy 212-3.

Our Program was developed to implement policies and processes to help participants detect and report abuse, respond to it and prevent future occurrences. In order to maintain compliance with U.S. Soccer's Policy 212-3, [Ohio North's Athlete and Participant Safety Program](#) includes six (6) key components:

- Prohibited Conduct Policy
- Appropriate Background Screening
- Training and Education
- Mandatory Reporting
- Policy to Limit One-on-One Interactions
- Enforcement

The [Ohio North Athlete and Participant Safety Program](#) sets the standards for all direct and indirect member organizations as part of risk management requirements for Ohio North's Player Safety Program. This Program is available on the Ohio North website and will be kept current as required.

The following steps should help our member organization leadership with the implementation of this Program.

Steps for Implementation

- ✓ Read, review and gain an understanding of the program and policies.
- ✓ Update member organization's website to include in the risk management or player safety section an easy to locate description of the program and policies and link directly to Ohio North's Player Safety website section.
- ✓ Communicate to all organization adult members and parents how to locate and the importance of the [Ohio North Athlete and Participant Safety Program](#).
- ✓ Support U.S. Soccer and Ohio North on the implementation, management, oversight and compliance with this Program.



**STATE
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We understand these new requirements will necessitate additional steps for all involved. To make complying with these new requirements as easy as possible, [Ohio North partnered with SportsEngine](#)

and implemented a comprehensive background screening and integrated all state and federal law for player safety compliance into one digital platform on July 1, 2019.

The only way to ensure compliance is for all members to follow the same requirements for the safety and well-being of all athletes and participants.

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Fickett at jfickett@ohionorthsoccer.org