



Responsible official: President

Type of policy: Governance

Applicable to: Race Directors, coaches, volunteers, and anyone working with youth

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SAFE SPORT ACT COMPLIANCE POLICY

1. REASON AND PURPOSE FOR THIS POLICY

In 2017, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) delegated to the United States Center for SafeSport (“SafeSport Center”) authority to respond to reports of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse and misconduct within the United States Olympic and Paralympic Movements. The federal law, entitled the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” (“Safe Sport Act”), codifies that the SafeSport Center has exclusive authority over National Governing Bodies of Sport (“NGBS”) to investigate and take action in response to allegations of such abuse.

The purpose of this Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy is to serve as a guide for FLRC compliance with the Safe Sport Act. While the Safe Sport Act speaks to the actions of the SafeSport Center, USOC, and NGBS, it also outlines how other sports-related organizations (such as FLRC) and adults working in youth sports have certain requirements to be in compliance with the Safe Sport Act. Additionally, the Road Runners Club of America (“RRCA”), of which FLRC is a member, strongly encourages its member organizations to be in compliance with the Safe Sport Act, and USATF, of which FLRC is also a member, has various requirements surrounding the Safe Sport Act.

2. DEFINITIONS

FLRC Youth Program Coordinator: A member of the club appointed by the president whose role is to oversee the club’s range of youth running events and

activities, to initiate new and facilitate ongoing youth activities, and generally advise and assist the board, race directors, and general club membership in support of youth programming, including raising awareness of the particular needs and requirements of youth athletes, such as are described in this Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy. To ensure appropriate supervision of behavior and to afford protection to volunteers, there shall be at least two FLRC Youth Program Coordinators appointed at all times having fully equal co-responsibilities for the role.

Local Law Enforcement: This term shall include but not be limited to the following law enforcement agencies:

- Ithaca City Police Department
- Tompkins County Sheriff's Office

Mandatory Reporter: An adult who staffs or volunteers to organize, assist with, or manage any element of a program or event in which youth participate.

RRCA: Road Runners Club of America, of which FLRC is a member. The RRCA provides Abuse Awareness Training free to its members.

Sexual Grooming: A method used by offenders that involves building trust with a child and the adults around a child in an effort to gain access to and time alone with the child. In extreme cases, offenders may use threats or physical force to sexually assault or abuse a child. However, sexual grooming more commonly involves subtle approaches designed to build relationships with families. The offender may assume a caring role, befriend the child, or even exploit the offender's position of trust and authority to groom the child and/or the child's family. These individuals intentionally build relationships with the adults around a child or seek out a child who is less supervised by adults in the child's life. This increases the likelihood that the offender's time with the child is welcomed and encouraged. Aspects of sexual grooming may include:

- targeting the victim;
- securing access to and isolating the victim;
- gaining the victim's trust; and
- controlling and concealing the relationship.

Sexual Misconduct: This term includes, but is not limited to, child sex abuse, non-consensual sexual conduct, sexual harassment, or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power.

U.S. Center for Safe Sport: An independent nonprofit committed to building a sport community where participants can work and learn together free of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse and misconduct.

USATF: USA Track & Field, the governing body for the sport of track and field. FLRC is a club member of USATF.

Youth Athlete: A child or minor under the age of 18 who participates in a race, youth running program, or any other event hosted or operated by FLRC.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

The FLRC Youth Program Coordinator(s) must have taken the RRCA's Abuse Awareness Training Program or provide proof of US SafeSport Training certification. The Youth Program Coordinator(s) is responsible for ensuring all club members are aware of the requirements of this policy and may assign other club members, in writing, responsibility for interacting with youth athletes while organizing, managing, or assisting youth athletes at any club program or event.

Race directors and volunteers managing or supervising all or any part of an FLRC race or event are required to be cognizant of the requirements of this policy. Race directors are strongly encouraged to take the RRCA's Abuse Awareness Training Program.

Any adult who staffs or volunteers to organize, assist with, or manage any element of a program or event where youth athletes participate is required to report suspicions of abuse to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

4. PROCEDURES

A. Mandatory abuse reporting

Any adult interacting with youth athletes participating in running programs or any events hosted or operated by FLRC has a duty to report a reasonable suspicion of sexual misconduct, such as child sex abuse, non-consensual sexual conduct, sexual harassment, or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power directly to local law enforcement, an FLRC race director or board member, **and** the U.S. Center for SafeSport within a 24-hour period. Every adult who staffs or volunteers to organize, assist with, or manage any element of a program or event where youth participate is a mandatory reporter and subject to this policy.

Reports should be directed to:

For all races and events, regardless of location

- The [U.S. Center for SafeSport online](#) or by phone at 833-587-7233
- The FLRC race director or any member of the FLRC Board of Directors, preferably the president at president@fingerlakesrunners.org

For races and events within Tompkins County, NY

- Ithaca City Police Department (if in the City of Ithaca) at 607-272-3245
- Tompkins County Sheriff's Office (if outside the City) at 607-272-2444

For races and events outside Tompkins County, NY

- The law enforcement agency appropriate to the race/event locale

B. Abuse awareness training

Any FLRC member or volunteer who is given responsibility, in writing, to organize, assist with, or manage any element of a program or event where youth participate must complete the RRCA's Abuse Awareness Training Program or provide proof of US SafeSport Training certification. Specifically, this includes the FLRC Youth Program Coordinator(s) (YPC) and any other individual to whom the YPC authorizes, in writing, the responsibility to organize, assist with, or manage any element of a program or event where youth participate.

FLRC race directors and other volunteers are encouraged but not required to complete the RRCA's Abuse Awareness Training Program.

C. Right to bar registered sex offenders from participation in programs, leadership, or events

FLRC bars anyone on the Sex Offender Registry from serving in the club as a board member or volunteer. Anyone found to be on the Sex Offender Registry will immediately have their relationship terminated with FLRC.

D. Prohibition against one-on-one contact with youth athletes

No FLRC adult members or volunteers are permitted to be alone and otherwise unsupervised with a child who is not their own child during an FLRC program or other event involving youth. For example, if a child asks an adult FLRC member or volunteer for assistance using the bathroom during a club program or event, the adult should first ask the child's parent to provide assistance. If the parent is not available the adult should ask another adult to "buddy up" while assisting the child so that neither adult is alone with the child at any time.

5. RELATED INFORMATION

[Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017](#)

[RRCA Abuse Awareness Training](#)

[US Center for SafeSport](#)

[US Center for SafeSport Do's and Don'ts for Reporting Abuse](#)

[US Center for SafeSport Code](#)

[USATF Safe Sport Resources](#)

[Safe Sport at USATF FAQs](#)