

MAAPP for the Ventura Canoe & Kayak Club

The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) are a set of guidelines and training requirements established by the [U.S. Center for SafeSport](#) to protect minors participating in sports within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement. MAAPP policies aim to minimize the risk of abuse by limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and minors, requiring training for all relevant individuals, and outlining procedures for various sport-related settings.

The American Canoe Association, our sport's National Governing Body, provides a means for reporting MAAPP violations which may also be done anonymously. See the [Reporting Misconduct page](#) for more information.

Core Principles

1. *Prevention* - MAAPP focuses on proactive measures to prevent abuse, rather than solely responding to incidents after they occur.
2. *Limiting One-on-One Interactions* - A central component is restricting one-on-one interactions between adults and minors in situations where they are not observable and interruptible by another adult.
3. *Training and Education* - MAAPP mandates training for adults involved in youth sports to educate them on recognizing, reporting, and preventing abuse.
4. *Accountability* - Organizations within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement are required to implement and enforce MAAPP policies. MAAPP provides resources and training materials for athletes, parents, coaches, and other adults involved in youth sports.
5. *Application* - Any adult who interacts with minor athletes in a sport-related context is subject to MAAPP policies. In essence, MAAPP policies aim to create a safer environment for young athletes by promoting awareness, establishing clear boundaries, and ensuring accountability within the sports community.

Our MAAPP Policies

Electronic Communications

- All club members should only communicate via our Team Reach app (or its replacement) as it prevents the sharing of personal contact information and direct messaging.

- Adults should never request, or be given, a minor's phone number or email address. Minors may exchange numbers and emails with one another, however.
- Also, adult members may freely text other adult members, but ideally all communication is done within Team Reach to simplify communication and keep all things transparent. Confidential discussions should be done in person with coaches.

Transportation

- Whenever possible, adults should not travel alone with a minor who is not their own child. If such logistics cannot be managed, parents must complete the club's "[Transportation of a Minor by Adult Member](#)" consent form prior to the adult transporting the minor. This form's consent may be revoked at any time and must be renewed annually.
- Any transportation done for the club must be done with insured vehicles and licensed drivers.

Lodging

- Adults should not share a room while traveling with minors unless they are a parent or legal guardian of one of the minors.
- Minors may share a room together with each minor's parents or legal guardians giving approval.
- Adult chaperons and coaches should monitor and be in rooms near any minor's room.

Meetings and Individual Training Sessions

- All training must be open to any minor in the club – one-on-one training may occur if the training was open to all club members and the training session is done in a public place.
- All training sessions must be observable and interruptible.

Manual Therapy and Therapeutic/Recovery Modalities

- Adults should not provide massage or other manual recovery modalities to minors.
- In the course of coaching, a coach may touch a minor athlete with their permission but should do so in public and interruptible moments. For example, a coach may choose to hold an athlete's shoulders to demonstrate rotation, or adjusting hand placement with the paddle. However, as a general rule, all adults should not be touching athletes.

SafeSport Certification and Additional Resources

- All adults - coaches and volunteers - must be SafeSport certified and renew their certifications annually.
- All minors are encouraged to review the appropriate SafeSport training for youth, too.
- See the ACA's [Resources and SafeSport](#) page for more information and links to SafeSport training.