

Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA)

Empowering Alaskans through Water Safety, Education, and Competitive Spirit

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Athlete Protection Training (APT) Policy

Effective Date: October 22, 2025

Approved By: AFA Board of Directors

Last Reviewed: October 22, 2025

1. Purpose

The Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA) is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all members.

This policy ensures that all athletes, coaches, staff, and volunteers meet the **Athlete Protection Training (APT)** requirements established by **USA Swimming** and the **U.S. Center for SafeSport**.

APT training helps every member understand how to identify, prevent, and respond to misconduct or abuse.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all AFA members, including:

- **Coaches and Staff** (paid or volunteer)
- **Adult Athletes** (age 18 or older)
- **Non-Athlete Members** (officials, chaperones, meet personnel)
- **Board Members** and designated volunteers
- **Minor Athletes (12–17)** completing age-appropriate Safe Sport courses

Completion of APT is required for participation in all AFA, USA Swimming, and Alaska Swimming activities.

3. Training Requirements

A. Coaches and Staff

- Must complete the **U.S. Center for SafeSport Core Training** and all required annual refreshers.

- Must maintain current certification for continued USA Swimming membership and deck privileges.

B. Adult Athletes (18 and older)

- Must complete the **U.S. Center for SafeSport Athlete Training** through their USA Swimming account.
- Training must be completed **before their 18th birthday** or immediately upon joining if already 18+.
- Adult athletes who fail to complete or renew APT are **ineligible to participate** in meets or practices until completion.

C. Board Members and Key Volunteers

- Must complete the **U.S. Center for SafeSport Core Training** within 30 days of appointment.
- Required to renew annually thereafter.

D. Minor Athletes (12–17)

- Encouraged (not required) to complete **Safe Sport for Athletes** through USA Swimming.
- AFA promotes education sessions to teach younger athletes about safety, respect, and boundaries in sport.

4. Verification of Compliance

- AFA verifies APT completion through the **USA Swimming Member Dashboard** and club membership reports.
- The **AFA Safe Sport Coordinator** maintains a compliance log and notifies the Head Coach of any lapses.
- Members are responsible for ensuring their certifications remain active and up to date.

Failure to maintain current APT status results in suspension of participation until training is completed.

5. Reporting Violations

Any suspected misconduct, abuse, or violation of Safe Sport principles must be reported immediately to:

- **AFA Safe Sport Coordinator** — safesport@aquaticfoundationalaska.org
- **USA Swimming Safe Sport** — usaswimming.org/safesport
- **U.S. Center for SafeSport** — uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern

Reports are confidential and may be made anonymously when appropriate.

6. Accountability

Failure to comply with APT requirements may result in:

- Temporary suspension from participation
- Removal from the roster or coaching deck
- Disciplinary action per the **AFA Disciplinary Policy**

Coaches and staff are expected to model compliance and encourage ongoing education across the team.

7. Education and Renewal

- All required members must renew APT annually.
- The **AFA Safe Sport Coordinator** will send seasonal reminders and assist members with access or troubleshooting.
- AFA may hold Safe Sport awareness meetings for parents and athletes throughout the year.

Education is prevention — and prevention protects every swimmer.

8. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the **Safe Sport Coordinator, Head Coach, and AFA Board of Directors** to ensure alignment with USA Swimming and SafeSport updates.



Footer

Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA) — *Promoting safety, excellence, and inclusion through the power of water.*

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