

IMPORTANT SAFESPORT INITIATIVES U.S. SKI AND SNOWBOARD

Below is information copied from US SKI AND SNOWBOARD emails. This information is very IMPORTANT for our VARA membership to understand as it effects VARA clubs, coaches and volunteers, all who help make racing in Vermont possible. There are some significant changes that need to be understood so that clubs and their staff, volunteers and coaches are not caught off guard at the last minute. These new required SafeSport steps are fully supported by VARA as our members and competitors are of the utmost importance. We will do whatever we can to assist clubs and members through the new process and everyone should feel welcome to contact either US Ski and Snowboard, Julie at VARA or a VARA Board Member. I will keep VARA members informed of any changes, updates and of new procedures, if any, that become available. Please understand this is a new law coming from congress to help keep our athletes safe. VARA has always been a leader in the east and throughout the country. Let's continue that tradition and be the best at making sure we are compliant and maintain our high standard of keeping our kids safe!

Julie Woodworth
VARA Executive Director

Important information below:

By now you should have received an update on the changes occurring in youth-serving organizations across the country, designed to safeguard our nation's youth and athletes of all ages. These changes are in part due to the U.S. Congressional law called 'Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017'.

As a reminder here are two key points on this legislation.

- **Failure to report** suspected child sexual abuse to police is a violation of federal criminal law
- **Federal law now requires** adults who have frequent contact with, or are in positions of authority over athletes, must receive consistent education on prevention and reporting of all allegations of sexual misconduct, bullying, hazing and abuse of all forms

Q: Who is impacted by this legislation?

A: **All U.S. Ski & Snowboard member clubs, coaches, officials and club volunteer members**

Q: What changes are taking place that may impact your membership?

A: Below is a list of changes that have been implemented for the 2018-19 membership season and beyond.

SafeSport Training

SafeSport Training will now be required every two years with a refresher in between. If you've completed SafeSport training within the past season through another organization, you may submit your certificate to member services by email to membership@ussa.org.

You may complete your SafeSport training prior to renewing your membership using the instructions below:

1. Go to www.safesport.org and create an account and affiliate with U.S. Ski & Snowboard using the access code **NBUD-E6QB-WGT3-BW7Z**.
2. Choose the learning dashboard under your name on the left to begin the course.
3. Complete each module of the course. The modules include emotional and physical misconduct, sexual misconduct awareness education and mandatory reporting. All three modules must be completed to earn your certificate.

Members are reporting that the course takes approximately 60-90 minutes to complete. However, you may complete as much of the course at one time as you'd like and log back in to pick up where you left off. Once you renew your U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership, member services will be able to see that you've completed the training.

Background Screening

Criminal background screening will now be required every two years. The new minimum age requirement for all U.S. Ski & Snowboard coaches, official and club volunteer members is now 18 years of age. This requirement has been established because only those 18 or over may be legally background screened.

Membership Cards

As a reminder, membership cards for those with certifications will be mailed beginning mid-December to include updates from the fall and early winter clinics.

Membership cards for coaches, officials and club volunteer members without certifications will be mailed when all of the above requirements have been met. Please allow approximately 2-3 weeks for your card to arrive.

Fast Start Coaching Course

Fast Start Coaching Course is now a requirement for Level 100 certification.

We urge all coaches, officials and club volunteer members to register early to allow time for completion of these important requirements.

More information from US Ski and Snowboard!

- **Launch of online registration for 2018-19** – Registration for individual members is open at www.us skiandsnowboard.org.
- **Announcing the return of the alpine non-scored student membership** - See below for a description.
 - **U.S. Ski & Snowboard Non-Scored Student:** The membership is designed for students 14-24, prior to Dec. 31 and is primarily for interscholastic and intercollegiate racing only. The Non-Scored Student membership provides access to all levels of U.S. Ski & Snowboard scored and non-scored competitions at the local, divisional, regional and national level. However, as the name implies **it does not include access to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard points list.** *Alpine Non-Scored Students age 18-22 may race in Alpine Masters races (excluding championships).*
- **Coach, official and club volunteer members**

- We always encourage our coaches, officials and club volunteer members to register early. However, with the change in background screening frequency and the addition of the SafeSport training requirement it's more important than ever to get the message out to these members and clubs. While Member Services will be sending communication to this effort, we appreciate any additional efforts you can make to get the word out.
- Underage Coach, Official and Club Volunteer Members? As discussed last week, this is an open issue at present. For now, only those 18 & over are eligible for these membership categories. We're researching how other NGB's manage this area while maintaining SafeSport compliance and best practices.
 - VARA has a new combined membership option for young coaches who still want to compete.
- **Club membership**
 - The mandate on Club Minimum Standards makes it equally important for our club partners to register early. We're in the process of preparing club renewals with a goal of getting those out in the next 1-2 weeks via email.

- **SafeSport Training for Parents**

Parent resources are here! Below, please find the links to access the [free online parent training](#) and the [parent toolkit](#). All resources are available on our [website](#). Please go ahead and share this information with your members. Tonight, the parent course will also be added to the online training portal your members have access to. It will not go live there until this evening, as to not cause an interruption in service for those taking the core Center for SafeSport course.

Resources for Parents

[Free online parent training](#)

[Complete Parent Toolkit](#)

- [Parents of Preschool Children](#)
- [Parents of School-Age Children](#)
- [Parents of Middle School Youth](#)
- [Parents of High School Aged Adolescents](#)

Thank you all for your assistance as we move into the 2018-19 season!

Regards,

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