

## **Richmond Road Runners Club**

### **SAFE SPORT ACT COMPLIANCE POLICY**

Board Approved: April 10, 2019

The purpose of this Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy is to serve as a guide to compliance with the federal law entitled the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” (“Safe Sport Act”), which was enacted by Congress and became federal law on February 14, 2018. In 2017, the United States Olympic Committee delegated to the United States Center for SafeSport (“SafeSport Center”) authority to respond to reports of sexual misconduct within the United States Olympic and Paralympic Movements. The Safe Sport Act codifies that the SafeSport Center has exclusive authority over National Governing Bodies of Sport to investigate and take action in response to allegations of sexual abuse.

Richmond Road Runners Club is committed to compliance with the Safe Sport Act. To that end, RRRC hereby adopts the following Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy:

**Mandatory Abuse Reporting.** Any adult interacting with youth athletes who becomes aware of an alleged incident of sexual misconduct is required to report to local law enforcement authorities, within a 24-hour period following the adult’s first becoming aware of such incident, a reasonable suspicion of sexual misconduct. Every adult who staffs or volunteers to organize, assist with, or manage any element of a RRRC race, program or other event in which youth athletes participate is a mandatory reporter and subject to this policy.

For purposes of this Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. Youth Athlete. The term “youth athlete” shall mean a child or minor under the age of 18 who participates in a race, youth running programs, or any other event hosted or operated by RRRC.
- B. Sexual Misconduct. The term “sexual misconduct” shall include, but not be limited to, child sex abuse, non-consensual sexual conduct, sexual harassment or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power.
- C. Local Law Enforcement Authorities. The term “local law enforcement authorities” shall include, but not be limited to the following law enforcement agencies:
  - 1. Richmond City Police: (804) 646-5100
  - 2. Henrico County Police: (804) 501-5000
  - 3. Chesterfield County Police: (804) 748-1251
  - 4. Hanover County Sheriff: (804) 365-6110
  - 5. Emergency or if in doubt about the jurisdiction: 911

- D. **Sexual Grooming.** The term “sexual grooming” shall mean 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 and 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 her/his life. This increases the likelihood that the offender’s time with the child is welcomed and encouraged.

Aspects of sexual grooming may include:

1. targeting the victim;
2. securing access to and isolating the victim;
3. gaining the victim’s trust; and
4. controlling and concealing the relationship.

**Mandatory Safe Sport Training.** All adults working with youth athletes, including members of the RRRC’s Board of Directors who have oversight responsibility over any RRRC race, program, or other event involving youth athletes, shall be required to receive sexual abuse prevention training that the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) and RRRC have determined to satisfy the legal requirements of mandatory Safe Sport training. Such training shall be proactive rather than reactive and must include educational material about the process of sexual grooming.

Both RRCA and the SafeSport Center offer online Safe Sport training certification courses designed to meet the Safe Sport Act training requirement, including education about the process of sexual grooming. The RRCA training is at <https://www.brainshark.com/rcca/abuse-awareness-training>. Anyone wanting to complete the RRCA training may log onto the training’s guest book and launch the training module. Turn off pop-up blockers for BrainShark before launching the training, or a completion certificate will not be generated.

**Youth Volunteer Registration.** As part of RRRC’s volunteer registration for RRRC races, programs and other events in which youth athletes will be participating, RRRC shall include a copy of its Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy as an attachment. All adult volunteers and staff members who register for any such race, program, or other event must attest to having read the policy and must agree to abide by the policy.

**Criminal Background Checks.** All adult volunteers and staff members who are reasonably expected to have significant contact with youth athletes in a RRRC race, program, or other event that predominantly involves the participation of youth athletes should consent to and complete a criminal background check before they are permitted to have contact with youth athletes in connection with such race, program, or other event.

**Right to Bar Registered Sex Offenders from Participation in RRRC Race, Program, Leadership, or Event.** All event waivers for RRRC races, programs, or other events shall include a provision stating that RRRC reserves the right to bar from participation any runner/walker, volunteer, or other person who is involved in any way with such race, program, leadership, or other event if it is reported to and confirmed by RRRC that the runner/walker, volunteer, or other person is listed as a sex offender on a sex offender registry.

**Prohibition against One-on-One Contact with Youth Athletes.** No adult staff member or volunteer is permitted to be alone and otherwise unsupervised with a child who is not their own child during a RRRC race, program or other event involving youth athletes.

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