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USBC RVP **HANDBOOK**



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Overview

The United States Bowling Congress' Registered Volunteer Program was created in 2006 to protect the youths who participate in USBC Youth programs. Providing a safe environment for youth bowlers is USBC's highest priority.

The USBC Registered Volunteer Program accomplishes two very important goals: It requires all volunteers who have regular contact with USBC youth bowlers to have gone through a mandatory criminal background screening designed to remove and/or discourage those who might harm our kids.

The program has now been expanded to include a training component so those who work closely with youth members can recognize if an athlete is being abused, learn how to prevent abuse and how to respond if abuse has happened.

Child abuse, sexual misconduct and domestic violence are insidious crimes committed by people who often look and act "normal." The only practical way to make youth bowling safer is to identify those who refuse to abide by acceptable standards of behavior and conduct, remove them from contact with our young people, and establish barriers to prevent other predators from gaining access to children who bowl.

Everyone deserves to participate in sports free from bullying, hazing, sexual misconduct or any form of emotional or physical abuse. USBC's Registered Volunteer Program is designed to ensure all who work with youth members are dedicated to that objective.

This RVP Handbook, which will govern the program, has been developed in compliance with the U.S. Center for SafeSport Policies and Procedures and the National Council of Youth Sports recommendations.

What is Required to become a Registered Volunteer?

The USBC Registered Volunteer Program requires individuals to comply with the following requirements:

1. Prior to participating in a USBC Youth activity:
 - a. Complete the U. S. Center for SafeSport training
 - b. Pass a background screen through the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI)
 - c. Be a USBC member in good standing
2. Report any child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the U. S. Center for SafeSport and USBC.
3. Adhere to the USBC Registered Volunteer Prevention Policies
4. Adhere to the USBC Registered Volunteer Code of Conduct



Terminology

Minor, child or minor athlete: An amateur athlete under 18 years of age.

A facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC: Any facility where a USBC activity is being held.

USBC: When used in this document, it refers to the management of the league, tournament or association having jurisdiction over the competition, practice, training or event. This is either the league officers, tournament management, local or state board of directors or USBC National Headquarters.

Registered Volunteer: Anyone 18 years of age or older who has regular contact or authority over minor athletes and those individuals within USBC governance structure.

Registered Volunteer Role:

Specific roles or positions within USBC require compliance. Those roles are:

- USBC Headquarters employees
- USBC National Board and Youth Committee members
- USBC Team USA and Junior Team USA Members
- State and Local Youth Committee members and directors
- State and Local Association Board members
- State and Local Association Managers
- USBC league officers in leagues with members 17 or under
- USBC Youth tournament managers
- USBC Certified Coaches



USBC Registered Volunteer Policies

The USBC has adopted policies, created by the U. S. Center for SafeSport, designed to protect minor athletes from abuse, including emotional, physical, or sexual abuse. Adherence to these policies by USBC members is a crucial step in ending abuse.

Part I – Education and Training Policy

A. Adult Members

Registered Volunteers and USBC members 18 years of age and older must complete the U. S. Center for SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training:

- Before regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor begins; or
- Within the first 45 days of initial membership, or upon beginning a new role subjecting the adult to this policy.

Starting with the membership year (August 1-July 31) after completion of the Core Center for SafeSport Training, each Registered Volunteer must complete an annual refresher course.

The "SafeSport Trained" course is required course before one can become a Registered Volunteer. The course will help you recognize if an athlete is being abused. Most importantly, you will learn how to prevent this from happening or how to respond if the abuse already has happened. This training ensures you are a part of our daily effort to make athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation's sport programs.

The SafeSport Trained course covers the following topics in-depth:

- Mandatory Reporting
- Sexual Misconduct Awareness Education
- Emotional and Physical Misconduct

To start your training, visit BOWL.com/RVP.

B. Minor Athletes

Training will be offered annually, subject to parental consent, to members who are minors regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse.

Minor Athlete training will be available through an online platform provided by the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

C. Exemptions

Exemptions from this Education & Training Policy may be made on a case-by-case basis for victims/survivors. Requests may be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, ngbservices@safesport.org.

The U. S. Center for SafeSport will work with USBC regarding appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities to satisfy the training requirements herein.



Part II – Criminal Background Screen Policy

The National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI), a national leader in the field of background screening and a company specifically dedicated to the protection of children, will be conducting the background screening for USBC. The screening through NCSI is required even if you have submitted to background checks through an employer or another organization.

Consistent and uniform implementation of the USBC Registered Volunteer Program is critical to its success. All covered individuals must be treated the same and the same background screen criteria must be applied to all.

NCSI uses the most current records and technology available. A USBC Registered Volunteer background check will be valid for two years and the \$21.25 fee will cover an initial full screening plus an annual recheck of national criminal and sex offender registry data. Additional charges may apply in areas or states that require additional screening fees, which is out of USBC’s and NCSI’s control. Registered Volunteers will make payment directly to NCSI by using Visa or Master Card.

The NCSI background screening program focuses on criminal activities that pose a serious threat to children. It does not include credit checks or motor vehicle violations.

Protecting the Rights of the Volunteers

The USBC Registered Volunteer Program complies with the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), which provides specific protections to all USBC volunteers. Under the FCRA, an applicant is entitled to:

- Obtain a copy of their criminal history information.
- Challenge the accuracy and completeness of the criminal history information.

The FCRA also clearly establishes how criminal history records used during an appeal process and subsequent determinations must remain confidential.

NCSI will provide the highest possible levels of security to protect the privacy of USBC volunteers and their personal information according to the requirements of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).

Disqualification Rules

Criminal offenses that disqualify an individual from participation in USBC Youth programs are derived from guidelines developed by the National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS). The NCYS considers these criteria to be consistent with the principles of the federal PROTECT Act of 2003. These serve as the basis for the screen criteria used by NCSI in making a “green light” or “red light” determination for USBC volunteers.

A “green light” means no disqualifying disclosure, offense pending disposition, or criminal record has been found in an individual’s background screening. A “red light” determination will result in disqualification of an individual from any involvement with USBC Youth programs. Disclosures, offenses pending disposition or convictions for any of the following offenses will result in a “red light” determination. Further investigation will be required when no record of the individual can be found, information provided by the individual is missing or inaccurate, or the individual refuses to provide the required information. Failure to satisfy required information will result in a “red light” determination.

The criteria against which covered individuals will be measured are:

- R1. Any crime in an applicant’s lifetime involving force or threat of force against a person.
- R2. Any crime in an applicant’s lifetime in which sexual relations is an element, including “victimless crimes of a sexual nature (including pornography).

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- R3. Any crime involving controlled substances (not paraphernalia or alcohol) as follows:
- Lifetime for crime involving distribution, manufacture, or sale of controlled substance(s).
 - Prior 10 years for crime involving personal possession and/or consumption.
- R4. Any crime in an applicant's lifetime involving cruelty to animals.
- R5. Any crime in an applicant's lifetime involving harm to a minor.
- R6. Any felony punishable by confinement or probation for greater than one year, within the prior 10 years, that is not included in R1 through R5 above.
- Defined on the basis of exposure for the offense for which the defendant was convicted, pled guilty or pled nolo contendere. If pled down, then the crime to which the defendant ultimately pled.
 - Defined as all crimes punishable by greater than one year in jail or prison, or probation, regardless of how characterized by jurisdiction. If range, alternate sentencing, outer range greater than one year.

The following information will result in further investigation involving the applicant and the appropriate courts, which will lead to a determination of either a "red light" or a "green light":

- Expunctions, restorations of rights, or pardons of a criterion offense;
- Any charge involving a child resulting in a disposition favorable to the applicant; or
- Arrest(s) or conviction(s) where it is not readily apparent if drugs or alcohol is involved unless it is a felony conviction as defined in R6.

Appeals Process

USBC will ensure every covered individual who wishes to work with USBC Youth programs has a fair and equitable opportunity to do so. In the event a covered individual wishes to challenge the results of a background screen, he/she will be granted the right to appeal by USBC. Upon appeal, the procedures in Article II of the USBC Bylaws, Disciplinary Procedures Supplement will be followed.



Part III – Prevention Policies

A. Required Policies

The following policies, created by the U. S. Center for SafeSport, have been adopted by USBC. These policies apply to USBC, state and local associations and any certified competition or activity where Minor Athletes are involved. Unless a policy is identified as recommended, any adult who is a Registered Volunteer must adhere to the policy. Adult members at a facility that is either partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC must adhere to policy number 1, 2 and 3.

B. Minor athletes who become adult athletes

With the exception of athletes who are members of the same team, Minor Athletes who reach the age of 18 must adhere to the provisions found in the following policies when interacting with minor athletes who are 14 years of age or younger.

Minor Athletes who reach the age of 18 and then obtain a position of authority that presents a power imbalance, such as becoming a coach or official, must also comply with these prevention policies regardless of the age of the minor athletes with whom they will interact.

RVP Prevention Policy #1: One-on-One Interactions

The majority of child sexual abuse is perpetrated in isolated, one-on-one situations. By reducing such interactions between an adult and a child, programs reduce the risk of child sexual abuse. However, one-on-one time with trusted adults is also healthy and valuable for a child. These policies are intended to protect minors while allowing for these beneficial relationships.

A. Observable and interruptible

- One-on-one interactions between minor athletes and a Registered Volunteer (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC are prohibited unless:
 - They occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult.
 - The meeting is with a mental health care professional and/or a health care provider. In these instances, the conditions of the meeting must follow the guidelines described in subpart C of this section.
 - Under emergency circumstances.

B. Meetings

- Meetings between minor athletes and a Registered Volunteer (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult.
- If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC, the door to the office must remain unlocked and open. If available, it will occur in an office that has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.



C. Meetings with mental health care professionals

If a mental health care professional and/or a health care provider meets with a minor athlete at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy – provided that

- 1) the door remains unlocked,
- 2) another adult is present at the facility,
- 3) the other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring, and
- 4) written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance by the mental health care professional and/or health care provider, with a copy provided to USBC.

D. Individual training sessions

Individual training sessions between minor athletes and Registered Volunteers are permitted at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. It is the responsibility of the Registered Volunteer to obtain the written permission of the minor's legal guardian in advance of the individual training session if the individual training session is not observable and interruptible by another adult. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session. Permission for individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session.

E. Monitoring (Recommended Policy)

When one-on-one interactions between minor athletes and a Registered Volunteer occur at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC, another Registered Volunteer will monitor these interactions. Monitoring includes: knowing that the one-on-one interaction is occurring, the approximate planned duration of the interaction, and randomly dropping in on the one-on-one.

F. Out-of-program contacts (Recommended Policy)

Registered Volunteers are prohibited from interacting one-on-one with unrelated minor athletes in settings outside of the program that are not observable and interruptible (including, but not limited to, one's home and individual transportation), unless parent/legal guardian consent is provided for each out-of-program contact. Such arrangements are nonetheless strongly discouraged.

RVP Prevention Policy #2: Massage or rubdown/athletic training modality

Any massage or rubdown/athletic training modality performed at a facility or a training or competition venue must be conducted in an open and interruptible location. Any massage of a minor athlete must be done with at least one other adult present and must never be done with only the minor athlete and the person performing the massage or rubdown/athletic training modality in the room.

Written consent by a legal guardian shall be provided before providing each massage or rubdown on a minor athlete. Parents must be permitted to be in the room as an observer.



RVP Prevention Policy #3: Locker Rooms and Changing Areas

When USBC uses a facility not fully under our jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, Adult members and Registered Volunteers are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth herein.

A. Use of recording devices

Use of any device's recording capabilities (including a cell phone and voice recording), still cameras, and video cameras in locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a facility under the jurisdiction of USBC is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by USBC and two or more adults are present.

B. Undress

Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Registered Volunteer at a facility under the jurisdiction of USBC intentionally expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete.

C. One-on-one interactions

- Except for athletes on the same team, at no time are unrelated Registered Volunteers permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area when at a facility partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USBC, except under emergency circumstances.
- If USBC is using a facility that only has a single locker room or changing area, USBC will designate separate times for use by Registered Volunteers, if any.

D. Monitoring

USBC will regularly and randomly monitor the use of locker rooms and changing areas at a facility under the jurisdiction of USBC to ensure compliance with these policies.

E. Other Components (Recommended Policy)

- Registered Volunteers make every effort to recognize when a minor athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, will check on the minor athlete's whereabouts.
- USBC discourages parents from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent. If this is necessary, parents should let a coach or administrator know about this in advance.

RVP Prevention Policy #4: Social Media and Electronic Communications

A. Content

All electronic communication originating from Registered Volunteers to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

B. Open and transparent

- Absent emergency circumstances, if a Registered Volunteer needs to communicate directly with an amateur athlete who is a minor via electronic communications, (including social media) another Registered Volunteer, a group email box monitored by at least one other Registered Volunteer, or the minor's legal guardian will be copied.
- If a minor athlete communicates to the Registered Volunteer privately first, the Registered Volunteer's response to the minor athlete will include copying another Registered Volunteer, a group email box monitored by at least one other Registered Volunteer or the minor's legal guardian.



- A Registered Volunteer communicating electronically to the entire team will copy another Registered Volunteer or a group email box monitored by at least one other Registered Volunteer.
- Minor athletes may “friend” the organization’s official page.

C. Requests to discontinue

Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by USBC, or Registered Volunteers. USBC will abide by any such request that their minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.

D. Hours (Recommended Policy)

Electronic communications will generally only be sent between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. except for emergencies or during competition or competition travel that is outside the established hours.

E. Monitoring (Recommended Policy)

- Registered Volunteers will monitor their social media pages and remove any posts that violate USBC’s Registered Volunteer Code of Conduct.
- Registered Volunteers will inform the legal guardian of a minor athlete of any prohibited posts, as well as the organization’s administrator, if applicable.

F. Electronic Communications (Recommended Policy)

- Registered Volunteers should not:
 - Communicate privately via electronic communications with minor athletes, except under emergency circumstances.
 - “Private message,” “instant message,” “direct message”, or send photos via Snapchat or Instagram to a minor athlete privately.
 - Maintain social media connections with unrelated minor athletes and should not accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from minor athletes, unless the Registered Volunteer has a fan page, or the contact is deemed as celebrity contact vs. regular contact.

RVP Prevention Policy #5: Local Travel

Local travel consists of travel to training, practice, and competition that occurs locally and does not include coordinated overnight stay(s).

A. Transportation

Registered Volunteers who are not also acting as a legal guardian, shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and must have at least two minor athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor athlete’s parent/legal guardian in advance of each local travel.

B. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement (Recommended Policy)

We encourage parents/legal guardians to pick up their minor athlete first and drop off their minor athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.



RVP Prevention Policy #6: Team Travel

Team travel is travel to a competition or other team activity that the Registered Volunteer plans and supervises.

A. Team/competition travel

When only one Registered Volunteer and one minor athlete travel to a competition, the minor athlete must have his/her legal guardian's written permission in advance and for each competition to travel alone with the Registered Volunteer.

B. Hotel rooms

Registered Volunteer shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor athlete (unless the Registered Volunteer is the legal guardian, sibling, or is otherwise related to the minor athlete). However, a parent/legal guardian may consent to such an arrangement in advance and in writing. Furthermore, a parent/legal guardian may consent in advance and in writing to the minor athlete sharing a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an adult athlete.

C. Meetings

Meetings shall be conducted consistent with the organization's policy for one-on-one interactions – i.e., any such meeting shall be observable and interruptible.

D. Other Components (Recommended Policy)

- Team travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all minor athletes, parents, and Registered Volunteers who are traveling.
- During team travel, when doing room checks, attending team meetings and/or other activities, two-deep leadership and observable and interruptible environments should be maintained.
- Meetings should not be conducted in a hotel room.



Part IV – Reporting Policy

A. Procedure

- Alleged violations of USBC’s RVP Prevention Policies:
 - Involving sexual misconduct of a minor athlete are to be reported to the U. S. Center for SafeSport, who will have the exclusive authority to investigate and resolve.
 - That are non-sexual in nature, USBC will retain the authority to investigate and resolve, and are to be reported to USBC, attention Rules and Compliance.
- There are no time limits on reporting possible violations of USBC’s RVP Prevention Policies.
- There is no fee to report violations of USBC’s RVP Prevention Policies.

B. Anonymous Reporting

- Reports may be made anonymously. Anonymous reporting may make it difficult for USBC to investigate or properly address misconduct or abuse of a minor athlete. However, USBC recognizes it can be difficult for an athlete, teammate, friend or family member to report an allegation of misconduct and strives to remove as many barriers to reporting as possible.

C. Whistleblower Protection

- Regardless of outcome, it is the policy of USBC to support the claimant(s) and his or her right to express concerns in good faith. USBC will not encourage, allow or tolerate attempts from any individual, group or organization to retaliate, punish, allow or in any way harm any individual(s) who reports a concern in good faith. Such actions against a claimant will be considered a violation of the USBC’s Registered Volunteer Program and grounds for disciplinary action. However, this “Whistleblower” protection is not intended to shield claimants from discipline for engaging in other misconduct.

D. Contact local authorities

- Contact your local authorities if you have a reasonable suspicion that child sexual abuse or neglect has occurred. All reports of child abuse or sexual assault of a minor must also be reported to local authorities. Reports of abuse not involving a minor may also be reported to local authorities.
- Contacting the local authorities does not negate one’s responsibility to report sexual misconduct cases to the U. S. Center for SafeSport.



USBC Registered Volunteer Code of Conduct

Part of USBC's commitment is a mandatory agreement for all Registered Volunteers to abide by the USBC Registered Volunteer Program Code of Conduct.

A Registered Volunteer can be charged with the following code of conduct violation(s):

1. Consumption or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while working with youth.
2. Providing alcohol or drugs to youth or allowing consumption of same while under your supervision.
3. Physical, verbal, or sexual abuse of any child.
4. Failing to respect the privacy of youth in situations where privacy is required, for example changing clothes or taking showers (the only exception is when health or safety issues dictate specific action).
5. Disciplining by use of physical punishment or failure to provide necessities such as water, food, or shelter.
6. Inappropriately touching a youth's body. As a rule, this includes any area of the body that would be covered by a bathing suit. It is normally acceptable to touch a youth on the shoulders, arm or upper back.
7. Tickling, wrestling, or teasing a youth.
8. In the presence of a youth or parents or the use of social media where a youth or parents can view:
 - a. Inappropriate jokes or pictures
 - b. Intimate details of one's personal life
 - c. Any kind of sexual reference
9. Using profanity or any kind of harassment in the presence of a youth or parents.
10. Releasing a youth to anyone other than the authorized parent or guardian, or to a person designated by the parent/guardian.

The complaint should be in writing and detail the charge(s) against the Registered Volunteer and the RVP Code of Conduct involved. The complaint should be signed by the person(s) make the charge(s) and filed with USBC Headquarters. Anonymous and/or unsigned complaints concerning sexual misconduct will be forwarded to the U. S. Center for SafeSport for processing.

A violation of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension of USBC membership or termination of one's Registered Volunteer Status.



SafeSport Code

The SafeSport Code, created by the U.S. Center for SafeSport, requires participants to abide by a set of procedures and prohibited conduct while participating in a sporting event.

The USBC has adopted the SafeSport Code in its entirety and all members of USBC are expected to abide by the Code. To view the code, please go to safesport.org/policies-procedures or click [here](#).



Frequently Asked Questions

Who must enroll to become a Registered Volunteer?

Anyone 18 years of age or older who has regular physical or verbal contact with USBC Youth bowlers, holds a position of authority or supervision over USBC Youth programs, has an opportunity to establish a position of trust, and/or has an opportunity to build a one-on-one relationship through USBC Youth programs must register as a USBC Registered Volunteer.

Specific roles or positions within the USBC Youth program that require registration include:

- USBC Headquarters employees
- USBC National Board and Youth Committee members
- USBC Team USA and Junior Team USA Members
- State and Local Youth Committee members and directors
- State and Local Association Board members
- State and Local Association Managers
- USBC Youth league officers
- USBC Youth tournament managers
- USBC Certified Coaches

Who will be notified of Red Lights?

NCSI will send a formal letter to the individual and notify USBC Headquarters. USBC will then follow up with the individual informing them of their ineligibility and right to appeal the designation.

How will the association know who is green light and red light?

Individuals will know who has a green light determination in two ways. First, they are wearing an RVP badge and second by searching "find a volunteer" on BOWL.com.

Any individual who does not show on the "find a volunteer" feature of bowl.com is not permitted to work with USBC youth either because they have not gone through the process or has received a red light determination.

Is there a cost increase?

No. It will still cost \$21.25 for the official screening, except in areas or states that require additional fees for access to its data. (This issue is out of the control of USBC and NCSI.)

The additional training through the U. S. Center for SafeSport is free for any member of USBC.

How do I register?

Registering is a two-part process. Detailed information is provided on BOWL.com/RVP, the USBC Registered Volunteer Program page.

First, individuals will go to BOWL.com/RVP and then click on Enroll or Renew in the RVP. He/she will be linked to the SafeSport site where one's USBC National ID will be entered. After filling out some personal information, a SafeSport account will be created and then you will be able to access the training.

Once training is complete, USBC will email you a link to complete the background screening. This will link you to NCSI Web site where personal information will once again be entered. Here, the volunteer will pay for the screening by credit card and NCSI will begin the screening process.



Why do I need a USBC National ID number to register for the SafeSport Training and background screening through NCSI?

Both SafeSport and NCSI transmit your national ID number back to USBC so the training and background screen can be attached to your bowler profile. This way, USBC is able to determine when a member passes both requirements so we can send out a Registered Volunteer ID card.

If ID numbers are not used or two different ID numbers are used with the two vendors, it will be difficult for USBC to determine that you completed the requirements.

Will USBC still supply RVP lanyards/ID cards?

Yes.

What is NCSI's involvement?

The National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI) will continue to perform the background screenings.

Who is responsible for the payment?

Each individual who enrolls and/or renews will be responsible for the payment, by credit card. If the center or association has determined to pay for a screening(s), it will be up to them to reimburse the individual.

I have had a background screening for my job. Why do I need another one?

The screening that is done for the RVP program is dedicated to the protection of children. Screenings you may have had done for your job or other organizations may not screen for the same items as is done for RVP. Also, it is important that all individuals applying for RVP certification be treated the same way and the same background screening criteria must be used for everyone.

Is there a way to become a Registered Volunteer and not use the Internet?

In rare cases, the NCSI can perform the background screen; however, there will be an additional fee from NCSI.

The training through the SafeSport Center is only available online.

I applied for my RVP certification several months ago and haven't heard anything. What can I do?

Usually, the screening process only takes a few days to complete. If you haven't heard anything, please check your email as NCSI may have tried to contact you for more information in order or them to complete the screening.

Can the SafeSport training be conducted in a group setting?

No. Every Registered Volunteer must register through the SafeSport website and take the required training in order to get credit for completing the training. This online training is the only training program recognized by the U. S. Center for SafeSport for compliance with the requirement.

We don't have any youth bowlers in our association. Do we need to do this?

Yes. Although the program was created with youth in mind, the concepts involved are also appropriate when dealing with adults and senior citizens in our associations. Keeping our members safe from abuse and inappropriate behavior of any kind is always a positive thing for our sport.



How will I know it when it's time to go through it again?

Each individual will receive an email approximately one year before expiration of the RVP badge, as a reminder to take the required yearly refresher course.

Approximately 30 days prior to the expiration date of the RVP badge, USBC will send an email. This will be the reminder to begin the renewal process.

Can we still access find-a-volunteer to determine who is a Green Light?

Yes, that will be the easiest way to find a Registered Volunteer.

Why do we need to take the SafeSport Training?

In February 2018, the United States passed a law authorizing the U. S. Center for SafeSport to develop training to prevent abuse. The law also requires USBC, as the National Governing Body for the sport of bowling, to offer and give consistent training related to the prevention of child abuse to adult members who are in regular contact with minors. This training from the center allows USBC to be in compliance with the law.

To view the law, click [here](#).

Do coaches who do not coach youth have to be a Registered Volunteer?

Yes. USBC takes pride in our coaching certification and the individuals who have decided to earn the accreditation. USBC believes this additional training will not only make the coaches more marketable, it will give USBC more individuals in bowling centers who are trained to recognize and report abuse to help keep our youth safe.

Who do I report abuse to?

The U. S. Center for SafeSport handles ALL reports of sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Make a report to the Center if you have 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.

Contact your local law enforcement authorities if you have a reasonable suspicion that child sexual abuse or neglect has occurred. All reports of child abuse or sexual assault of a minor must also be reported to local law enforcement authorities. Reports of abuse not involving a minor may also be reported to local law enforcement authorities.

Contact USBC to report other forms of misconduct such as emotional or physical misconduct, bullying, hazing or harassment.

If I currently have an RVP badge, do I need to take the background check?

No. Your current badge will expire on the original date. However, you are required to take the SafeSport training to remain in compliance with the new RVP policies.

How often will the Find A Registered Volunteer database be updated?

Daily. USBC receives the information once a day from both SafeSport and NCSI. The database is then updated each time we receive the information.

How do we verify SafeSport and/or the NCIS Background screening has been completed?

You should ask your board members to supply you with copies of the certificates of completion from the SafeSport training. Then, have them bring you a copy of their RVP badge when it arrives.



We have Board members that have not completed the RVP process, are they still eligible to serve on our Board?

No. To be eligible to serve on a USBC board, you must complete both the SafeSport training and go through the background screen conducted by NCSI for USBC.

We have board members that do not wish to participate. What do we do?

You should ask them to resign. If they do not want to resign, your board should proceed using the board removal procedures found in the USBC Association Policy Manual, Chapter Sixteen, Section E.

How often do I have to complete SafeSport?

After the initial SafeSport training, a refresher course will need to be completed each year and one month prior to renewing your Registered Volunteer status.

Why is SafeSport annual and not every two years like the background screen?

SafeSport policy requires additional training each year.

I use a nick name or my middle name, can I have that on my badge instead of my full name?

RVP badges are printed using the information that comes to us from NCSI, which is your full, given name found on your government issued ID's and documents. Nicknames are not allowed.

When do new board members have to have RVP and SafeSport completed before they can serve on the board?

Newly elected or appointed board members have 45 days from the date they take office or before contact with a USBC Youth member, whichever occurs first, to become a Registered Volunteer.

My child will turn 18 during the bowling season and competes in a USBC Youth certified league. Does he need to take SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training?

Yes. USBC's Registered Volunteer Program requires any member 18 years of age and older to complete the training prior to competing in a league with minor athletes. Anyone under age 18 can take the training, with parental consent, or once they turn 18 without consent. The training must be done prior to competing with minor athletes once he turns 18.

Is this training required if my 18-year-old son only bowls in tournaments with minor athletes?

No. The training is required for those who have regular contact with minor athletes. Since tournaments are not a competition which has regular matches, adults are not under the same requirements in tournaments as they are in leagues. USBC does recommend anyone 18 years of age and older who competes with minor athletes to take SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training.

I conduct an adult/youth league. What is required of the adults who compete in the league?

Any individual 18 years of age and older must complete SafeSport's Core Center for SafeSport Training prior to participating in the league. Any officer of the league must be a Registered Volunteer, which requires the training and a background screen through NCSI. If the league has youth bowlers 14 years of age and younger, all bowlers 18 years of age and older must adhere to USBC's RVP Prevention Policies. (Part III, starting page 6)