

March 16, 2018

TO: Administrators, Board members and coaches of Indiana Soccer member clubs
CC: ISA staff and Board of Directors



Dear members of Indiana Soccer,

This correspondence is to formally advise you that the *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (S.534)* became effective as federal law on February 14, 2018. (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/534>).

All organizations that provide services to children — **including youth sports** — must implement an effective safety system to protect children. US Youth Soccer and Indiana Soccer, have partnered with MinistrySafe and Abuse Prevention Systems (APS), who are recognized industry leaders regarding resources designed to prevent child sexual abuse. Philadelphia Insurance Companies (PHLY), with whom Indiana Soccer and its members clubs are insured, is also a recognized industry leader regarding risk management efforts. MinistrySafe/APS and PHLY have coordinated to provide guidance for organizations seeking to better understand the new federal legislation — *who* is impacted, *what* is required, and *how* to comply.

This bill amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 to extend the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to certain adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes at a facility under the jurisdiction of a national governing body. **This description includes Indiana Soccer and all members clubs, and all participating adults.**

The Act introduces three new requirements:

1. Mandatory Reporting
2. Prevention Training
3. Prevention Policies

Please know that an individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child sex abuse is subject to criminal penalties.

Additionally, the bill amends the federal criminal code to revise civil remedy provisions for a victim of a human trafficking offense or federal sex offense. Among other things, it changes the civil statute of limitations to 10 years from the date the victim discovers the violation or injury (currently, 10 years from the date the cause of action arose). The bill also extends the statute of limitations for a minor victim of a federal sex offense to file a civil action to 10 years (currently, 3 years) from the date such individual reaches age 18.

A report is required when:

- A mandated reporter has reasonable cause to know or suspect child abuse or neglect.
- A reporter has observed a child being subjected to circumstances or conditions that would reasonably result in abuse or neglect.

- Commercial film and photographic print processors have knowledge of or observe any film, photograph, videotape, negative, or slide depicting a child engaged in an act of sexual conduct.

Momentarily, your State Association, along with other organizational members of the Federation, will be receiving an electronic communication directly from U.S. Soccer. US Youth Soccer has been engaged in active discussions with U.S. Soccer's legal counsel, to coordinate efforts and determine how this important legislation will impact our family of organizations. As our NGB, U.S. Soccer has been working closely with various congressional offices, the USOC and the National Governing Bodies of other sports, and we fully anticipate that they will continue to provide guidance to US Youth Soccer, State Associations and member clubs to assist with compliance with the legislation.

Fortunately, US Youth Soccer and your State Association are already ahead of the curve, in terms of preparedness for this legislation. If you attended the most recent Annual General Meeting, you had the opportunity to learn how your state association is prepared to assist your efforts to comply with the February 14, 2018 legislation.

The following Indiana Soccer website links will access more information:

Explanation of law S.534 <https://abusepreventionsystems.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/New-Legislation-Sexual-Abuse-in-Youth-Sport-2-9-2018.pdf>

Law S.534 <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s534enr/pdf/BILLS-115s534enr.pdf>

Indiana Soccer's PowerPoint providing a summary of the law and member responsibilities: <https://usys-assets.ae-admin.com/assets/986/15/MinistrySafe%20PP.pdf>

Please contact Indiana Soccer's Associate Director Angel Hall, angel@soccerindiana.org who is available to assist you in your efforts to comply with the new law.

Best Regards,
Dave Guthrie
Executive Director
Indiana Soccer

