



DATE: October 14, 2019

FROM: Angel Hall, Indiana Soccer, Risk Management Department

RE: Update on Indiana Soccer and Member Clubs Compliance with the Safe Sports Act

REMINDER: On February 14, 2018, the President of the United States signed into law the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017. On March 16, 2018, Indiana Soccer issued this letter stating Indiana Soccer's position:

https://www.soccerindiana.org/assets/58/6/compliance_letter_-_march_16_2018.pdf

Training system(s) were made available to members of Indiana Soccer over a year ago. Since training videos and compliance tools were made available, many member clubs have embraced their responsibility and are pursuing compliance with the federal law which is intended to create a safer environment for all players. Unfortunately, not all members are working toward compliance.

- 62 out of 140 member clubs [43%], are educating their club staff, administrators, board of directors, coaches, managers, volunteers etc., utilizing the free tools provided.
- Several member clubs have started the process of educating their club member parents and guardians.

Pleased allow me to reiterate that failure to comply with the federal law is a criminal offense. An Indiana member club recently experienced an arrest of one of their coaches for inappropriate sexual conduct with one of his 15-year-old female players.

The risk of sexual abuse of children is real. A study conducted by Dr. Gene Abel revealed that the average convicted male abuser who molests girls averaged 52 victims, while those targeting boys averaged 150 victims. Only about 38% of child victims disclose the fact that they have been sexually abused. David Finkelhor, Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Center, suggest that less than 10% of sexual offenders are every criminally prosecuted – this means over 90% of offenders have no criminal record to check. (1) Studies reveal that 1 in 4 females have been sexually molested by the time they turn 18 and similarly, 1 in 6 males have been sexually molested by the time they turn 18.

Folks, we have a systemic problem in our society as it relates to sexual “preferential” predators and we are all obligated to do as much as we can to protect our children from such a horrendous experience.

Background checks are simply not enough to prevent this crime against children. Indiana Soccer is committed to assisting all member clubs in their effort to protect our youth! During the spring of 2020, Indiana Soccer will be implementing an updated risk management policy. The updated policy will **require all** coaches and managers to successfully complete the Safe Sports Act training prior to participating. This will apply to all levels of play - rec, rec+ and travel.

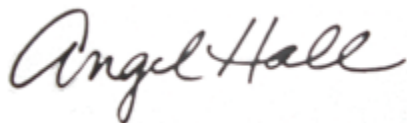
Last year, Indiana Soccer, US Youth Soccer and MinistrySafe joined forces to provide sexual predator awareness training for all adults. This year, All COACHES and MANAGERS will utilize the “SafeSport” course to obtain their compliance certification. [the training link can be found under the Learning Center link in each adult’s personal Gotsoccer account]. This link is live and available now. Parents, guardians, and club administrators who don’t have coach or manager Gotsoccer accounts will continue to use the MinistrySafe system to obtain their education and compliance certification.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Coaches and Managers taking the SafeSport course through Gotsoccer are required to use the exact first and last name and email address as it appears in their Gotsoccer account for their SafeSport completion certificate to show up in Gotsoccer.

To be clear; the federal law requires that all adults be “provided with the training.” Indiana Soccer, in order to comply with the law and to protect its member clubs, boards of directors, etc. is requiring that all coaches and managers complete the SafeSports Act training course, while requiring, that all parents and guardians be offered the course. [A formal auditable record of offering each parent and or guardian access to the course is required to assert a club’s compliance]. Indiana Soccer is prepared to receive and upload parent and or guardian contact information to assist member clubs obtain compliance with the Safe Sport law. There is no cost for this service! It is our hope, that each club will choose to enforce a level of mandatory education for the parents and guardians.

NOTE: All coaches and managers that have previously taken the MinistrySafe course will not be required to take the SafeSport course until their current education status expires (every 2 years). Indiana Soccer is transferring all coach and manager course completion information from MinistrySafe to Gotsoccer.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact your state association staff. We are here as your service organization to assist you.



Angel Hall
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Indiana Soccer

Source

(1) https://www.churchmutual.com/169/Child-and-Youth-Sexual-Abuse?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2019_sexual_abuse_prevention&_cldee=ZHdndXRocmlIQGdtYWIsLmNvbQ%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-8192f46542ace211af2c78e3b508f414-2972ca289afc4090b334992d92066164&utm_source=ClickDimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2019%20Sexual%20Abuse%20Prevention&esid=8bc91cfc-d8d5-e911-a95e-000d3a124001