EASTERN NEW YORK YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
167 Nassau Blvd., Garden City South, NY 11530-5582
Phone: 516-766-0849 | Fax: 516-678-7411
www.enysoccer.com

The Game for All Kids!

EASTERN NEW YORK YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Revised November 2026

Purpose and Scope

This Risk Management Policy is established by Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association ("ENYYSA") consistent with the recommendations of United States Youth Soccer, U.S. Soccer Federation Policy 212-3 (Athlete and Participant Safety Policy), the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (the "SafeSport Act"), the U.S. Center for SafeSport's SafeSport Code, and applicable New York State law. Its purpose is to foster safe experiences for youth participants and to protect players, coaches, administrators, and volunteers to the greatest extent reasonably possible.

The Policy applies to all Adult Participants (individuals 18 years of age and older) who have regular contact with, or authority over, minor athletes in ENYYSA, its affiliated Leagues, Clubs, or sanctioned programs. This includes, without limitation: coaches, assistant coaches, managers, program administrators (including those who decide policy or have control or authority over currency), officers, board members, certified referees, trainers (volunteer or paid), and other volunteers or persons with regular control and authority over players.

A. Program Goals

1. ENYYSA's Risk Management Program, through its affiliated members, will include:
    a. The goal of developing and communicating guidelines and related materials intended to foster safe experiences, with emphasis upon the youth that participate in any United States Youth Soccer activity through its affiliated member organizations.
    b. The goal of initiating and maintaining risk management registration, background screening, SafeSport training, and related education for Adult Participants.
    c. The goal of promoting ongoing educational activities to reduce real and inherent risks of the game of soccer and its related activities, including compliance with the U.S. Soccer Model Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) and Model Prohibited Conduct Policy.

It is expressly recognized, however, that ENYYSA lacks the resources to perform exhaustive security investigations of all individuals and cannot insure or assure the accuracy of information provided through the online Volunteer Disclosure process or by any consumer reporting agency. The background screening process is intended as a rule-out procedure and deterrent. ENYYSA does not represent that any given applicant is "fit" or "safe" solely on the basis of having been granted certification privileges for any applicable period.

B. Background Screening Requirements

Although all components of the Risk Management Program are important, significant resources are directed toward protecting youth players against adults with a history of criminal activity that might place players or members in jeopardy.

1. Every Adult Participant wishing to obtain approval and certification by ENYYSA or by an affiliated League or Club for a soccer position as coach, assistant coach, manager, program administrator, officer, board member, certified referee, trainer (volunteer or paid), or other person with regular control and authority over players must complete a background screening every two (2) years prior to, or within the first 45 days of, assuming a role involving regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.

ENYYSA provides a convenient, low-cost background screening option through its designated online platform (currently GotSport). Applicants electing this option must complete the online Volunteer Disclosure, which collects the information necessary for the screening (including, where applicable, Social Security number).

Any individual electing to obtain an independent FBI Identity History Summary Check (or equivalent) in lieu of the ENYYSA online process shall bear all costs and responsibility for the process, notify ENYYSA in advance by completing the designated form, and submit the final report for review. No soccer privileges shall be granted until the final report is received, reviewed, and approved by the Risk Management Committee.

At a minimum, background screening shall include a search of applicable sex offender registries, the U.S. Soccer disqualification / DARM list, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Centralized Disciplinary Database, and a multijurisdictional criminal history search. ENYYSA requires a background check and private/personal information only if the applicant uses the ENYYSA online Volunteer Disclosure process.

a. The online Volunteer Disclosure collects, at a minimum, legal name, date of birth, contact information, club affiliation, and other identifying data required by the screening vendor. It requires answers to a series of questions (currently approximately thirteen) concerning criminal history, employment history involving minors, pending litigation, probation status, and related matters. The precise questions and attestation language are maintained in the online system and control over any summary in this Policy.
b. Applicants must electronically sign and date the disclosure after reviewing the required attestation paragraphs (currently four paragraphs). By signing, the applicant acknowledges that US Youth Soccer or its affiliates may deny certification for certain convictions, that the information is subject to verification including a criminal history check, and agrees to the hold-harmless and cooperation language set forth in Section F below.
c. An applicant submitting false, inaccurate, or incomplete information in any manner will be subject to disqualification and possible further discipline.
d. Volunteer Disclosure information is handled with confidentiality, securely stored, and accessible only to authorized Risk Management personnel.
e. Reports on negative background/criminal checks are viewed only by members of the Risk Management Committee and/or their designated representatives.
f. Such reports are reviewed by the sitting Risk Management Committee, which renders decisions and effects actions in accordance with this Policy.
g. Applicants who receive a negative report will be notified in writing and given a reasonable opportunity to provide additional information. If ultimately disqualified, the applicant will be provided with ENYYSA's Risk Management Appeal Process. The applicable League will be notified of the disqualification. Notification to U.S. Soccer / US Youth Soccer (including listing on the DARM report) occurs only if an appeal is denied.

Disqualification Criteria

Except as provided below, no person convicted of a felony; sex crime; crime involving endangering the welfare of a minor; or who is registered as a sex offender, shall be employed, appointed, elected, or certified by ENYYSA or any ENYYSA affiliate League or Club in any position involving regular contact with or authority over players. Such disqualification prohibits the individual from holding any club or league office, coaching, training, refereeing, or any other soccer-related interaction or official communication with club and league officials.

Any person disqualified under the foregoing paragraph may apply in writing to the ENYYSA Risk Management Committee for an exemption or Appeal of the disqualification. The Risk Management Committee has sole authority to determine the manner of the exemption process and the guidelines to be used. Any person applying for an exemption shall, as part of the written application, agree to waive all Association appeals and legal rights as to the exemption procedures and determinations.

The Risk Management Committee has sole discretion to accept and consider exemption applications after five (5) years of disqualification for convictions deemed by the Committee to be non-violent white-collar in nature.

White-collar convictions are defined as illegal acts characterized by deceit, concealment, or violation of trust that are not dependent upon the application or threat of physical force or violence. The Committee has sole authority to reinstate an applicant; Board of Directors approval is not required.

A person convicted of any crime or offense not listed above, or whom the Risk Management Committee determines may be a threat to ENYYSA youth players, members, or programs; or who is under formal investigation by law enforcement for illegal activity or a defendant in litigation for activities detrimental to the welfare of minors or youth players, shall be subject to suspension or disqualification at the Committee's discretion. If an individual is disqualified for any reason, he or she has the right to appeal the decision after paying a fee to the ENYYSA. If he or she is successful, the fee will be returned to the individual.

Terms used in this section shall be defined as in the New York Penal Law and Criminal Procedure Law. All other terms shall be defined by their generally accepted meaning. Offenses committed outside New York State shall have the same effect as if committed within the state.

C. SafeSport Training and Other Education

In accordance with the SafeSport Act, U.S. Soccer Policy 212-3, and the U.S. Center for SafeSport requirements, Adult Participants with regular contact with or authority over minor athletes must complete the SafeSport Trained Core Course (or approved equivalent) prior to, or within 45 days of, assuming their role, and a refresher course annually thereafter (with the Core Course every four years).

ENYYSA also requires completion of CDC Heads Up Concussion Awareness training every two years.

ENYYSA adopts and requires compliance with the U.S. Soccer Model Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) and Model Prohibited Conduct Policy. These policies address one-on-one interactions, electronic communications, transportation, lodging, locker rooms, and prohibited conduct including sexual, physical, and emotional misconduct, bullying, hazing, and harassment. Retaliation against individuals making good-faith reports is prohibited.

D. Administration and Tracking

The President of ENYYSA will appoint a Risk Management Director and/or Administrator (and Assistant as needed). Member Leagues are encouraged to appoint a League Risk Management Coordinator subject to ENYYSA Board approval; not every League currently maintains a dedicated Coordinator.

All online Volunteer Disclosures and related risk management requirements (background screening, SafeSport, concussion training) are submitted and tracked through the designated online platform (currently GotSport) and are administered by the ENYYSA State Risk Management Director/Administrator. Neither the President nor

League Risk Management Coordinators collect or track individual disclosure forms or personal information submitted online.

Leagues may collect and retain appropriate fees related to the cost of background screening where applicable.

E. Mandatory Reporting of Abuse and Misconduct

Pursuant to the SafeSport Act of 2017 and applicable New York law, all Adult Participants are mandatory reporters. Any known or reasonably suspected child abuse (including sexual abuse), sexual misconduct, or other reportable misconduct involving a person participating in ENYYSA, affiliated League, or Club sanctioned, sponsored, or approved activity must be reported immediately (and in no event later than 24 hours of awareness) as follows:

1. New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR): 800-635-1522
2. Local law enforcement (or 911 in an emergency)
3. U.S. Center for SafeSport: https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern or 833-5US-SAFE (833-5877233)
4. ENYYSA: by email to diana@enysoccer.com (or the then-current Risk Management contact) and, where appropriate, through the US Youth Soccer reporting portal

Reports may be made anonymously where permitted. Individuals making good-faith reports are protected from retaliation. Adult Participants must not conduct their own investigations. ENYYSA and its members will cooperate fully with law enforcement, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, and other authorities.

F. Hold Harmless, Attestation, and False Statements

The online Volunteer Disclosure requires applicants to review and attest to multiple paragraphs of authorization, release, and acknowledgment language (currently four paragraphs) prior to electronic signature. That online language controls. In substance, and without limitation, applicants acknowledge the following:

“In consideration of ENYYSA and its affiliate members evaluating my application, I hereby save and hold harmless from any and all liability ENYYSA and its affiliate members from any action or proceeding against them by me. I also understand that submitting false, inaccurate, or incomplete information may subject me to disciplinary action including but not limited to disqualification, suspension and fines; and that the Disclosure Form shall become a business record of ENYYSA and that submitting false, inaccurate, or incomplete information may subject me to criminal prosecution. I also AGREE to FULLY COOPERATE with ENYYSA should there be questions about my application and that failure to do so will result in disqualification.”

False statements made herein are punishable as a class A misdemeanor pursuant to section 210.45 of the New York State Penal Law.

G. Emergency Authority

ENYYSA has established this Policy in accordance with United States Youth Soccer and U.S. Soccer recommendations and applicable law. Although this Policy is intended to be comprehensive, special and unique circumstances may require immediate action to protect youth players and members. Therefore, the ENYYSA President and Board of Directors retain the complete and absolute right to disqualify an applicant or suspend privileges upon the recommendation of the State Risk Management Director/Administrator or Risk Management Committee.

This Policy supersedes prior versions. Questions concerning implementation should be directed to the ENYYSA Risk Management Director/Administrator.