



March 8, 2018

Dear Ohio North Adult Members:

President
Paul R. Emhoff

Vice President
David Ehlert

Secretary
Sarah Hodgson

Treasurer
Ronald Gedrich

District I
Commissioner
Scott MacMillan

District II
Commissioner
Tom Pickett

District III
Commissioner
Pete Kennedy

District IV
Commissioner
Paul Holdgate

Recently, the **Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017** was signed into law and became effective immediately. The legislation is available for download [HERE](#) and the U.S. Center for SafeSport has released a fact sheet about the legislation which can be found [HERE](#).

We wanted to provide additional details on the specific mandatory reporting of child abuse requirements included in the new legislation:

- The bill amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 **to extend the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to all adults who are authorized to interact with minor or amateur athletes.** These individuals are called “covered individuals” in the new legislation.
- Child abuse is defined as physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent treatment of a child.
- Per current federal regulations, reports of child abuse should be made to the local law enforcement agency or local child protection services agency that has jurisdiction to investigate reports of child abuse or to project child abuse victims or to the FBI. These regulations have not yet been updated to reflect the recent change to the law. Until such time as the regulations are updated, Ohio North will make reports to (1) local law enforcement where any alleged incident took place to the extent it can be determined and the incident occurred in the United States, (2) local law enforcement where the victim resides if different than (1), and (3) the FBI.
- An individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child sexual abuse is subject to criminal penalties including fines and up to one (1) year in jail.
- These obligations are in addition to any State law requirements that an individual may have in a particular jurisdiction.

If you make a report of child abuse to law enforcement, please also communicate this report to the [U.S. Soccer integrity hotline](#) or 312-528-7004 as well as the [U.S. Center for SafeSport](#).

Our National Governing Body, U.S. Soccer, will soon provide us with direction and the next steps of compliance with the other aspects of the legislation. As such, we will provide you with additional updates as they are provided to us.

In the interim, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Ohio North State Office.

Sincerely,

Jen Fickett
Executive Director

