

USBC Rules Extra 8.14.19

RULES EXTRA SPECIAL EDITION

New SafeSport Training Requirement

This is a special edition of the Rules Extra to explain USBC's Registered Volunteer Program (RVP) Policies and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies of the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center), from which USBC's policies were created.

Federal law authorizes the Center to develop and implement training, policies and procedures for implementation by National Governing Bodies or Paralympic sports organizations to prevent abuse, including emotional, physical and sexual abuse of any minor athletes.

The policies and procedures adopted by the Center and implemented by USBC require members 18 years of age or older to complete SafeSport training when bowling in leagues that have members 17 years of age or younger participating. In addition, the league officers of these leagues that have members 17 years of age or younger must be Registered Volunteers.

This policy affects youth leagues, adult leagues and adult/youth leagues.

Does this mandate apply to both leagues and tournaments? No, the requirement for SafeSport training is regular contact with members 17 years of age or younger. Tournament participants do not meet the regular contact with minors requirement. However, tournament managers must be Registered Volunteers when participants are 17 and under.

What is the difference between SafeSport training and Registered Volunteers? SafeSport training is free online training courses created and hosted by the U.S. Center for SafeSport designed to help you learn how to prevent abuse or how to respond if the abuse already has happened. Registered Volunteers are in certain roles within USBC's structure who not only are required to take the SafeSport Training, but also complete a background screen conducted by the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI). For more information on the Registered Volunteer Program, go to [//BOWL.com/RVP](http://BOWL.com/RVP).

What does this mean for adult/youth leagues and adult leagues that allow youth under the age of 18 to bowl? It means even though parents complete a Parental Consent Form to allow their child to bowl in an adult league or parents bowl with their child in a youth/adult league, all members in the league 18 years of age and older must complete SafeSport Training and the officers must be Registered Volunteers.

Does a league have to allow minors to join the league? No, the league board of directors (officers and team captains) by majority vote can deny a minor's request to join a league.

Can a league adopt a rule requiring a bowler to be at least 18 years old? Yes, this would be a condition of entry to the league.

How does this affect youth leagues? Any USBC member 18 years of age or older must complete SafeSport training prior to bowling in the league with members 17 years of age or younger. In addition, the league supervisor and official must be Registered Volunteers.

If I have members who are 17 years old bowling in a youth league, and they will turn 18 during the season, what do they need to do? Once the bowler turns 18, in order to remain eligible to bowl in the league, he or she must complete the SafeSport training before bowling in the league as an 18-year-old. The training can be completed prior to the youth bowler's 18th birthday, with Parental Consent.

How long does training take? The online SafeSport training takes approximately two hours and is free of charge.

When must the training be completed? If a league is allowing minors under the age of 18 to bowl, the adults participating must complete the training prior to bowling in the league.

If a new adult bowler joins a league which has bowlers 17 or under competing in it, when must SafeSport training be completed? Bowlers 18 or older must complete SafeSport training prior to joining the league.

What happens if the adults do not complete training? One of two things must happen. Either the adults who have not completed the training cannot bowl or the minor cannot bowl in the league.

What happens if an adult bowls without completing the training? SafeSport training is an eligibility requirement for anyone 18 or older bowling with members 17 or younger. Games bowled by ineligible individuals are subject to forfeiture.

How does an officer know if the bowlers have completed training? Upon completion of the training, the bowlers can print a certificate showing training has been completed. League officers should ask for a copy of the certificate.

If a minor bowled in an adult league last year, can they bowl this year? Yes, provided all adult members of the league complete SafeSport training.

What happens to the minor bowler if the adult league chooses not to allow them to join the league this season? The minor can forward a written request to USBC Rules asking for youth eligibility to be reinstated.

For more information about the online SafeSport Training and the Registered Volunteer Program, please visit [BOWL.com/RVP](https://www.bowl.com/rvp).

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