



Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse League

SAFE SPORT ACT COMPLIANCE POLICY

The purpose of this Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy is to serve as a guide to compliance with the federal law entitled the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” (“Safe Sport Act”), which was enacted by Congress and became federal law on February 14, 2018. In 2017, the United States Olympic Committee delegated to the United States Center for SafeSport (“SafeSport Center”) authority to respond to reports of sexual misconduct within the United States Olympic and Paralympic Movements. The Safe Sport Act codifies that the SafeSport Center has exclusive authority over National Governing Bodies of Sport to investigate and take action in response to allegations of sexual abuse.

Although Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse League is not a “National Governing Body,” BYLL is strongly committed to compliance with the Safe Sport Act. To that end, BYLL hereby adopts the following Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy:

Mandatory Abuse Reporting:

Any adult interacting with youth athletes who becomes aware of an alleged incident of sexual misconduct is required to report to local law enforcement authorities and the BYLL League Office, within a 24-hour period following the adult’s first becoming aware of such incident, or a reasonable suspicion of sexual misconduct. Every adult who staffs or volunteers to organize, assist with, or manage any element of a BYLL program or other event in which youth athletes participate is a mandatory reporter and subject to this policy.

For purposes of this Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. Youth Athlete.** The term “youth athlete” shall mean a child or minor under the age of 18 who participates in a Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse League program, or any other event hosted or operated by the Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse League.
- B. Sexual Misconduct.** The term “sexual misconduct” shall include, but not be limited to, child sex abuse, non-consensual sexual conduct, sexual harassment, or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power.
- C. Local Law Enforcement Authorities.** The term “local law enforcement authorities” shall

include, but not be limited to the following law enforcement agencies:

- Bakersfield Police Department: (661) 327-7111
- Kern County Sheriff's Department: (661) 391-7500
- Emergency or if in doubt about the jurisdiction: **911**

D. Sexual Grooming. The term “sexual grooming” shall mean a method used by offenders that involves building trust with a child and the adults around a child in an effort to gain access to and time alone with the child. In extreme cases, offenders may use threats and physical force to sexually assault or abuse a child. However, sexual grooming more commonly involves subtle approaches designed to build relationships with families. The offender may assume a caring role, befriend the child or even exploit the offender's position of trust and authority to groom the child and/or the child's family. These individuals intentionally build relationships with the adults around a child or seek out a child who is less supervised by adults in her/his life. This increases the likelihood that the offender's time with the child is welcomed and encouraged.

Aspects of sexual grooming may include:

- Targeting the victim
- Securing access to and isolating the victim
- Gaining the victim's trust
- Controlling and concealing the relationship.

Mandatory Safe Sport Training.

All adult volunteer coaches working with youth athletes with the Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse League, who have oversight responsibility over any youth lacrosse program or other event involving youth athletes, shall be required to receive sexual abuse prevention training that has been determined to satisfy the legal requirements of mandatory Safe Sport training. Such training shall be proactive rather than reactive and must include educational material about the process of sexual grooming. USA Lacrosse provides Safe Sport Training for adult members on the USA Lacrosse website.

Criminal Background Checks:

All adult volunteer coaches who are reasonably expected to have significant contact with youth athletes in a BYLL Program or other event that predominantly involves the participation of youth athletes should consent to and complete a criminal background check through USA Lacrosse before they are permitted to have contact with youth athletes in connection with Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse League.

Right to Bar Registered Sex Offenders from Participation:

Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse League reserves the right to bar from participation any volunteer, or other person who is involved in any way with BYLL programs or other events, if it is reported to and confirmed that the volunteer, or other person is listed as a sex offender on a sex offender registry.

Prohibition against One-on-One Contact with Youth Athletes.

No Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse League coach, adult staff member, board member, or volunteer is permitted to be alone and otherwise unsupervised with a child who is not their own child during a Bakersfield Youth Lacrosse based program or other event involving youth athletes.