



Mountain Edge Skating Club of Colorado

SafeSport Policy

In addition to the development of our skaters and the enjoyment of the sport of figure skating, the safety and protection of our participants is central to Mountain Edge Skating Club's goals. Mountain Edge Skating Club (MESC) adheres to U.S. Figure Skating's SafeSport Program as a means to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing.

Athlete Protection Policy and Commitment to Safety

Mountain Edge Skating Club is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for members' physical, emotional and social development and ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct. Members should not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of misconduct allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities. Instead, it is the responsibility of each member to immediately report suspicions or allegations to the MESC's SAFESPORT COMPLIANCE CHAIR at mountainedgesc@gmail.com or safesport@usfigureskating.org. Complaints and allegations will be addressed under U.S. Figure Skating's disciplinary rules and procedures. MESC recognizes that the process for training and motivating athletes will vary with each coach and athlete, but it is nevertheless important for everyone involved in figure skating to support the use of motivational and training methods that avoid misconduct. Please Contact the SAFESPORT COMPLIANCE CHAIR for a full copy of the MESC Athlete Protection Policy or find it on our website at www.mountainedgesc.org/safesport.

Two-Deep Leadership and Appropriate Supervision

Two-deep leadership is a preventative method to minimize one-on-one interactions between minors and adults. Two-deep leadership means that at least two individuals, preferably adults (i.e.- rule of three) are present at all times with individual minors when off the ice. For example, it could be two club volunteers, two coaches, or a coach and parent/guardian of the skater. This two-deep strategy makes it more difficult to isolate a minor and avoid detection. This policy is intended to minimize one-on-one interactions not only for the protection of the minor but also to help protect coaches and volunteers from false accusations.

Locker Room and Changing Room Policy

To ensure that steps are being taken to provide a safe environment for all skaters, MESC has adopted the following changing/locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy and to provide a safe environment in the changing/locker rooms.

Privacy:

MESC shall arrange for gender-specific locker rooms/changing areas whenever possible. Females should not enter the male areas, and males should not enter the female areas. Should it be necessary for a Co-ed locker room, athletes will come to the event fully dressed. MESC will provide separate changing areas for the different genders.

Supervision:

Minor children will be provided with a separate locker room than adult athletes at MESC hosted and sanctioned events. If it is necessary for adult and minor athletes to share a locker/changing room, two-deep leadership shall apply to all monitoring of locker rooms/changing areas. Specifically, two volunteers shall be assigned to supervise each locker room/changing area.

If an MESC event requires a locker room, athletes may be unsupervised as they await their time on the ice. They will be asked to arrive at the event fully dressed and with make-up and/or skates on, to eliminate the need for parental access. These events will ideally have rink monitors checking changing/locker room areas periodically throughout the event to ensure that athletes are abiding by the policy. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some competitors uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion. **AT NO TIME WILL THERE BE ANY SINGLE ADULT LEFT ALONE WITH A SINGLE CHILD.**

Should the event necessitate locker room supervisors, two-deep leadership shall apply to all monitoring of locker rooms/changing areas. Specifically, two volunteers shall be assigned to supervise each locker room/changing area. Those volunteers shall be the same gender as the area supervised.

Parental access:

Only same-gender parents may enter the locker room/changing area with their child under the age of 11. In order to keep events running as smoothly as possible, however, we discourage parents from entering changing rooms unless it is truly necessary. We recognize that the youngest competitors rely on parents to assist them in getting dressed, applying makeup, styling hair and other preparatory activities; however, we encourage parents to complete these activities as expeditiously as possible and to only remain in the changing room for the time necessary to complete these activities.

Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices: Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are prohibited from being used in the changing rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the changing room.

Competitors, coaches and chaperones will be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these changing room policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the U.S. Figure Skating SafeSport Policies.

Social Media, Mobile and Digital Communications Policy

Use of cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras within a locker room, bathroom or skater changing area. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of these areas.

As part of U.S. Figure Skating's emphasis on participant safety, communications involving minor participants should be appropriate, productive and transparent. Effective communication concerning activities, schedules and administrative issues among coaches, members and their families, officials and volunteers is critical. U.S. Figure Skating encourages and supports members, member clubs, programs and teams to take part in social media by posting, blogging and tweeting positive experiences in skating as a show of support of its members and for promotion of the club, its programs and events. However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media and other forms of digital communications increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings and provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The improper use of mobile and digital communications can result in misconduct. All digital communication of any kind between adults and minors, including use of social media, must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about skating-related activities. Consider social media communications as public at all times. The club, program or team is required to have a signed name and likeness consent and release agreement form (see appendix for sample) by the minor's parent or legal guardian before any distribution or posting of photos, videos, images, etc. No contact information for any minor shall in any case be placed on any social media site. Coaches, skaters and club volunteers must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of any allowable digital communication. All content between adults and minors should be readily available to share with the public or families of the minor member. If the member is under the age of 18, any email, text, social media or similar communication must also copy or include a parent or legal guardian.

Prohibited Conduct

All misconduct defined by the MESC Athlete Protection Policy and the USFS SafeSport Handbook, including but not limited to bullying, hazing, harassment (including sexual harassment), emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and sexual misconduct (including child sexual abuse).

Profanity; obscenity; rowdy or boisterous behavior; music; disparagement of other skaters/clubs, their families, coaches, judges, USFS officials, or rink personnel; or any other conduct that might be construed or interpreted as improper, indiscreet, or offensive by others, even if the member may believe otherwise.

If a minor member witnesses a conversation or behavior that makes them uncomfortable, that member should go to an adult – their parent, a coach, or an MESC Board Member or volunteer.

Reporting Policy

To make a report of any Safesport violations:

Please contact the Safesport Chair of the Mountain Edge Skating Club Board at: mountainedgesc@gmail.com.

Or, you may contact US Figure Skating at: safesport@usfigureskating.org or call 719-635-5200

To Report Sexual Misconduct Violations: Individuals should report suspected sexual misconduct violations to Jefferson County Sherriff's Department 277-0211 and/or **Jefferson County Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline** at **303-271-HELP (4357)**. Reports may also be made directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Online Reporting Form - <https://www.safesport.org/response-resolution/report> Phone: 720-524-5640



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