



As a youth serving organization committed to the safety and security of members, leaders, and volunteers, USPC must adhere to best practices by requiring comprehensive trainings, including Member (Youth) Protection Training.

In 2012, the Member & Volunteer Protection Policy (#0900) was established as an organizational commitment to provide a safe environment for its members and volunteers. A safe environment is one that is free of physical or sexual abuse; verbal, physical, or cyber bullying or threats; harassment; and physical violence. Individuals holding specific volunteer or leadership positions with oversight of youth members were required to take a training course on Youth Protection.

This fall USPC is transitioning to the U.S. Center for SafeSport's online training course. ***For 2020, individuals required to fulfill the Member Protection Training requirement must complete the SafeSport™ Trained course and submit their Certificate of Completion to the USPC National Office.*** In accordance with Policy 0900 individuals must fulfill the training requirement anytime the course has been updated or changed.

The mission of U.S. Center for SafeSport is to make athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation's sports culture through abuse prevention, education, and accountability.

Their vision is that every athlete is safe, supported, and strengthened through sport.

**Safe:** Athletes are protected from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.

**Supported:** Athletes enjoy welcome, respectful environments and diversity is actively embraced.

**Strengthened:** Athletes use the skills they have learned in sport to contribute to the well-being of their communities. Every athlete thrives, on and off the field of play.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport's online training course covers the following topics in-depth:

- Mandatory Reporting
- Sexual Misconduct Awareness Education
- Emotional and Physical Misconduct

The SafeSport™ Trained comprehensive course helps individuals recognize if a member is being abused, and most importantly to learn prevention techniques, and how to respond and help if abuse has already happened. Education and awareness are the most critical components to creating safe and respectful sport environments.

We thank all our volunteers and leaders who are committed to the development of youth members into well-round women and men, both as horsemen and individuals. Changing to utilize the SafeSport™ Trained course is just one indicator of both your and Pony Club's dedication to its members and mission to develop character, leadership, confidence, and a sense of community in youth through a program teaching the care of horses and ponies, riding and mounted sports.

**Learn more:** <https://www.ponyclub.org/Volunteers/Safety/YouthProtection.aspx>

**PLEASE NOTE:** USPC is switching to the SafeSport™ Trained course for fulfillment of the Member Protection Training requirement. However, U.S. Center for SafeSport does not handle any reports of abuse or enforcement of policy for The United States Pony Clubs.

The procedure to make a report of abuse to USPC may be found on the Pony Club website on the [Member Protection page](#) – accessed under Parents/Volunteers, Volunteer Requirements.