

# USTA Safe Play Policy Updates

Effective January 1, 2025

## Noteworthy Revisions

### *Out-of-program contact between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes*

- **Change Made:** Added language to the section on one-on-one interactions to prohibit all out-of program contact, even if it is not one-on-one, between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes unless a Close-in-Age Exception or a Dual relationship exists or the parent/legal guardian has provided written consent for each out-of-program contact, and has taken education and training concerning child abuse prevention found [here](#).

**Rationale:** Prohibiting all out-of-program contact draws a clear line between appropriate relationships and potentially inappropriate relationships outside of sport and helps to keep the relationship professional in nature.

### *Taking and sharing photos and videos of Minor Athletes*

- **Change Made:** Added language to the section on one-on-one interaction that states photos and videos of Minor Athletes must only be taken in public and observe generally accepted standards of decency. Also added language that prohibits Adult Participants from sharing photos or videos of Minor Athletes without the consent of the Minor Athlete and Minor Athlete's parent / legal guardian.

**Rationale:** Restrictions on photographing and taking video of Minor Athletes reduces the opportunity for inappropriate interactions and exploitation of Minor Athletes.

### *Physical contact in the context of training, manual therapy and therapeutic and recovery modalities*

- **Change Made:** Added language to the section on one-on-one interactions that requires physical contact (i.e. to correct form during training) to be narrated in strength and conditioning environments and situations.

**Rationale:** Narration helps educate the individual about the care as it is provided, helps eliminate confusion or miscommunication about the care, and helps the Minor Athlete establish appropriate boundaries while receiving care.

- **Change Made:** Added the provision that providers must narrate the steps in the modality before taking them, seeking assent of the Minor Athlete throughout the process.

**Rationale:** Narration helps educate the individual about the care as it is provided, helps eliminate confusion or miscommunication about the care, and helps the Minor Athlete establish appropriate boundaries while receiving care. Those under 18 cannot consent to care without parent / legal guardian permission (as required elsewhere in the policy) but they can positively assent to their care as it occurs. An example of what this may look like can be found [here](#).

- **Change Made:** Added the provision that techniques must be used to reduce physical touch of Minor Athletes.

**Rationale:** Reducing physical touch helps eliminate confusion or miscommunication about the care.