

In 2022, the Center convened a working group comprised of several representatives from National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to receive feedback and explore best practices related to Emotional and Physical Misconduct. From this group's work, the following FAQs have been compiled to assist all NGBs and their Local Affiliated Organizations (LAOs) better understand these forms of misconduct and comply with the 2023 Response and Resolution Compliance Audit standards.

1 | **Q: Why is the U.S. Center for SafeSport collecting data from NGBs and their LAOs?**

A: The Center has exclusive jurisdiction over allegations of sexual misconduct, including child sexual abuse, criminal charges or dispositions involving child abuse or sexual misconduct, and three other categories of misconduct explained on page 1 of the [SafeSport Code](#). The Center's discretionary jurisdiction over other forms of misconduct, including Emotional and Physical Misconduct, is explained on page 2 of the SafeSport Code. When the Center receives a report of allegations that are in its discretionary jurisdiction, it can choose to exercise jurisdiction or decline to exercise jurisdiction. If the Center declines to exercise discretionary jurisdiction over an allegation, the report is referred to the NGB for handling. In other situations, allegations of misconduct that would fall under the Center's discretionary jurisdiction are not reported to the Center and the NGB determines how to handle them. In order to better serve the Movement, the Center needs more information about the cases that are handled by NGBs and their LAOs, including the types of reports and their respective resolutions.

2 | **Q: What are methods that Organizations can use to track reporting and investigation data internally?**

A: Organizations most often track reporting and investigation data using a spreadsheet, or similar application, on an internal shared drive. Some Organizations use a color-coded system to track the status of a report within the investigative process, while other Organizations utilize multiple tabs on a spreadsheet to track different categories of data.

In addition to spreadsheets, some Organizations track reporting and investigation data by using a CRM software system to assist in the management of data.

3 | **Why should an Organization track this information?**

A: Tracking reports and their respective resolutions ensures that investigations are conducted according to the Organization's policies and protocols at all levels (i.e., LAOs). In 2024, data (collected in 2023) will be requested as a part of the Audit Standards related to Organization's internal response and resolution policies and process.

4 | Q: How should NGBs collect data from LAOs?

A: NGBs can choose how to collect data from their LAOs. Popular ways of collecting data include monthly submission forms, distributing a template to LAOs to return on regular intervals, and online forms that LAOs can fill out as Emotional and Physical Misconduct cases are reported.

Note: The Center has used “Emotional and Physical Misconduct” as a shortened reference to forms of misconduct that may be addressed through the Center’s discretionary jurisdiction. Please note that the Center’s discretionary jurisdiction is far more expansive and includes:

- Non-sexual Child Abuse;
- Emotional and Physical Misconduct, including stalking, bullying behaviors, hazing and harassment;
- Criminal Charges or Dispositions not involving Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct;
- Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) or other similar Proactive Policy violations;
- Misconduct Related to Aiding and Abetting, Abuse of Process, or Retaliation, when it relates to the processes of the USOPC, an NGB, an LAO, or any other organization under the Center’s jurisdiction

5 | Q: When LAOs are permitted to conduct investigations, how should data be submitted?

A: In some cases, NGBs require LAOs to submit all reports to the national office. In this case, NGBs should track reports, investigations, and violations submitted by LAOs. In cases where NGBs allow LAOs to investigate and resolve reports, the LAO should track reports, investigations, and violations and submit data of matters addressed per Organizational protocols.

6 | How should Organizations submit data to the Center?

A: Organizations (NGBs or LAOs) will be asked to submit data directly to the Center using an online web form. Data will be submitted in accordance with the categories described in section #5 of the 2023 Response & Resolution Compliance Audit standards. This form will allow submission to the Center on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis (data must be submitted at least annually by each Organization).

7 | How should Organizations categorize reports that may fall into multiple categories of misconduct?

A: When a report includes allegations of Emotional and Physical Misconduct, the data submission form will allow for three types of submission: emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and both emotional and physical misconduct. Organizations should select the “both emotional and physical misconduct” choice if allegations fall into both categories.

8 | Q: How should Organizations account for multiple reports of the same allegation?

A: If an Organization receives multiple reports about the same incident, these reports should be counted as a singular report, and should be reported as one incident when submitting data.

Example illustrating questions #7-8:

Sam (17) is the team captain at an LAO. Joe, the coach at the LAO, has become increasingly frustrated with younger players on the team. After a tough loss at a game, Sam saw Joe shove a different player against a locker while yelling about losing the game. Joe berated the player and then aggressively yelled that Sam will be running alone due to his performance the following day. Joe told Sam if he told anyone about the interaction, he would lose his position as team captain. Sam alerted the club owner and the incident was reported to the NGB.

- In this situation, because both Emotional and Physical Misconduct may have occurred, you will only submit this report under the category of “both physical and emotional misconduct.”

The next day, Sam’s parents filed a report directly with the NGB about the incident. How should the NGB submit this data?

- The NGB should submit this information as one singular event, regardless of how many individuals report the incident.

9 | Q: How does the Center define the term ‘investigation’?

A: An investigation is defined as commencing once an Organization has established two facts: personal jurisdiction (the respondent is considered a Participant under the SafeSport Code) and that the reported misconduct is covered under the SafeSport Code (subject matter jurisdiction).

10 | Q: Should allegations of Emotional and Physical Misconduct that occur during competitions be included in data reported to the Center?

A: Yes, all reports or incidents of Emotional and Physical Misconduct that occur during competitions must be included in data reported to the Center, even if this allegation or incident was addressed immediately by an umpire, referee, or other game official.