

In 2022, the Center convened a working group of several representatives from National Governing Bodies (NGBs). Together we explored best practices related to Emotional and Physical Misconduct. We put together these FAQs based on the group's feedback. This resource will help all NGBs and their Local Affiliated Organizations (LAOs) better understand these forms of misconduct. It will also help them follow the 2025 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. We have Discretionary Jurisdiction over other forms of misconduct, including Emotional and Physical Misconduct. This means we can choose to exercise or decline jurisdiction when we receive a report of Emotional or Physical Misconduct. You can learn more about jurisdiction in the [SafeSport Code](#).

If we decline jurisdiction, we refer the report to the NGB. Sometimes allegations of misconduct that would fall under the Center's Discretionary Jurisdiction are reported to the NGB or LAO. The NGB determines how to handle those reports. We can better serve the Movement if we have more information from you about these cases, including the types of reports and their resolutions.

2 | **Q: What methods do Organizations use to track reporting and investigation data?**

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. Others use multiple tabs on a spreadsheet to track distinct categories of data. Some Organizations also use CMS software to manage their 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 2025 Audits, data (collected in 2024) 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
- A template LAOs complete and return at regular intervals
- Online forms LAOs fill out as Emotional and Physical Misconduct cases are reported

Note: The Center uses “Emotional and Physical Misconduct” as a shortened reference to forms of misconduct that we may address with Discretionary Jurisdiction. Please note the Center’s Discretionary Jurisdiction is far more expansive. It 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: Some NGBs require LAOs to submit all reports to the national office. In these cases, 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. They should submit data of reports they addressed according to your Organization’s protocols.

6 | How should Organizations submit data to the Center?

A: We ask Organizations (NGBs or LAOs) to submit data directly to the Center using an online form on the **[NGB Portal](#)**. Data will be submitted in accordance with the categories described in section #5 of the 2025 Response and Resolution Compliance Audit standards. This form will allow submission to the Center on a monthly, quarterly, and 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 form allows for three types of submission:

- Emotional Misconduct
- Physical Misconduct
- Both Emotional and Physical Misconduct

Select “Both Emotional and Physical Misconduct” if allegations fall into both categories.

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

A: If you receive multiple reports about the same incident, you should count these as a single report. Report these 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, Sam saw Coach Joe shove another player against a locker while yelling about losing the game. Coach Joe then aggressively yelled at Sam that if he told anyone about the interaction, he would lose his position as team captain. Sam alerted the club owner, who reported the incident to the NGB.

- In this situation, 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?

- Submit this information as one event, regardless of how many individuals report the incident.

9 | Q: How does the Center define the term “investigation”?

A: We define an investigation as starting once an Organization has established two facts:

- Personal jurisdiction (the Respondent is considered a Participant under the SafeSport Code) AND
- The reported misconduct is covered under the SafeSport Code (subject matter jurisdiction)

10 | Q: Should Organizations include data about allegations of Emotional and Physical Misconduct that occur during competitions?

A: Yes, you must include all reports or incidents of Emotional and Physical Misconduct that occur during competitions in data reported to the Center. This is true even if an umpire, referee, or other game official immediately addressed the allegation or incident.