



December 1, 2017

To Ronald Lewis:

You are receiving this email because you are listed on the official current USATT Directory as a manager, director and/or leader of a USATT Sanctioned Club, i.e. a "member club". I apologize in advance if you are receiving this email in error or if you have already fulfilled the requirements of the SafeSport program.

First, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you for all of your efforts in managing your club. Many of you run world class training facilities that are critical in the development of the talent that America needs to remain competitive in the international table tennis arena. Some of you manage clubs that may be of more humble origins, but are no less important in serving as the back-bone that continues to expand the growing interest in our sport and provides a true community for people who share the common interest of table tennis. My goal would be to meet each of you and personally thank you for your dedication to our sport; and along those lines, for those of you who intend to be at the upcoming US Open in Las Vegas, I would hope that you would find me and introduce yourself.

This past September, I sent a letter to the entire USATT community with an update about the SafeSport initiative and our compliance efforts (this letter, dated September 25, 2017, is attached and can be found - <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/usatt/safesport>). Since then, USATT General Counsel Dennis Taylor and I, along with our entire USATT staff, have been actively engaged in continuing the effort to extend the reach of the educational and compliance elements of SafeSport. In this regard, we have undertaken an extensive effort to ensure that all of our Tournament Directors are fully SafeSport compliant, and the response of the TDs to this effort has been an extraordinary beacon of success.

As we continue our efforts to expand compliance with the SafeSport mandate to all phases of the table tennis community, we would like to reiterate the simple purpose of this program: **we all need to do all within our power to provide a safe and trusted environment for our athletes and members.** While our compliance with the mandates of the USOC, the US Center for SafeSport (USCSS), and our insurance carrier are important, we cannot let it distract us from the underlying principal that SafeSport is necessary because *it is just the right thing to do.*

As you may be aware, we have established January 1, 2018, as the target date for system-wide compliance with SafeSport. Along these lines, we are seeking to proactively communicate with all "covered individuals" to ensure that necessary information is properly distributed, and those individuals understand the ramifications of non-compliance.



As we have continued to identify “covered individuals” in our community, we now need to take the necessary steps to ensure that those persons who are in positions of authority within our member clubs are also fully-compliant with the SafeSport requirements.

Becoming compliant is simple and free. There are two steps: (i) complete the SafeSport Background Check (<https://enterprise.fadv.com/pub/l/applicants/ApplicantUI.jsp>); and (ii) complete the on-line U.S. Center for SafeSport Tutorial, which takes approximately two hours, but does not have all be done in one sitting (<https://training.teamusa.org/>).

I want to emphasize that all costs for the background check are covered by USATT. There are NO COSTS for persons submitting the form. Also, with respect to the tutorial, I must say that I have personally found it to be a valuable refresher, particularly in this time when safety, security, and smart decisions are so fresh on everyone’s mind.

Also, anyone undertaking the effort to become SafeSport Compliant that needs guidance in any form whatsoever can feel free to contact the USATT office, and Andrew Horn (Andrew.horn@usatt.org) or Ethan Figge (ethan.figge@usatt.org) will be glad to assist you through the process.

The question, of course, many of you may be asking is: who at your member club is a “covered individual” and (correspondingly) must become SafeSport Compliant. First off, we are **encouraging everyone associated with table tennis**—or any other sport for that matter—to become compliant. It’s smart and it’s easy.

But, simply put, every person who in a **position of actual, perceived, or implied authority** over table tennis athletes at a member club and/or is in a position that requires **frequent contact with table tennis athletes** at a member club must become compliant. If you have a question about whether someone should become compliant, they probably should; but we will be glad to address those questions on a case-by-case basis if you feel that you need guidance in this regard.

And, we must emphasize that all “covered individuals” need to become SafeSport compliant by **January 1, 2018**.

Along these lines, we are asking that USATT member club managers, directors, and leaders respectfully relieve any and all persons who are not SafeSport Compliant by this date from any position of authority and/or any position that has frequent contact with table tennis athletes.

We understand that this may sound like an inconvenience to some and may even sound harsh to others, but it is our collective responsibility to undertake every reasonable effort to ensure that USATT and all of our member clubs provide a safe and trusted environment for all involved in our great sport. Becoming SafeSport Compliant is an easy and proper way to help carry this effort forward.





Once again, I thank you for your tireless commitment to the USATT community and for all the efforts you make every day to move our great sport forward. Please feel free to reach out to our SafeSport team with questions, comments or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

Gordon Kaye
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SafeSport Compliance Team

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