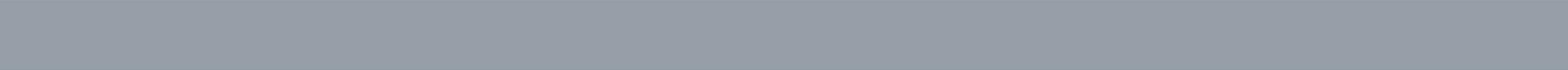


A TOOL FOR A CULTURE
OF SAFETY

SAFETY CHAMPIONS



SAFETY CHAMPION PROGRAM A NEW INITIATIVE FOR USA GYMNASTICS

- Focus on holistic safety
- Develop a network of front-line safety focused individuals
- Create “safety wisdom” starting at the frontlines
- Ongoing training on a wide range of topics related to safety, health, and professional development
- Educational resources for each member club
- A direct line of communication to parents at the club level, through the Safety Champion
- Direct line of communication for questions related to Safe Sport and general concerns that come up at the club level.

ENHANCES CULTURE OF SAFETY



A Safety Champion is a staff member or volunteer of a club who promotes positive safety practices within the club.

- Help to keep staff, athletes, and parents **motivated and informed of** club level safety initiatives
- **Advocate** a positive approach to health and safety in the gym environment
- Contribute insightful **ideas** to help the club improve its level of safety, and encouraging their colleagues to do the same
- Understand that **hazards** exist and work to mitigate these potential risks
- Help the management team put in place effective and intuitive health and safety **policies**
- Liaise between club and USA Gymnastics on new safety initiatives

WHAT IS A SAFETY CHAMPION?

Are willing to embrace a leadership opportunity

Someone willing and able to communicate information (i.e. athlete safety concerns, personal safe practices, reporting) at meetings

A person who models safe practices and club core values

A person who has a genuine interest in learning more about best practices in safety and health

Front line employees or volunteers that act as a voice and face of safety

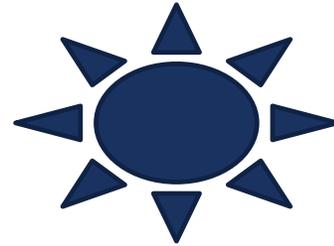
WHO ARE SAFETY CHAMPIONS?

Policy

- Writing and Evaluating Policy
- Reporting/Responding
- Stakeholder communication

Emotional Safety and Mental Wellness

- Body Positivity
- Trauma informed practices
- Inclusion



Environmental Safety

- Equipment Maintenance
- Parking lots
- Bathrooms
- Disaster Prep (tornadoes, fire, active shooter, hurricane)

Injury protocol and Crisis Response

- Concussions
- Injury protocol
- Emergency and catastrophic injury
- Heat exhaustion, dehydration

AREAS OF FOCUS

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LANGUAGE OF MANAGING RISK



WHAT THE
SAFETY
CHAMPION
PROGRAM IS
NOT...

- Extension of Safe Sport
- Replacement for current reporting protocols
- Prescribed
- Gotcha...
- Cookie cutter

COMMON QUESTIONS

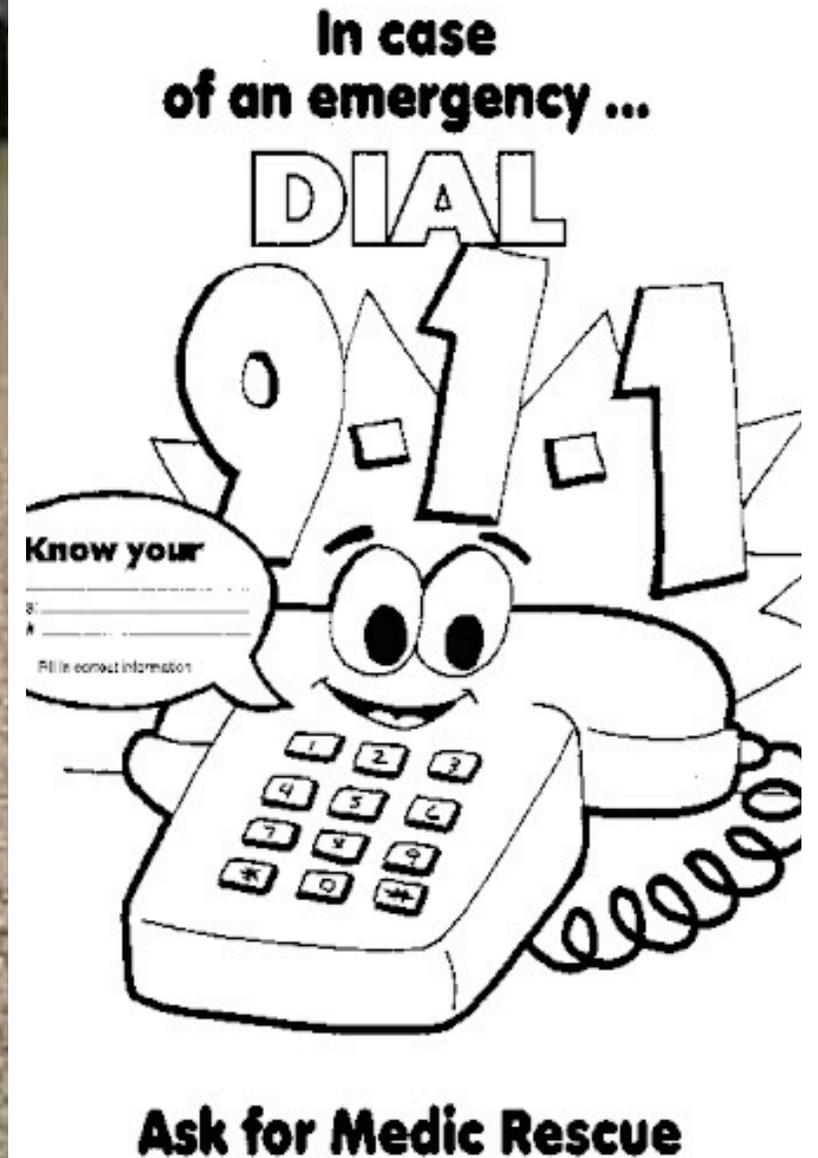
-
1. Can the club owner be a Safety Champion?
 2. Can a parent be a Safety Champion?
 3. What do I do if my Safety Champion quits?
 4. Will the club owner get the same information as the safety champion?
 5. What are the consequences for not implementing any safety programs in my gym?
 6. Is it a requirement for my member club to have a safety champion listed?
 7. Can I have more than one?
 8. What are the requirements to be a safety champion?
 9. Should I have a different Safety Champion per site?
 10. Are there incentives for participating?

IDEAS FOR SAFETY CHAMPIONS

-
- Awards for club safety (Ex: Pizza party every month w/out injuries)
 - Athlete team awards (Ex: group w/most creative ideas)
 - Monthly focus (Ex: Bully Awareness Month, 911 Education Month)
 - Safety Drills (Ex: Fire/tornado drill, Injury response, etc.)
 - Club level Community Service

INCLUDE THE KIDS!

- Let the kids develop ideas and games
- Create or improve processes for reporting internal concerns
- Make safety everyone's responsibility
- Lead by Example



2022 SAFETY CHAMPION FOCUS TOPICS

April

- Sexual Assault Awareness Month

September

- Preparedness Month

October

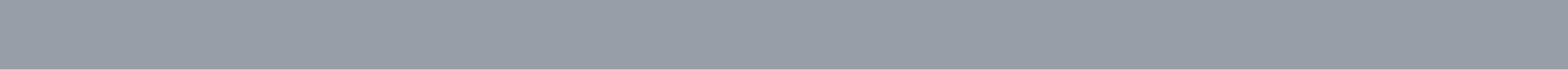
- Bullying Awareness

Other

- Athlete to Coach: Supporting coaches in their first year
- Creating Emotionally Safe and Inclusive Sporting Environments
- Best Practices in Injury Protocol

Next webinar: December 7, 2021

“Writing Policies that Work for Your Club”



FOR MORE INFORMATION,

SWALDRON@USAGYM.ORG

OR

USAGYMSAFESPORT@USAGYM.ORG

THANK YOU!

