



You have a responsibility as a coach, and as an adult, to protect the children within your care. They cannot protect themselves. They rely on you to keep them safe. If you observe a boundary violation, policy violation, or suspicious or inappropriate interactions, here are the four steps you can take:

Step 1. Interrupt the action and speak directly to the person involved.

Try to begin the conversation with something positive, and then describe the actions you've seen that concern you and suggest what should be done. Interrupting doesn't mean you are accusing anyone of molesting a child. You are just making sure that everyone follows the rules that keep kids safe.

Step 2. Share your concerns with the head coach, team manager, or Club Board President.

If you see something, say something. If you don't speak up, nothing will change and the situation could get dangerous. Tell your supervisor exactly what you've observed. Arrange a time when you can speak with leadership privately and without distractions. Share your observations and concerns with as much detail as you can and explain why you are concerned and what you would like to see changed.

Step 3. Contact the Athlete Protection Officer at 719.866.3589 or swoessner@usaswimming.org.

USA Swimming's Athlete Protection Officer will listen to your concerns, gather information and take appropriate action.

Step 4. You can report your concerns anonymously to Praesidium at 1.800.743.6354.

Sometimes people don't act on red flags because they are afraid to tell administrators or fear retaliation. This is especially true if the person about whom they have a concern is in a supervisory position over them. In this case, make use of an anonymous method, like calling the Praesidium hotline.

Bottom line? It's better to report than to regret. Don't talk yourself out of taking action. You could be the one person preventing a child from being sexually abused.