



Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football & Cheer

SAFE SPORT ACT COMPLIANCE POLICY

Policy - Established 4/25/19

The purpose of this Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy is to serve as a guide to compliance with the federal law entitled the “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” (“Safe Sport Act”), which was enacted by Congress and became federal law on February 14, 2018. In 2017, the United States Olympic Committee delegated to the United States Center for SafeSport (“SafeSport Center”) authority to respond to reports of sexual misconduct within the United States Olympic and Paralympic Movements. The Safe Sport Act codifies that the SafeSport Center has exclusive authority over National Governing Bodies of Sport to investigate and take action in response to allegations of sexual abuse.

Although Golden Empire Youth Tackle and Cheer is not a “National Governing Body” Golden Empire is strongly committed to compliance with the Safe Sport Act. To that end, Golden Empire hereby adopts the following Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy:

Mandatory Abuse Reporting:

Any adult interacting with youth athletes who becomes aware of an alleged incident of sexual misconduct is required to report to local law enforcement authorities and the Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football League Office, within a 24-hour period following the adult’s first becoming aware of such incident, or a reasonable suspicion of sexual misconduct. Every adult who staffs or volunteers to organize, assist with, or manage any element of a Golden Empire Program or other event in which youth athletes participate is a mandatory reporter and subject to this policy.

For purposes of this Safe Sport Act Compliance Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. Youth Athlete.** The term “youth athlete” shall mean a child or minor under the age of 18 who participates in a Golden Empire Program, or any other event hosted or operated by Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football and Cheer.
- B. Sexual Misconduct.** The term “sexual misconduct” shall include, but not be limited to, child sex abuse, non-consensual sexual conduct, sexual harassment or intimate relationships involving an imbalance of power.
- C. Local Law Enforcement Authorities.** The term “local law enforcement authorities” shall include, but not be limited to the following law enforcement agencies:
 1. Bakersfield Police Department: (661) 327-7111
 2. Kern County Sherriff Department: (661) 868-5547Emergency or if in doubt about the jurisdiction: **911**
- D. Sexual Grooming.** The term “sexual grooming” shall mean a method used by offenders that involves building trust with a child and the adults around a child in an effort to gain access to and time alone with

the child. In extreme cases, offenders may use threats and physical force to sexually assault or abuse a child. However, sexual grooming more commonly involves subtle approaches designed to build relationships with families. The offender may assume a caring role, befriend the child or even exploit the offender's position of trust and authority to groom the child and/or the child's family. These individuals intentionally build relationships with the adults around a child or seek out a child who is less supervised by adults in her/his life. This increases the likelihood that the offender's time with the child is welcomed and encouraged.

Aspects of sexual grooming may include:

1. targeting the victim; 2. securing access to and isolating the victim; 3. gaining the victim's trust; and 4. controlling and concealing the relationship.

Mandatory Safe Sport Training.

All adults working with youth athletes, including members of Golden Empire's Board of Directors who have oversight responsibility over any youth football or cheer program, or other event involving youth athletes, shall be required to receive sexual abuse prevention training that Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football and Cheer has determined to satisfy the legal requirements of mandatory Safe Sport training. Such training shall be proactive rather than reactive and must include educational material about the process of sexual grooming.

Criminal Background Checks:

All adult volunteers and staff members who are reasonably expected to have significant contact with youth athletes in a Golden Empire Program, or other event that predominantly involves the participation of youth athletes should consent to and complete a criminal background check before they are permitted to have contact with youth athletes in connection with such race, program, or other event.

Right to Bar Registered Sex Offenders from Participation:

Golden Empire Youth Tackle Football and Cheer reserves the right to bar from participation any volunteer, or other person who is involved in any way with Golden Empire Programs, leadership, or other event if it is reported to and confirmed by Golden Empire that the volunteer, or other person is listed as a sex offender on a sex offender registry.

Prohibition against **One-on-One Contact** with Youth Athletes. No Golden Empire adult staff member, board member, or volunteer is permitted to be alone and otherwise unsupervised with a child who is not their own child during a Golden Empire based program or other event involving youth athletes.

