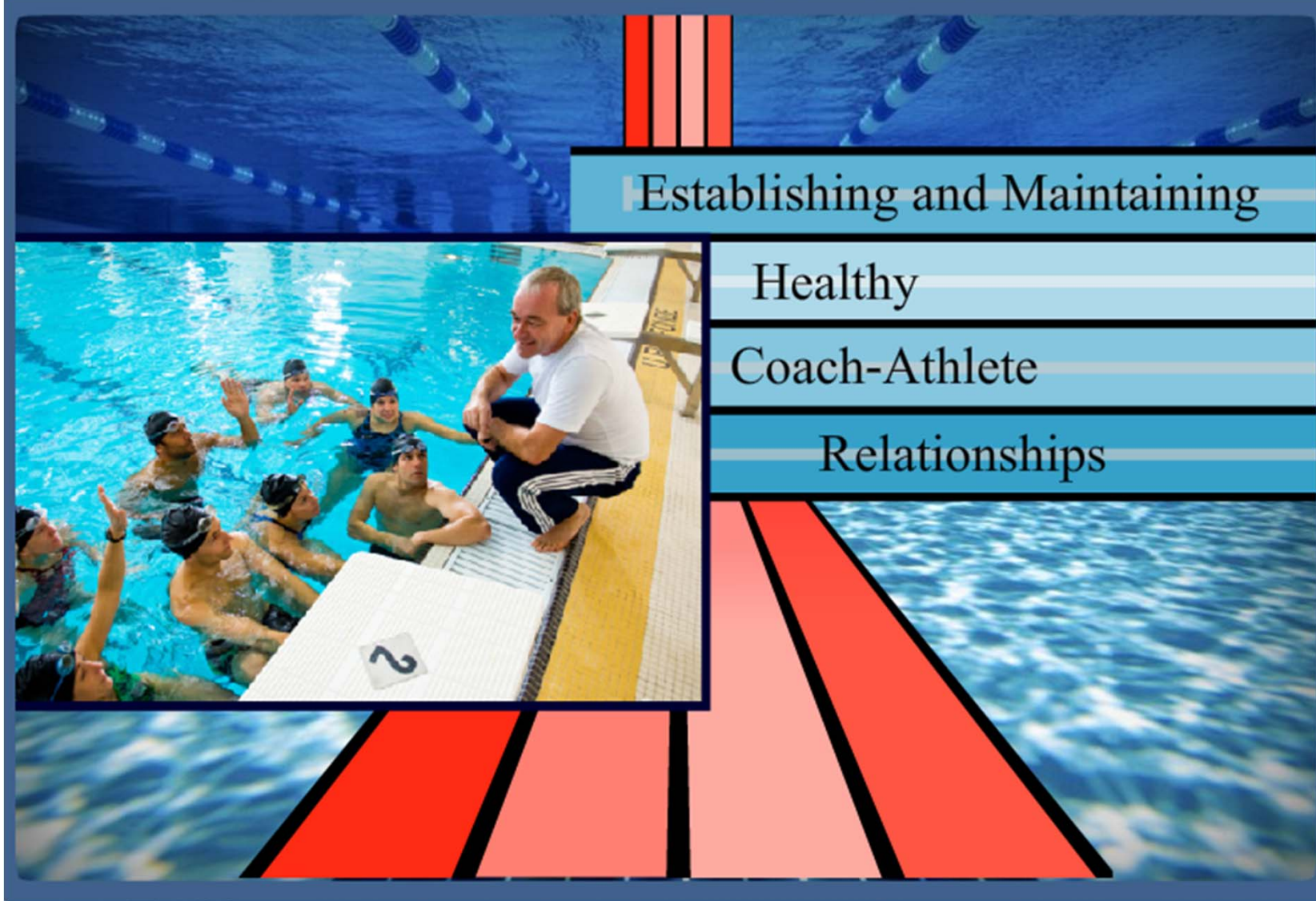


Athlete Welfare Presentation

For the
USA Swimming Convention

Presented by: Britt Darwin-Looney, J.D.





Establishing and Maintaining

Healthy

Coach-Athlete

Relationships



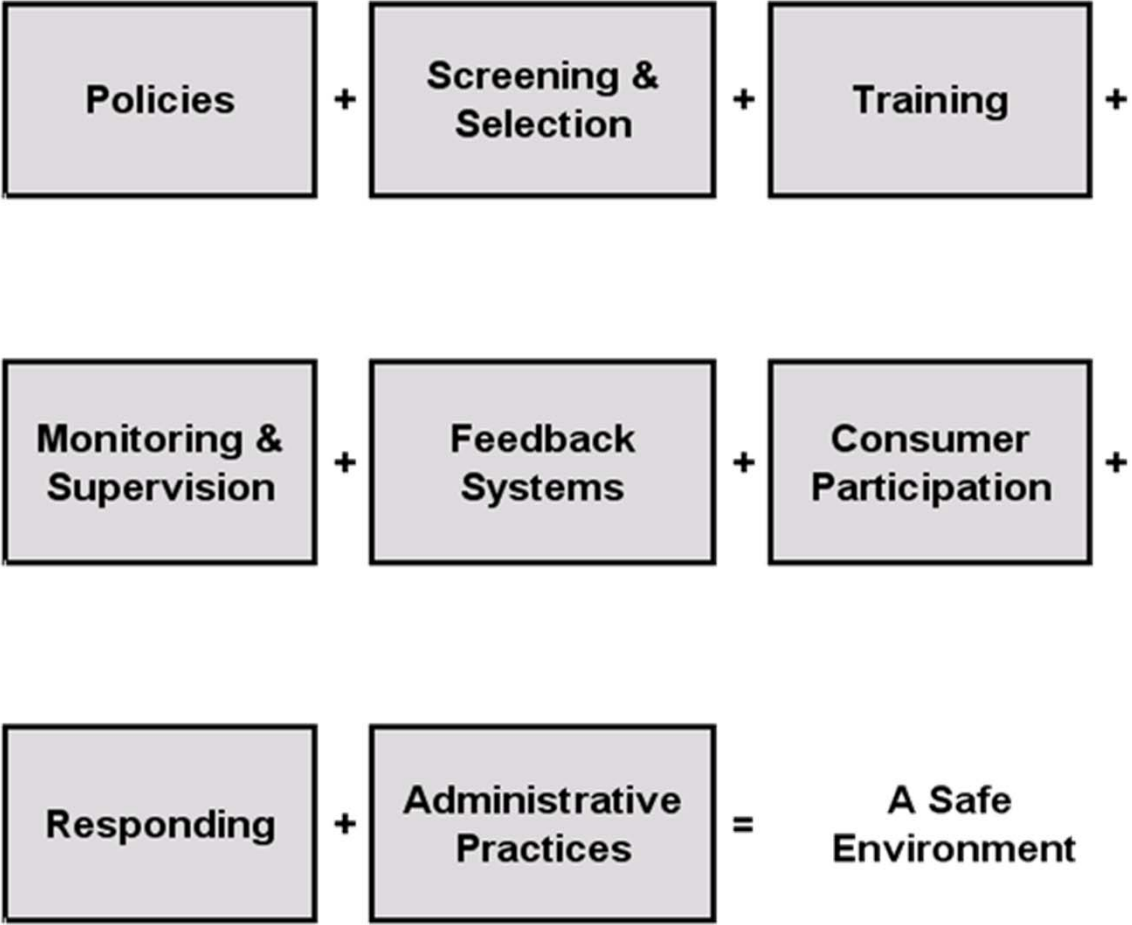
PRAESIDIUM
Our passion. Your protection.

About Praesidium

- Incorporated in 1992
- National leader in abuse risk management
- Over 4,000 clients internationally
- Train, assess, accredit, and perform investigations for organizations worldwide



Praesidium Safety Equation™



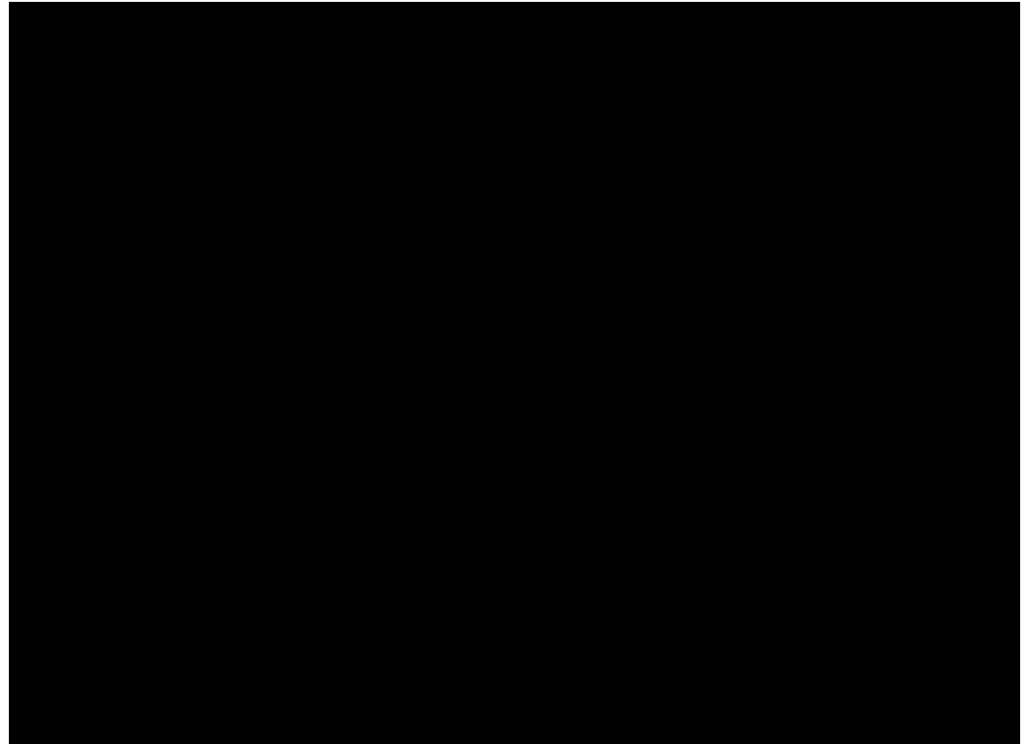
Scope of the Problem

- 1 in 4 girls & 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused
- With 30 million athletes, there could be as many as 7.5 million athlete victims
- 80% of abuse goes unreported
- Increasing litigation
- Increasing state legislation



Effects of Abuse on the Victim

- Psychological
- Educational
- Behavioral
- Interpersonal
- Sexual

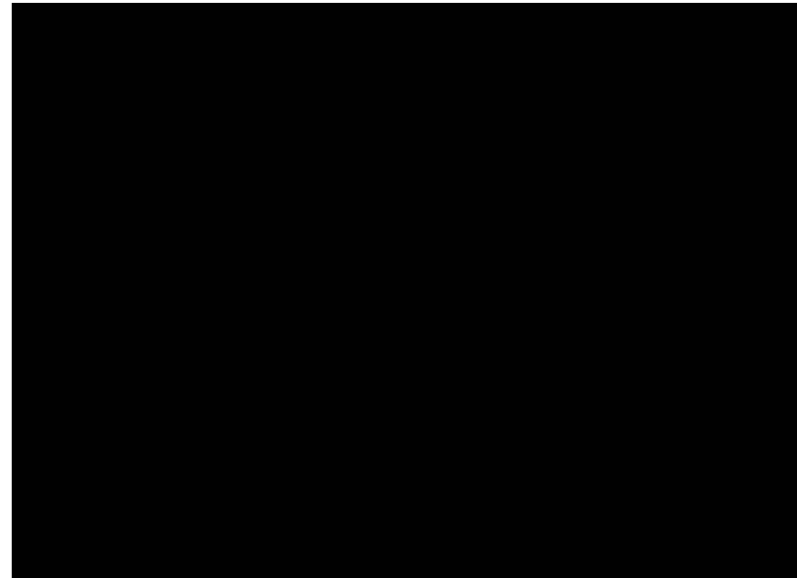


Types of Offenders

- Preferential



- Naïve or Situational



How Adult Offenders Operate

- Access
- Privacy
- Control
 - ◆ Physical Grooming
 - ◆ Psychological Grooming
 - ◆ Community Grooming



Preventing False Allegations

False allegations are extremely rare!

1. Follow the policies.
2. Keep your boundaries clear.
3. Avoid time alone with a lone swimmer.
4. Treat all swimmers equally.
5. Don't pick favorites.
6. Respond directly to anything unusual and tell your supervisor and your Board President.



Responding to Boundary Violations

1. Interrupt.
2. Share your concerns.
3. Contact the Athlete Protections Officer.
4. Report anonymously.
5. For allegations of abuse, report to the proper authorities.



Where do we go from here?



Key Components to an Effective Abuse Prevention Program

- Comprehensive
- Directed
- Ongoing
- Flexible
- Leadership driven



USA Swimming Action Plan

1. Create comprehensive guidelines addressing acceptable coach behavior.
2. Review the reporting system.
3. Revise the Code of Conduct.
4. Revise the background screening program.
5. Disseminate additional information about hiring.
6. Share coaching history records.
7. Educate athletes, parents, coaches and club leaders on this important issue.





Welcome to the world of swimming!

In this course you will learn:

1. Background information about swimming
2. Scope and effects of abuse in sports
3. Characteristics of the coach-athlete relationship
4. How to recognize grooming and boundary violations
5. How to manage yourself and others for safety
6. Steps to take if you see something of concern



Contact Us

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