

How do I build my own safety program?

Select a safety partner

Step one is to research and identify a safety partner with experience serving the youth sports industry. One such example is the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI). NCSI is a trusted partner of NCYS and is recognized as a leader in youth sports safety.

NCSI advocates for the youth of today, advancing safety policy through influence and education while supporting youth-centered organizations with in-depth background checks and comprehensive safety services.

NCSI background checks search more than twice the number of records that other background screening providers search—uncovering pivotal information other screenings may miss—including two independent multi-jurisdictional searches, containing over 800 million records.

In addition to background checks, NCSI helps youth sports organizations further protect athletes with important safety training.

NCYS RECOMMENDS: NCSI <https://solutions.ncsisafe.com>

Require abuse prevention training

Keeping athletes safe from harm starts with prevention and training. Cases of sexual abuse related to youth sports are becoming increasingly commonplace—provide the training your staff needs to identify warning signs of abuse and how to report suspicious activities.

Find an abuse prevention training program that meets the safety requirements for youth sports organizations established by the Safe Sport Act of 2017.

NCYS RECOMMENDS:

SafeSport Training through US Center for Safe Sport

Abuse Prevention Systems through NCSI and SportsEngine

www.sportsengine.com/solutions/capabilities/eligibility/safety-training

Provide further safety training

1 in 5 high school athletes will get a concussion and more than 2.5 million young people suffer a concussion in the United States each year. With proper care, most concussions can heal within a couple of weeks, but the overwhelming majority of students, parents, and coaches are unaware of the latest science about the prevention and treatment of concussions. If not treated properly, a concussion may have lasting physical, emotional, and cognitive effects.

It is crucial for youth sports organizations to have proper education, training, and requirements to ensure coaches and volunteers are able to identify and properly handle head injuries and concussions.

NCYS RECOMMENDS: [TeachAids CrashCourse](#) and [PRIVIT](#)

Protect investments

Injuries and unforeseen circumstances happen every year, jeopardizing the investment families make at the time of registration. Alleviate the stress of difficult refund conversations and safeguard your funds by offering third-party insurance options and collecting waivers during program registration.

NCYS RECOMMENDS: SportsEngine
www.sportsengine.com/solutions/capabilities/eligibility/insurance-waivers

Monitor and confirm eligibility

Ensuring every coach, manager, volunteer, and athlete has completed the requirements to qualify for play is key to creating safe sports experiences. SportsEngine HQ makes it easy to assign tasks, track progress, and confirm eligibility—all in one place.

NCYS RECOMMENDS: SportsEngine
<https://www.sportsengine.com/solutions/capabilities/finance/eligibility>