New England Water Ski Collective Sport Protection Policy

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Approved by: New England Water Ski Collective Board

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1. Purpose and Commitment

The Webster Water Ski Collective (WWSC) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all athletes, coaches, volunteers, and participants. This Sport Protection Policy ensures compliance with **Move United standards** and promotes the health, well-being, and safety of everyone involved in our water ski programming.

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2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All WWSC events and programs
- All members, including athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators
- All participants, regardless of age, ability, race, gender identity, or background

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3. Guiding Principles

WWSC upholds these principles:

- Zero tolerance for abuse, harassment, or misconduct of any kind
- Mandatory reporting of any violations
- Respectful interactions among all members
- Empowering athletes through education and awareness

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4. Definitions

- **Misconduct**: Any behavior that is emotionally, physically, or sexually abusive, including harassment, bullying, hazing, and neglect.
- **Participant**: Any individual who participates in or is involved with WWSC activities.
- **Mandatory Reporter**: Any adult staff, coach, or volunteer who is required to report suspected abuse or misconduct to authorities.

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5. Athlete Protection Policies

A. Supervision Requirements

- No one-on-one interaction between a minor and an adult is permitted unless in an observable and interruptible setting.
- At least two adults must be present at all times during WWSC activities with youth athletes.

B. Transportation

- Adults are not permitted to transport minors without another adult or minor present, unless with parental/guardian consent.

C. Electronic Communication

- All communications with minors must be transparent and professional.
- Group messaging is preferred; one-on-one texts or emails must include a parent or another adult.

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6. Prohibited Behaviors

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Sexual abuse or misconduct
- Bullying or cyberbullying
- Hazing or initiation rituals
- Emotional or verbal abuse
- Grooming behaviors
- Neglecting athlete safety or medical needs

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7. Mandatory Reporting

WWSC follows all **federal and state mandatory reporting laws**. Any staff, coach, or volunteer who suspects abuse must:

- Report it immediately to local law enforcement or child protective services
- Notify the WWSC Safe Sport Coordinator
- Submit an incident report within 24 hours

WWSC supports reporters and will not tolerate retaliation.

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8. Background Checks and Training

- All coaches, officials, and adult volunteers must complete a **criminal background check** and **Safe Sport Training** annually.
- Youth athletes and parents will be offered age-appropriate abuse prevention training.

9. Safety & Risk Management

A. Safety Director

Each event must appoint a Safety Director responsible for:

- Ensuring equipment, facilities, and weather conditions are safe
- Enforcing IWWF and USA Water Ski & Wake Sports safety guidelines
- Responding to and documenting any injuries or incidents

B. Event Requirements

- Medical support must be available on-site or within a 10-minute response time.
- Safety equipment, boats, flotation devices, and communication systems must be in place and checked pre-event.

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10. Reporting, Investigation & Disciplinary Action

A. Reporting Mechanism

Reports may be made anonymously to:

- secretary@websterwaterski.org
- For issues involving Safe Sport: https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/

B. Investigation

- All complaints will be handled promptly and confidentially.
- WWSC will coordinate with appropriate agencies and ensure due process.

C. Consequences

Violations may result in:

- Suspension or dismissal from WWSC
- Revocation of coaching or volunteer privileges
- Referral to law enforcement

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11. Policy Review and Updates

- This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed.
- All updates will be shared with WWSC members.

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12. Acknowledgement

All participants, staff, and volunteers must sign a statement agreeing to comply with this Sport Protection Policy before participating in WWSC activities.

Supporting References

- Move United Sport Protection Handbook, 2024
- USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Safety Manual
- IWWF Waterski Rules 2025
- AWSA 3-Event Rulebook

Webster Water Ski Collective

Sport Protection Policy Acknowledgement

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the Webster Water Ski Collective Sport Protection Policy. I agree to comply with its standards and expectations to ensure the safety and well-being of all participants in WWSC activities.

I understand that:

- Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including removal from WWSC programs and possible legal referral.
- I have a duty to report any suspected abuse, misconduct, or policy violations.
- I must complete the required background checks and training (e.g., Safe Sport Training) as appropriate to my role.

Please print clearly.

Full Name (Printed)	Role (Athlete, Coach, Volunteer, etc.)	Signature	Date

Return this signed form to the **WWSC Safe Sport Coordinator** or the designated program director before participating in any WWSC activity.

Appendix A: Reporting Forms & Resources

A. Incident Report Form

Instructions: Use this form to report any incidents related to abuse, misconduct, or unsafe conditions. Submit to the Safe Sport Coordinator or report anonymously as needed.

Webster Water Ski Collective – Incident Report Form

1. Person Reporting (optional):
Name: _____
Phone/Email: _____

2. Role:
☐ Athlete ☐ Coach ☐ Parent ☐ Volunteer ☐ Spectator ☐ Other: _____

3. Date & Time of Incident:
_____ **Location:** _____

4. Individuals Involved:

- Name(s) of the person(s) involved: _____
- Role(s) (athlete, coach, etc.): _____

5. Description of Incident:
(Include what happened, who was involved, any witnesses, and actions taken.)

_____
_____
_____

6. Immediate Action Taken (if any):
☐ Reported to police or child protective services
☐ Removed individual from activity
☐ Notified Safe Sport Coordinator
☐ Other: _____

7. Signature of Reporter (if not anonymous): _____

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B. WWSC Safe Sport Contacts

- **Safe Sport Coordinator**: Jared Bushnell
  Email: secretary@websterwaterski.org

- **WWSC Executive Director**: Leonardo Topa
  Email: president@websterwaterski.org

C. External Reporting Resources

- **Local Law Enforcement**: Massachusetts State Police (Charlton Barracks) - (508) 721-4040

- **State Child Protective Services**: 508-793-8000 (Worcester Office)

- **U.S. Center for SafeSport**
  Website: https://uscenterforsafesport.org
  24/7 Helpline: 1-833-5US-SAFE (1-833-587-7233)

- **Move United Reporting Portal**
  Website: https://moveunitedsport.org/membership/sport-protection