



Southern California Association

Dear USATF Member Club:

This letter is to inform you that beginning in 2007, USA Track & Field - Southern California Association is implementing a background screening program for all coaches and volunteers who come in contact with youth athletes during registered club practices or other club-related track and field activities.

This initiative is following the lead of other youth-based organizations, such as Little League Baseball, Pop Warner Football and American Youth Soccer Organization in ensuring that the track and field community provides our youth with the safest environment possible in which to thrive as athletes.

We realize that your club seeks to attract the most qualified volunteers to administer your programs and activities. At the same time, we should all must be aware that this could make your club a target for those with criminal backgrounds, including sexual predators. The background screening is intended to preserve the safety and security of our youth members and, at the same time, to provide a hostile environment for individuals who pose a threat to the safety of children involved in track and field activities. Additionally, having all of your coaches and volunteers properly screened may protect you and your club from possible criminal or civil liability, and/or loss of personal assets or depletion of club assets resulting from costly litigation.

The intent of the background screening is not to arbitrarily exclude volunteers who may have a criminal conviction in their past; rather, it is to identify individuals who may pose a risk to children and limit the potential for future harm.

Attached you will find a "Question & Answer" sheet which should provide you with more insight into the program and answer many of the questions you may have.

Youth club coaches and volunteers who have successfully completed the USATF application process (including the background screening) will have their names posted on the USATF web site as being in "good standing." Only these individuals will receive the protection of USATF's practice insurance liability program. Additionally, if a lawsuit is filed against your club because of an act performed by a volunteer who is not in "good standing" your club will not be covered.

A club coach or volunteer's name will not appear on the USATF web site if: 1) she or he is not a current USATF member; 2) he or she fails to submit the Coach/Volunteer Application form (including signing the "Background Screening Acknowledgement"); or 3) his or her club coach/volunteer application is denied due to information revealed during the background screening process, or for any other reason.

Sincerely,

Lori Smith-Thompson
Southern California Screening Agent
USATF – Southern California Association

All coaches and volunteers who have direct contact with youth athletes during scheduled club practices and other club activities must submit this application and sign the Background Screening Acknowledgement section.



Coach/Volunteer Application

Background Screening Application

(A copy of a valid government issued ID must be attached)

Mail To: Lori Smith-Thompson
5524 Samantha Avenue
Lakewood, CA 90712
Application Fee: \$10.00

Club Name _____ Club # _____

Coach/Volunteer Information

Full Legal Name _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____
Month Date Year

Previous (or Maiden) Name _____

Current Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

County _____ Phone # (____) _____ Alternate Phone # (____) _____

*USATF Membership # _____ E-mail _____

*Current membership is required to process this application and for the coach/volunteer to be considered "in good standing" and to be covered by the general liability insurance policy ♦ Note: the second digit of the membership number will correspond to the current year that the membership is valid (e.g. 3700001736 = 2007) ♦ Join online at www.usatf.org/membership

Provide all residences in last 10 years, attach additional sheets if necessary

Prior Residence: City _____ State ____ Zip _____ County _____ Dates ____ to ____

Prior Residence: City _____ State ____ Zip _____ County _____ Dates ____ to ____

Applicant's Qualifications

Check this box if the information below has been previously submitted to USATF.
(You do not need to complete the information below if the box is checked)

1. USATF Coaches Education School (if applicable) Developmental Level 1 Level 2 Level 3

2. Years of coaching experience _____

3. Name of school / college attended _____
Start date _____ End date _____ City _____ State _____

4. Number of clinics attended _____ (please list on separate sheet)

5. Please indicate additional information, qualifications, and/or comments you feel are pertinent to keep on file with your club application. _____

The "Background Screening Acknowledgement" section must be completed for this application to be processed

Background Screening Acknowledgment

Have you ever been convicted of or plead guilty to any crime(s)? Yes No

If yes, please explain: (attach additional sheets if necessary) _____

As a pre-condition to serving as a USATF Youth Coach/Volunteer, I give permission to USA Track & Field, Inc., including one of its Associations, to conduct criminal background screening on me, which will include a review of sex offender registries, child abuse, and criminal history records. I hereby release and hold harmless from liability the local USATF Association, USATF, Inc., the officers, employees, agents, volunteers thereof, and any other person or organization that may provide such information in accordance with the laws of the United States. I further understand that previous acceptance as a USATF Youth Coach/Volunteer does not obligate USATF, or its local Association, to accept my current application. I understand that if my application is denied, I am entitled to appeal procedures as outlined in Regulation 11 of the USATF Governance Manual.

Social Security # _____ Valid Driver's License # _____ State Issued _____

Applicant Signature (Required) _____ Date _____

Type or Print Name (Required) _____