

# #WeRideTogether

## Pledge to Keep Athletes Safe

The intent of this document is to provide coaches with a set of tools that can aid in upholding the highest standards of intentional integrity in sport. Sexual misconduct in sport has contributed to an erosion of trust in the athletic institutions on which our communities, composed of 60 million children alone, depend. Coaches “set the tone at the top”, meaning that they set the example for all of their athletes and supporting staff to emulate. However, not only do coaches need to “set the tone at the top”, but a healthy environment in sport also requires that everyone in sport have a shared sense of what integrity means on their team and a strong, empowered voice to put that integrity into practice. Please use and adapt the content in this document to facilitate important conversations and communicate expectations among your athletes, parents, and supporting staff in order to proactively keep athletes safe.

Email us at [info@weridetogogether.today](mailto:info@weridetogogether.today) to request an online copy of the pledge; we can update the pledge to reflect your logo and branding. We can also send you a Code of Conduct sign to hang in your barn or facility.

We hear you. We stand with you.

Learn more at [www.weridetogogether.today](http://www.weridetogogether.today)

*We Ride Together, Inc. is a nonprofit, section 501(c)(3) organization*



# Coach Athlete Pledge

*As a professional coach, I firmly believe in maintaining the longevity of this sport by ensuring that it is safe for all of its participants. I pledge to (and request all professionals, athletes, and parents of minors) ensure future generations of athletes have safe and healthy experiences by committing to the following:*

1. I will always endeavor to have another adult in the visual vicinity, or two minors present during any interaction with a minor.
2. I will ensure that my communications with youth are appropriate and will not comment on the minor's body, discuss sexually explicit activities, describe adult-themed relationships, require minors to keep secrets, or threaten a child.
3. I will ensure that all physical contact with youth will be communicated with respect, will be performed in the sight of others, and will be sport appropriate.
4. If I see a child's boundaries are being crossed by another adult, I will intervene by describing the behavior, setting a limit, and moving on.
5. I will ensure that when traveling that chaperones will be standard practice for accompanying youth to offsite travel events.
6. I promise to make it standard practice to notify a parent or caregiver when an adult is transporting a youth, and when possible, will include more than one child and/or adult.
7. I will ensure that gifts for minors are given to the whole team, given publicly, given for specific accomplishments, or given in consultation with a parent of caregiver to encourage positive patterns of behavior between adults and youth.
8. I promise to follow the law and not engage in illegal or harmful activities by giving minors substances like drugs or alcohol.
9. I will ensure that training facilities are free of hidden or secluded areas by making them observable or adding barriers to restrict access.
10. If I suspect, or witness abuse or if a youth discloses such, I commit to believing, listening, supporting, and reacting responsibly to their disclosure.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take this pledge to protect all athletes in this sport from sexual misconduct and promise to do my utmost to create a safe, happy, and healthy childhood for each athlete in my program.

Signed (Coach) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Athlete) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Parent if minor) \_\_\_\_\_

