



# U.S. SOCCER SAFE SOCCER CLEARANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FALL 2023



# NOW IS THE TIME TO CREATE A SAFER SOCCER ECOSYSTEM

WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STANDARDIZE AND ELEVATE SAFEGUARDING MEASURES TO BETTER PROTECT MILLIONS OF PARTICIPANTS ACROSS OUR COUNTRY



## STRENGTH BEHIND THE CREST

**27** National Teams

**11M** Playing organized soccer

**735K** Coaches & referees

**113** Member organizations

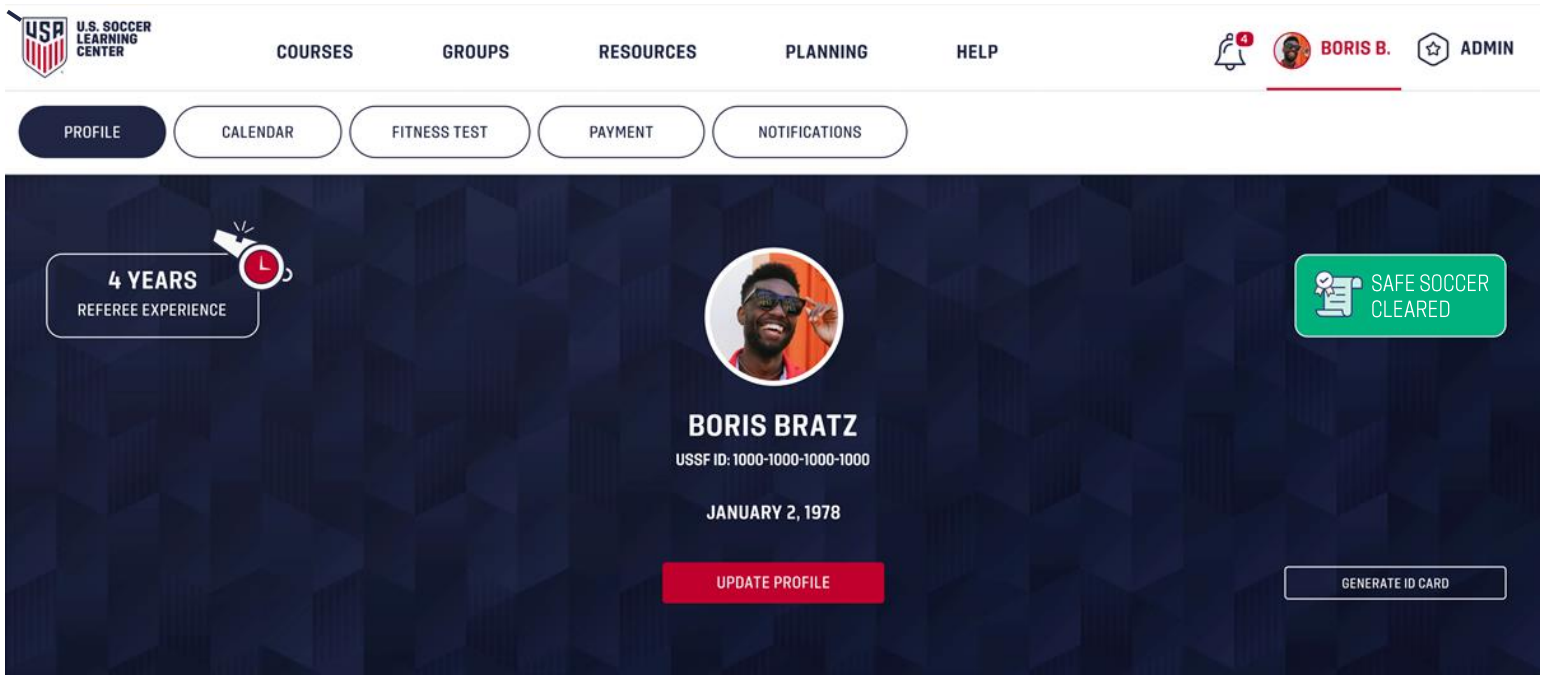
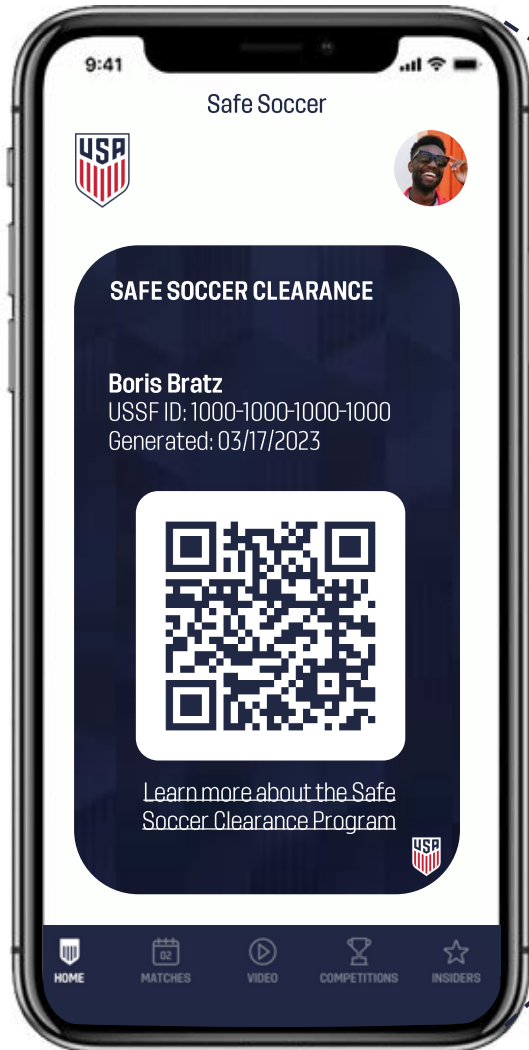


# OUR VISION FOR SAFE SOCCER

DIGITAL PASS WILL BRING THIS PROGRAM TO THE PITCH, KEEPING SAFETY AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR MINDS



SAFE SOCCER



# SAFE SOCCER WILL REVOLUTIONIZE SAFETY IN OUR SPORT

TRANSFORMS APPROACH FROM RED-LIGHTING BAD ACTORS TO GREEN-LIGHTING PARTICIPANTS BEFORE STEPPING ON THE FIELD



## SAFE SOCCER



### WHAT THE PROGRAM IS

- Participation eligibility program that creates a continuous vetting process for those in the sport
- Centralized sign-up and clearance process that takes 2-4 hours to complete annually
- Public database where status of any participant can be searched, including any reported misconduct
- Available to all participants including coaches, referees, team staff, parents, Board Members, etc.



### HOW TO BECOME SAFE SOCCER

- Participant signs-up through U.S. Soccer's website, creating a Safe Soccer Clearance profile
- User completes education modules and applicable background screening requirements
- User is granted a digital pass and their status is updated in central database
- Each year, Safe Soccer Clearance is renewed by refreshing education requirements



# BENEFIT OF CENTRALIZING THE SAFE SOCCER PROGRAM

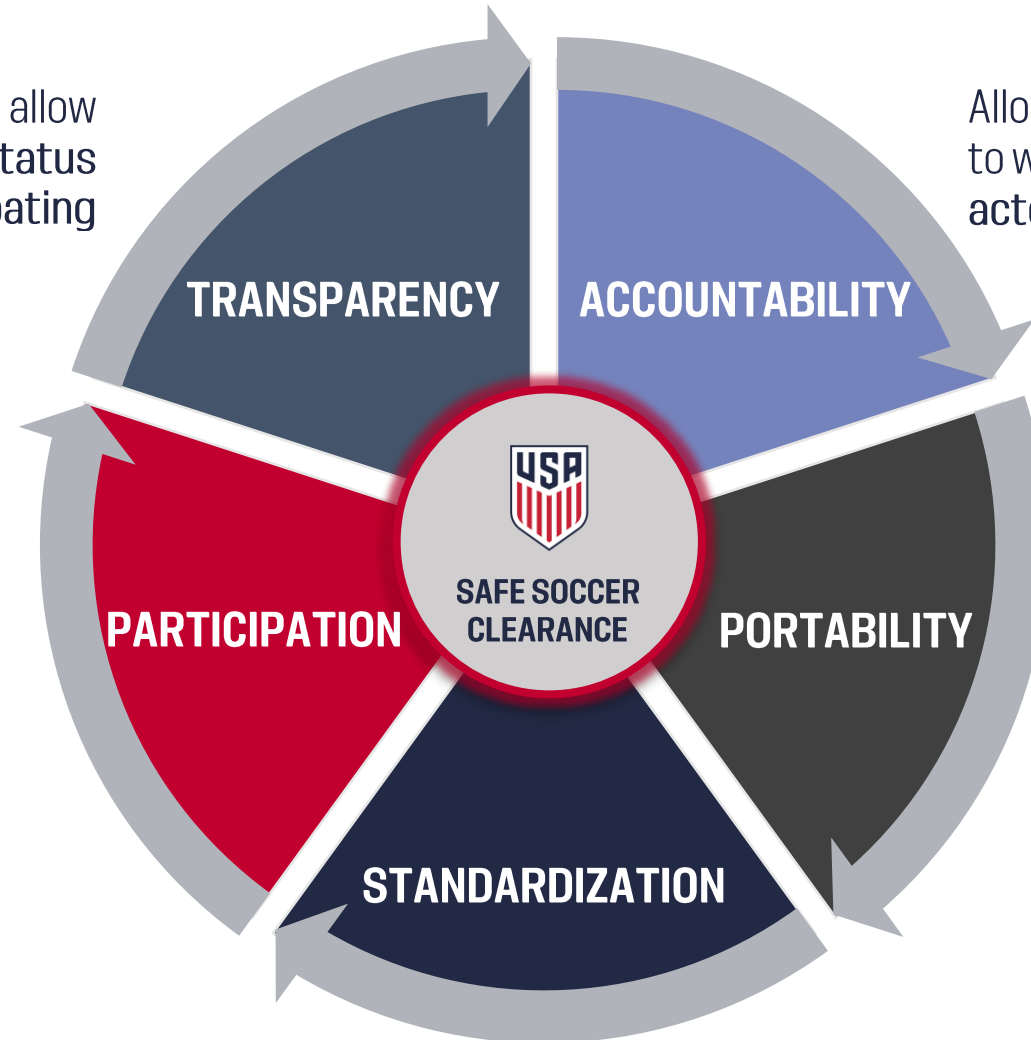


U.S. SOCCER CAN LEVERAGE ITS SCALE AND REACH TO TEACH EVERYONE ABOUT SAFETY

## SAFE SOCCER

Single database to allow members to see the status of those participating

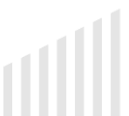
Allows members & U.S. Soccer to work together to keep bad actors out of the game



Draws players to the sport as it can be identified as being safe

Follows participants, preventing a bad actor from moving from one member to another

National minimum standard for clearance, reducing duplicative costs and effort to train participants





# SAFE SOCCER CLEARANCE PHASING SYSTEM



OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE BROAD SAFE SOCCER CLEARANCE ADOPTION, MEMBERS SET THEIR OWN STANDARDS FOR THEIR PARTICIPANTS

## SAFE SOCCER

**Phase #1**  
FREE

- Updated contact / personal information
- Self-disclosure statements on criminal or harassment allegations
- Attest to U.S. Soccer Code of Conduct
- SafeSport core training
- Introduction to Safe and Healthy Playing Environments medical module

2 hours to complete →

**Phase #2**  
FREE

- Positive Soccer Environments module
- DEIB module

3 hours to complete →

**Clearance**  
Cost of background check - \$23

- USOPC level background check through U.S. Soccer

3.5 hours to complete →



# SAFE SOCCER PROGRAM PROVIDES STANDARDIZED EDUCATION

MODULES COVER A VARIETY OF SAFEGUARDING TOPICS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER EDUCATION

## SAFE SOCCER



### SAFESPORT CORE TRAINING

90-minutes

- Emotional, physical, and sexual abuse education
- Mandatory reporting responsibilities
- Preventing bullying and hazing



### SAFE & HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS

30-minutes

- Recognizing and responding to emergency situations
- Information on concussions, cardiac arrest, mental health, and weather



### POSITIVE SOCCER ENVIRONMENTS MODULE

30-minutes

In Partnership with 

- Creating and supporting a positive soccer environment
- Benefits of positive coaching
- Tools to nurture a healthy team environment



### DEIB EDUCATION MODULE

30-minutes

- Intro to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
- Information on social perspective taking, bias, stereotypes, advocacy, and microaggressions



# SAFE SOCCER WILL SIMPLIFY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

## WE'RE STRIVING TO DEVELOP AN EASY-TO-USE AND INTUTIVE PROGRAM FOR ALL USERS

### SAFE SOCCER

**SAFEGUARDING**

Protecting the health and safety of our players, coaches, and families is everyone's responsibility. Here you'll find links to complete screenings and training as part of your journey with U.S. Soccer. If you encounter issues or have questions, please email us at [learningcentersupport@ussoccer.org](mailto:learningcentersupport@ussoccer.org).

<p><b>BACKGROUND SCREENING</b></p> <p>The NCSI background check is the gold standard set by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC). Click the red button to begin the screening. Please note that there are several steps in the process, and you must complete all required fields for it to be processed successfully.</p>	Expiration date 09/10/2024	APPROVED BY U.S. SOCCER	START SCREENING
<p><b>SAFESPORT</b></p> <p>SafeSport training is a requirement of the USOPC for anyone involved in youth sports. This training is provided by the U.S. Center for SafeSport and requires yearly refreshers. Click the red button to launch the training; you will automatically be taken to the appropriate modules.</p>	Expiration date 09/10/2023	COMPLETE	START SAFESPORT
<p><b>INTRODUCTION TO SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENTS</b></p> <p>Understanding and knowing how to react to emergencies is an important part of our responsibility as leaders in the sport. This training will help you identify and respond to common issues that occur on the field; it is good for one year from the date of completion. Click the red button to launch the training.</p>	Expiration date N/A	IN PROGRESS	RESUME
<p><b>CODE OF CONDUCT</b></p> <p>U.S. Soccer's Code of Conduct establishes pillars of conduct that serve to guide an individual's behavior while representing U.S. Soccer. Reading and acceptance of the Code of Conduct will be tracked annually.</p>	Last accepted on 03/01/2023	VALID	ACCEPT NOW
<p><b>UP TO DATE PROFILE INFORMATION</b></p> <p>To ensure you receive timely notifications about your certifications and other educational programs, please update or confirm the accuracy of your contact information.</p>	Last updated on 10/02/2022	VALID	UPDATE PROFILE

### SEAMLESS INTERFACE

- Centralizes safeguarding elements in one place
- Connects to member registration platforms
- Provides quality customer support for users
- Allows easier compliance tracking with affiliated user dashboards
- Lowers background check cost due to economies of scale







# A PROGRAM OF THIS SCALE TAKES TIME TO DEVELOP

WILL WORK WITH MEMBERSHIP TO DESIGN THE DETAILS AND REDUCE OPERATIONAL CONCERNS



SAFE SOCCER

## WE'VE LAID OUT KEY NEXT STEPS AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE UPDATES AND SEEK FEEDBACK



Create process for handling misconduct reports and how reports will affect Safe Soccer Clearance status

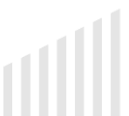
Develop online user interface and make compatible with member registration platforms

Publish roll-out timelines and discuss congruent USSF policy changes

Finish developing program's educational content (e.g., Positive Soccer Environments module)

Launch program with USSF staff and pilot organizations, collect feedback for final improvements

Official launch of Safe Soccer Clearance program available to all participants





**EVERY PLAYER DESERVES A SAFE AND HEALTHY PLAYING ENVIRONMENT.**

