



Beat the Streets Los Angeles Policy on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Policy Statement

Beat the Streets Los Angeles (BTSLA) is committed to fostering a safe and respectful environment for all its members, participants, staff, and volunteers. We have a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse. We are dedicated to implementing preventive measures, raising awareness, and responding promptly and effectively to any reports of such behavior.

Definitions

Sexual exploitation refers to any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes, including profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Sexual abuse is the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

State law defines child abuse as (1) physical injury inflicted on a child by another person, (2) sexual abuse, or (3) emotional abuse. Child neglect is defined as negligent treatment which threatens the child's health or welfare.

Preventive Measures

1. **Training and Education:** All staff, coaches, board members, and volunteers will receive training on this policy and related guidelines to understand what constitutes sexual exploitation and abuse, how to prevent such incidents, and how to respond if such incidents occur.
2. **Screening and Background Checks:** Prior to appointment, all staff, coaches, board members, and volunteers will undergo thorough background checks, including criminal records, to ensure that they have not been involved in any incidents of sexual exploitation or abuse.
3. **Code of Conduct:** All members of BTSLA are required to sign and adhere to a Code of Conduct that includes explicit prohibitions against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Reporting and Responding

1. **Reporting Mechanism:** BTSLA will establish a confidential and secure mechanism for reporting incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse. This mechanism will be accessible to all members and participants.
2. **Investigation:** All reported incidents will be taken seriously and promptly investigated. A fair process will be ensured where all parties are treated with respect and dignity.
3. **Protection of Victims and Whistleblowers:** BTSLA will ensure that victims, reporters, and whistleblowers are protected from retaliation and their identities are kept confidential.

Disciplinary Actions

Any member of BTSLA found guilty of sexual exploitation or abuse will be subject to disciplinary actions, which may include, but are not limited to, termination of employment or membership, reporting to legal authorities, and disqualification from future involvement with BTSLA.

Review and Accountability

This policy will be reviewed annually and may be updated based on lessons learned, changes in legal and social standards, and inputs from our community.

Everyone in our organization is responsible for implementing this policy and for reporting any concerns or incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse.

BTSLA remains committed to creating an environment where everyone can thrive without fear of sexual exploitation or abuse. Together, we can ensure that our community is safe, respectful, and supportive for all.

Coach Abuse Prevention Procedures

In order to prevent abuse from taking place within our organization, Beat the Streets LA takes the following measures:

All paid and volunteer coaches must successfully complete a California DOJ and FBI Live Scan fingerprinting background check;

All paid and volunteer coaches must complete a background check within the USA Wrestling membership portal;

Annually, all coaches must complete Safe Sport training;

No adult is permitted to participate in wrestling practice who has not been cleared as a paid or volunteer coach;

Annually, all coaches are provided training to remind them of their responsibility to report known or suspected child abuse in connection with California Penal Code § 11166;

Prior to being hired, all paid coaches must agree to abide by the Beat the Streets LA Code of Conduct and Sexual Harassment Policy, and sign a statement acknowledging their requirement to report child abuse; and

No coaches are permitted to provide transportation of any youth.