



**Considerations for screening standards  
February 2021**

To Whom It May Concern,

The National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS) respectfully requests the background check requirements being developed under HB 6417 for youth camp employees or organizations who are eighteen years of age or older, align with the important national industry standards, established by NCYS and implemented into policy by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

As a leading advocacy organization for youth organizations in America, NCYS works with hundreds of youth-serving organizations. NCYS members comprise some of the most respected organizations in the youth sports industry. The NCYS membership serves some 60 million boys and girls registered in organized youth sports programs. Safety is one of our highest priorities, towards which we have invested considerably to advance standards of care and partnerships that align with industry-wide best practices.

If you'll allow for our voice in this process, we have some thoughts and reactions that we hope you will consider.

First, I'd like to offer some history and perspective on the topic. NCYS has been on the frontlines of safety in youth sports for more than 15 years. We were named in the Protect Act of 2003 and authored the earliest "Recommended Guidelines for Background Screening for Youth Serving Organizations" in 2005. NCYS participated in the creation of an entity, National Center for Safety Initiatives, that would be 100% dedicated to serving high-risk, youth organizations in services of higher levels of safety and specialized protection programs. These few examples occurred at a time when there was little guidance in this area.

In 2012, the second edition of the Guidelines was published by NCYS, with key updates included. Our goal, from the earliest of times in this work, was to create reliable standards, best practices and affordable/accessible solutions for every organization. The standards created included a minimum protocol for search components to be included in a responsible background screening program, as well as criteria to consider when evaluating the appropriateness of an individual's fitness for duty.

Today, the Guidelines form the basis for screening policies and programs for thousands of organizations throughout our country. In 2019, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) released its requirements for background screening, which is largely based on the guidelines originally authored by the NCYS.

I offer this background with the hope that you will find the substantial amount of work that's been done in the development of background screening policies to be compelling enough to allow for the organizations who are in alignment with the most recent iterations, which is the USOPC Background Screening Policy, to be deemed in compliance with your proposed

requirements. More specifically, the section of the policy that addresses the requirements regarding search components, which are outlined for you below:

Search Components:

1. Social Security Number validation;
2. Name and address history records;
3. Two independent Multi-Jurisdictional Criminal Database searches covering 50 states plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico;
4. County Criminal Records for each name used and county where the individual currently lives or has lived during the past five years, going back the length of time records are available and reportable for each county searched;
5. National Sex Offender Registry database search of all available states, plus DC, Guam, and Puerto Rico;
6. Multiple National Watch Lists

The basis for our respectful request for this consideration is to help shape your state requirements to align with the consistent, high standards that are currently pervasive in the youth sports and volunteer landscape. We hope to ensure that your requirements serve to enforce these standards and do not create confusion due to any inconsistencies with industry best practices, which may make it difficult for organizations to adhere to and may be overly burdensome for them to comply with.

We appreciate your consideration and would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further on this matter. Please let us know if you have any questions. On behalf of the youth sports industry, we thank you for your time, consideration and commitment to safety.

Sincerely,

Wayne B. Moss  
Executive Director, NCYS

