

### **Abuse Prevention Education and Training**

Beginning with the 2019-2020 playing season, all adults applying for an NJYS Coach Pass (e.g., Intown volunteer coaches, Travel Trainers, Travel Managers, Travel Director) are required to take an initial Abuse Prevention Training course. The course is offered online through the U.S. Center for SafeSport and integration with US Soccer Connect. Each year that the adult volunteers or is paid to train, he or she takes a refresher course. This requirement reflects and supports a mandate from U.S. Soccer.

Abuse comes in many different forms: physical, neglect, emotional/psychological and sexual. Abuse manifests itself through acts of misconduct, including bullying, hazing, harassment (including but not limited to sexual harassment), emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and sexual misconduct. Education and training of adults can help address and possibly thwart one of the most preventable injuries in youth sports: child abuse. By becoming more aware and learning how to be more engaged, we can all have an impact on abuse rates and improve the youth soccer experience.

### **Managing Compliance**

Beginning with the 2019/2020 seasonal year, the Livingston Soccer Club has continued to follow U.S. Soccer mandates by requiring that our Intown recreation coaches complete a background check and register through U.S Soccer Connect, the same program that monitors our Travel Trainers. This program will certify all our coaches, volunteer or paid, with a criminal history check.

### **Onboarding with US Soccer Connect**

The Livingston Soccer Club also maintains compliance through US Soccer Connect (USSC), the New Jersey Youth Soccer registration database, that provides a platform to manage risk for coaches within member organizations. Also required by all our volunteer coaches, paid trainers, volunteer managers, and Board members, are the yearly renewal of The SafeSport completion certificate and concussion education certificate.

### **Conclusion: *Thank you***

We thank the Livingston Soccer Club community for their support of our club. It is critical that we continue our commitment to the protection of our youth athletes. Included in our club is an Enforcement Committee that is tasked with investigating all concerns that parents, coaches, managers, trainers, and athletes may have so that EVERYONE can enjoy playing soccer safely. If you see something, say something.