

# Tips for Protecting Youth

## How Offenders Operate (APC)

- Access
- Privacy
- Control

## How to Recognize Boundary Violations

### Physical Boundary Violations

- Tickling,
- Horseplay,
- Hugging,
- Massaging,
- Wrestling, and
- Going overboard with affection.

### Emotional Boundary Violations

- Making them feel important, cared about, understood,
- Spending too much time with them,
- Choosing favorites,
- Giving gifts, and
- Acting possessive.
- Sending excessive or inappropriate text messages,
- Pretending to be the child's friend on social networking sites like Facebook,
- Sharing personal information to make the child feel like they have a special relationship
- Promising extra coaching time, a college scholarship, a place on a national team, or even a spot on the Olympic Team!

### Behavioral Boundary Violations

Offenders manipulate kids into doing things they wouldn't otherwise do, such as:

- Sneaking around by saying they will be in one place when actually they are in another,
- Keep secrets with the offender,
- Look at pornography, and
- Use drugs or alcohol.

## Organization's Policies

- The organization's Code of Conduct
- Youth Protection Policies
- Best Practices Guidelines

## How to Respond to Warning Signs

Follow these five steps:

- 1) Keep your eyes and ears open.
- 2) Talk with your child.
- 3) Then, ask your child about your concerns
- 4) If what you learn from your child or if what you've observed or overheard at practice sounds like abuse, call Child Protective Services or the police.
- 5) If what you learn from your child, or if what you've observed or overheard at practice, sounds like a boundary violation, suspicious or inappropriate behavior, or a policy violation, then do the following:
  - a. Share your concerns with the employee and/or with his supervisor and/or with the person in charge of your organization.
  - b. If you are unable to do this, you can share your concerns with the Board President and you can make a report to the organization by making a call, sending an email, or submitting the online form.