ATHLETE SAFETY HANDBOOK

FAMILIES AND COACHING STAFF

DRAFT / OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL REVIEW REQUIRED

01 Purpose and responsibility

This handbook sets proposed standards for protecting minor athletes during Dante activities. It applies to coaches, staff, volunteers, athletes, and families. Individual instruction must remain respectful, observable, and appropriate to the player. No coaching goal takes priority over an athlete’s safety or dignity.

Before launch, Dante must assign a safety lead and an alternate contact, verify required screening and training, approve each location’s supervision arrangements, and complete an emergency action plan. This draft does not certify that these actions have already occurred.

02 Drop off and check in

Parents may drop athletes off once the assigned coach has personally accepted responsibility at the agreed meeting point. Leaving a child at a court, parking lot, or gate is not check in. The coach records attendance, confirms emergency contacts and pickup arrangements, and explains the boundaries of the training area.

Families must provide a current authorized pickup list and a reachable emergency contact. Inform the coach of relevant restrictions, support needs, and changes before the session. An athlete arriving without the required information remains with their responsible adult until a safe arrangement is confirmed.

03 Authorized pickup and late collection

The coach releases the athlete directly to an authorized adult and records checkout. Verify photo identification if the adult is unfamiliar. Confirm changes through the parent’s established contact details rather than an unverified message. Do not release to an unauthorized person or allow a minor to leave alone under this launch policy.

If pickup is late, keep the athlete supervised in an observable safe area. Contact the parent, then listed emergency contacts and the safety lead. Never leave the athlete alone or drive them home. If safe supervision cannot be maintained, contact local authorities for assistance; call 911 for immediate danger. An apparently impaired or threatening collector requires escalation and a safe release plan, not confrontation.

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04 No coach transportation

Coaches and staff must not transport players in personal or business vehicles, including after a late pickup. They must not arrange private rides with athletes or accompany them alone in a rideshare. Families arrange transportation and identify the adult who will collect the player. Emergency medical transport is handled by emergency services.

05 Observable instruction and supervision

Individual lessons take place on approved courts where interactions can be observed and interrupted. No closed room meetings, isolated sessions, or private offsite coaching arrangements with minors are permitted. Parents may observe from the designated safe viewing area.

Before accepting drop off, the coach must have a workable plan for bathrooms, an injury, a missing athlete, and the supervision of the rest of the group. Group size depends on the court, staffing, ages, abilities, and support needs. If adequate supervision is not possible, change the arrangement or do not begin.

Do not leave athletes with an unapproved substitute. Count players at transitions and keep court boundaries clear. If a player is missing, stop training, secure the remaining group, alert the safety lead, and seek emergency assistance promptly if the child cannot be located or may be in danger. Do not send children to search.

06 Bathrooms and changing areas

Identify permitted bathrooms before the session and tell athletes how to request a break. A coach must not be alone with an athlete inside a bathroom or changing area. Wait outside in an observable position when escort is needed, and preserve the athlete’s privacy.

Do not leave the rest of the group unattended while escorting one athlete. Use another approved adult or a prearranged parent support plan. If a safe arrangement cannot be provided, require the parent to remain or adjust the session. Emergencies requiring entry should involve another adult where feasible and be documented. No photography or recording is allowed in these areas.

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07 Professional conduct and physical boundaries

Explain instruction clearly and welcome questions. No sexual conduct, sexualized remarks, humiliation, threats, hazing, discriminatory treatment, or punishment through exercise is permitted. Coaches must not work while impaired. An athlete may pause a task or raise a concern without being punished.

Prefer demonstrations and verbal cues. Explain the purpose of any necessary instructional touch and obtain the athlete’s agreement before proceeding. Respect refusal and use another method. Touch must be brief, appropriate, and never involve intimate areas. Immediate action to prevent injury is distinct from routine instruction and must be explained and documented when appropriate.

No secret relationships, personal favors intended to create special access, private social visits, or romantic contact with minor athletes. Gifts and rewards must be modest, transparent, and consistent with company policy. Coaches must not ask an athlete to keep information from their parent or guardian.

08 Communications and media

Use approved business channels for scheduling, feedback, and training information. Include a parent or guardian in electronic communications with minors. No disappearing messages, private social media conversations, or unnecessary personal contact. If an athlete contacts a coach privately, redirect routine communication to a parent included channel and preserve any safety disclosure appropriately.

Follow the separate Photo and Video Consent form. Coaching footage and marketing require their respective permissions. No athlete name is published before age 18. That form does not authorize audio recording, live streaming, or continuous surveillance. Declining optional media consent does not restrict participation.

09 Bullying and harassment

Bullying, discriminatory abuse, sexual harassment, intimidation, and retaliation are prohibited, including online conduct connected to the program. Stop unsafe behavior, separate participants as needed, protect supervision, and document observable facts. Inform the safety lead and appropriate families without exposing another child’s confidential information.

Responses may include clear behavioral expectations, increased supervision, temporary removal, or ending participation. Support the targeted athlete. Do not force an apology, mediation, or a meeting with an alleged abuser as a condition of receiving help. Suspected abuse must follow the reporting procedure.

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10 Responding to a concern or disclosure

Listen calmly, thank the athlete for speaking, and take the concern seriously. Do not promise secrecy, interrogate, ask leading questions, or attempt to investigate. Record the athlete's own words and relevant observations promptly. Share only with people who need the information to protect the athlete or meet reporting duties.

For immediate danger, call 911. Florida DCF states that any individual who suspects child abuse must report it to the Florida Abuse Hotline. Call 1 800 962 2873. An internal report does not replace an external report, and no manager's approval is required before contacting authorities.

Inform the safety lead after taking required protective and reporting steps. If the concern involves that person, use the alternate contact and report directly to authorities as appropriate. Parent notification must not place the child at additional risk or interfere with authorities' instructions. No retaliation against anyone raising a concern in good faith.

11 Injuries and unsafe conditions

Stop activity when conditions or an athlete's symptoms make continuing unsafe. Follow the location emergency action plan and the separate weather, heat, and concussion procedures. For urgent danger, call 911, give the exact location, arrange access for responders, and keep other athletes supervised. Coaches act within their training and do not diagnose or pressure an athlete to continue.

Notify the parent or guardian promptly when appropriate and complete an injury or incident report as soon as the immediate situation is controlled. Store reports securely with access limited to authorized people. Preserve relevant evidence; do not discuss identifiable incidents in group chats or public posts.

12 Contacts and implementation

Safety lead and phone: [COMPLETE BEFORE USE]
Alternate safety contact and phone: [COMPLETE BEFORE USE]
Business email for routine concerns: [COMPLETE BEFORE USE]
Legal business name: [CONFIRM BEFORE USE]

Before adoption, confirm court meeting points, emergency access, bathroom arrangements, qualified cover, staff screening and training, and applicable legal and insurance requirements. Brief families and obtain staff acknowledgment. Review this handbook after a serious incident, a location change, or a material policy change.

Official reporting source

Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Abuse Hotline. Checked September 17, 2026.
www.myflfamilies.com/services/abuse/abuse-hotline