

Your Safety Matters



WHAT IS YOUTH PROTECTION? The *FIRST*® Youth Protection Program (YPP) sets standards of behavior for adults and youth participating in *FIRST*, raises awareness about how to foster safe environments and provides ways to report concerns about safety issues.

- **Code of Conduct and Youth Protection Program:**

Everyone participating in *FIRST* must follow our [Code of Conduct](#) and [Youth Protection Policies](#). Adults or youth that do not follow our code or YPP policies may be removed from participating in *FIRST*.

- **See Something, Say Something:** If you see or experience behavior that seems off or inappropriate by an adult or another youth participant please report it to a trusted adult. Speaking up can keep you and your teammates safe.

- **Who should you go to about youth safety concerns?**

- A trusted adult such as a coach, mentor, event volunteer, event organizer, local *FIRST* partner or organization hosting your team or event (such as a school)
- You **must** also report a youth protection concern to *FIRST* Headquarters using our [Reporting Portal](#), [email](#), or by calling **(603) 206-2050**.

- **Mental health concerns?**

- United States or Canada
 - Dial or text the **988 Lifeline** anywhere 24/7, for free and confidential emotional support with a trained crisis counselor who will help you navigate challenging moments and situations.
- Global Resources
 - [Find A Helpline](#) has consolidated over 1,600 free and confidential mental health support resources
 - International Suicide Hotlines can be found [here](#)

- **Know what appropriate boundaries between adult participants and youth participants look like:**

- The rule of two:
 - No adult should be alone or communicate one on one with a youth participant.
 - Interactions between adults and youth participants should be **observable and interruptible**.
- Dating
 - No relationships between mentors/coaches and youth participants on their team regardless of age.
- Online communications
 - Coaches and mentors should only communicate with youth about team related issues and should not communicate one on one with a youth participant.
 - It is not appropriate for event volunteers to communicate directly with youth participants via phone, text, or other online communication methods.



REPORT A CONCERN



24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress.