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NEWS RELEASE

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WHEATLAND YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER EMPLOYS USA FOOTBALL'S SUBSIDIZED BACKGROUND SCREENING PROGRAM

Yuba County (Calif.) Youth Football Association Partners Joins USA Football to Protect Youth Players

Helping maintain a safe environment for its players, Wheatland Youth Football and Cheer is employing USA Football's background screening subsidy program for its 65 adult volunteers. The league serves nearly 200 youngsters in the Wheatland area. USA Football, the sport's national governing body on youth and amateur levels, offers volunteer background check subsidies for every youth football league in America.

All background screenings through this subsidy program are conducted by the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI), the official background screening provider for the United States Olympic Committee. USA Football's subsidy program holds \$500,000 to offer youth football leagues a \$25 screening check for its volunteers at only \$15. NCSI will check every volunteer for two full seasons for the \$15 subsidized rate.

All Wheatland Youth Football and Cheer (WYFC) adult volunteers will submit to NCSI's background check. NCSI performs searches in two national criminal databases as well as all state sex offender registries and county records. According to NCSI, one in five girls and one in 10 boys will be sexually victimized before adulthood.

Background check screenings unearth crimes such as sexual assault, child abuse, drug possession, and others. Approximately four percent (4%) of the 15,000 screenings subsidized by USA Football since 2007 have drawn "red lights," eliminating hundreds of undesirable applicants from entering youth football's coaching pool across the United States. USA Football is the first national youth sports organization to make this kind of commitment in the fight against child predators.

"It's a guaranteed program that we can depend on to provide that extra protection for our kids," said **HENRY WEBB, JR.**, WYFC President and Wheatland resident. "The minimum check is not sufficient for the protection we need for our kids. You get so busy running an organization that there's no way you could monitor a person's actions. This program does that for you."

"The issue of child predators is a societal one and youth sports are not immune from it," said USA Football Executive Director **SCOTT HALLENBECK**. "We join Henry and Wheatland Youth Football and Cheer in caring about who's coaching our kids and we encourage all youth sports organizations to join us in this effort to help protect our children."

A 2007 study commissioned by USA Football showed that 83 percent of parents say background checks on youth sports head coaches are important, and 69 percent said they were more likely to enroll their kids into a league that conducts background checks on its volunteers.

About USA Football

USA Football, the sport's national governing body on youth and amateur levels, hosts more than 100 football training events annually offering education for coaches and game officials, skill development for players and resources for youth football league commissioners. The independent non-profit manages U.S. national teams within the sport for international competitions and provides \$1 million annually in equipment grants and youth league volunteer background check subsidies. USA Football was started by the NFL and NFLPA in 2002 through the NFL Youth Football Fund and is chaired by former U.S. Congressman and professional quarterback Jack Kemp.