



Grooming Behaviors

We can recognize sexual predators through an observable pattern of behaviors, known as grooming behaviors. Alone, many of these behaviors or similar behaviors may occur without these behaviors being part of a grooming process. While we want to closely examine any behaviors that may constitute grooming, it does not necessarily mean that the individual is a sexual predator. Nonetheless, here are a few things to look for.

- #1** - The individual buys expensive gifts for the athlete or provides them with money.
- #2** - The individual separates the athlete from his or her peers.
- #3** - The individual treats a particular athlete differently from their teammates, perhaps giving the athlete far more attention than teammates.
- #4** - The individual tries to find ways to be alone with the athlete. For example, the individual may offer to take the athlete to and from practice, help them with homework or take them on unsupervised trips outside of the program.
- #5** - The individual tells the athlete that they “need” him or her to succeed in sport.
- #6** - The individual pushes boundaries in public and doesn’t follow policies. For example, this individual may have athletes sit on their laps in public, even if against club policy.
- #7** - The individual manipulates the athlete emotionally, praising them one day and degrading them the next.
- #8** - The individual spends an unusual amount of time with the athlete’s parents outside of the program, trying to win their trust.
- #9** - Your athlete tells you that the coach doesn’t want them talking about what they do when they’re together.
- #10** - The individual attempts to control a particular athlete, on and off the field.