



RAAS ALL-STARS XVI

THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

February 28th, 2024

TRIGGER WARNING: MENTIONS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Statement on an act of gun violence in St. Louis, MO on February 25th, 2024

As this season begins to wrap up and we approach Raas All-Stars XVI, we are thankful for the health and safety of all members of our circuit. Each competition is something we look forward to so we can see the circuit's hard work come to fruition. Post competition celebrations are meant to be a joyous occasion for teams and all those involved in a competition to destress and celebrate their accomplishments over the weekend. Raas All-Stars has always held the highest esteem for the circuit's love and appreciation for everything that goes into a successful competition weekend. For this experience to be marred by an act of violence is very saddening and we want to remind the circuit that your safety and wellness is our priority.

This past weekend, a traumatic event involving gun violence occurred in St. Louis, Missouri involving individuals in attendance at Gateway to Raas. We offer our sympathies to all those affected and we are grateful for the steps taken immediately following the event to ensure the safety of the members of our circuit and others who were involved. At the time of this statement, there are no known casualties from the event. There is an ongoing investigation with law enforcement and out of respect for the victim(s) privacy we will not be releasing any information on those affected by the incident at this time. This occurrence was not affiliated in any way with Gateway to Raas or Raas All-Stars events and we would like to reiterate that Gateway to Raas and their board are not in any way responsible for this occurrence.

To the Gateway to Raas board, competing teams, media teams, judges and Raas All-Stars Representatives, we are so sorry you have had to endure such a traumatic event and we applaud your bravery and support for each other during this time. We ask that the circuit respect the weight of this situation and take precautions to be as safe as possible. We encourage you to avoid any potentially triggering language or situations and refrain from speaking on this matter.

While this is not a requirement, Raas All-Stars heavily encourages teams and competitions to remove any gun shot, gun clocking, or any gun related sound effects from their mixes and mixtapes. If this is not something you are able to do, we ask that you add a trigger warning in your intro videos or mix descriptions, as well as provide your venues and competition boards with time stamps so a trigger warning may be given to the audience.

Raas All-Stars has compiled some safety tips (listed below) for competition weekends. We highly encourage all teams and those involved in the upcoming competitions to read and follow this, as well as come up with personalized safety plans.

Raas All-Stars will also be formulating an in-depth safety and wellness plan for our own competition weekend which will be made available to the public and shared with all teams and staff attending.

All circuit members are encouraged to reach out to the Raas All-Stars Safety, Health, and Wellness Team with any concerns, comments, suggestions, or anything that is on your mind at wellness@raasallstars.com.

Raas All-Stars XVI Safety, Health, & Wellness



COMPETITION SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Emergency Preparedness

1. Establish a communication plan in case of emergencies, including a **designated meeting spot and alternative contact methods** if phone service is unavailable.
2. Ensure team members' phones are charged throughout the weekend and ensure some members carry **portable chargers**.
3. Encourage team members to **share locations** with one another during competition weekend.
4. Make certain team members have readily available access to a **copy of travel itineraries, venue addresses, and emergency contacts**.

Communication and Support

1. Maintain **open communication channels between your team and liaisons** throughout the weekend.
2. **Check in with each other regularly**, especially during travel periods and social events.
3. Communicate openly about any safety concerns or discomfort they may experience. **Speak up if you feel uncomfortable or unsafe**.

Transportation Safety

1. **Travel in groups or by buddy system** whenever possible, especially when moving between venues, attending social events or exploring the area. Make sure you are always traveling with someone who has a **secure hotel key**.
2. **Avoid traveling alone**, especially during late hours or in unfamiliar areas.
3. **Use trusted transportation services** such as licensed taxis, rideshare apps, or prearranged competition shuttles. Avoid using public transportation after dark.
4. If traveling by foot, stick to **well-lit and populated areas**, especially at night.
5. Be aware of surroundings and **avoid displaying valuable items**.

GUN VIOLENCE TRAUMA RESOURCES

[Everytown Support Network](#)

[Help for Victims and Survivors of Gun Violence](#)

[Coping in the Aftermath of a Shooting](#)