



## 2020 SCS-Safe Sport Committee Report, Jan. 8, 2020

Safe Sport is constantly moving to the forefront of education and information for athletes, parents, volunteers and all those who are working to create a safer environment for our sport. Areas of importance and interest include the following items of interest:

- ✓ As we head into a new year, the number of questions/comments I receive pertaining to the 'why' and 'how' of Safe Sport are a constant.
- ✓ In defining the implementation of the Safe Sport Program at the direction of the USOC, which then led to the development of the US Center For Safe Sport I believe many will have a better understanding of the 'Whys and How's' of the program and its ever changing and evolving structure after reading the directive posted below.
- ✓ Please note the information regarding the development of and implementation of the US Center for Safe Sport Program.



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The United States Olympic Committee today announced the formation of an independent advisory council to guide the launch of the United States Center for Safe Sport. The council is charged with providing industry expertise to support and inform the center during its start-up phase through June 2015.

The USOC's board of directors unanimously approved the creation of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport in June 2014 based on recommendations from the USOC's Safe Sport Working Group. The independent entity will oversee education programs for safe sport, and investigate and adjudicate claims of misconduct in sports that are managed by USOC-sanctioned National Governing Bodies.

"There is no national agency today that is responsible for the safety and well-being of young athletes and we're in position to lead this important effort," said USOC CEO Scott Blackmun. "The National Center for Safe Sport will help fill that vacuum by providing training and resources, promoting open dialogue and conducting investigations on a national level."

The seven-member council consists of external experts and industry leaders in abuse prevention, including Tony Foreman (Oklahoma City Police Department), Angelo Giardino (Texas Children's Hospital), W. Scott Lewis (National Center for Higher Risk Management Group), Laurie Nathan (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children), Stephanie Smith (Child Protection Training Services), Katherine Starr (Safe4Athletes) and Dr. Jeffery Wilkins (Cedars-Sinai).

The council's expertise broadly includes a strong working knowledge of mandatory reporting laws, prevention policies, behavioral intervention, sexual assault and harassment, hazing prevention, investigation, athlete advocacy and outreach, and developing evidence-based models for addressing misconduct. The council will focus on three primary objectives:

- Deliver an understanding of industry trends and best practices at the intersection of abuse and sport;
- Review and provide feedback concerning key operational documents, including complaint and investigation protocols, behavioral definitions, and policies and procedures; and
- Provide unbiased insight as an outside, third-party source.

The board also approved \$5.2 million of funding for the new entity over a five-year period beginning in 2015. Collectively, NGBs will match the USOC's contribution, providing \$1.04 million per year.

"One of the greatest challenges many NGBs face is limited resources and expertise to investigate claims of misconduct," said Malia Arrington, USOC director of ethics and safe sport. "With this independent entity, we have the ability for the first time to provide that resource to them so we can create and sustain safe environments for young athletes."

Consistent with the working group's original recommendation and as unanimously endorsed by the NGB Council in 2013, participation in the new entity will be a condition of continued membership in the USOC.

**To review all of the services offered for Safe Sport at the US Center for Safe Sport, one can go to:**

<https://www.teamusa.org/team-usa-athlete-services/safe-sport>

**There you can be directed to the following items of information:**

- **Athlete Safety** - The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic community is committed to providing a positive, healthy and safe environment for American athletes that is free from emotional, physical and sexual abuse. To protect and ensure the safety of athletes – regardless of age, gender or stage of development – the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and member National Governing Bodies are under the jurisdiction of an independent entity, the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
- How To Report A Concern
- **Law Enforcement**
- **U.S. Center for SafeSport**
- **U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee's Office of Athlete Safety**
- Suspended Individuals & Disciplinary Records
- The following FAQ's
  - When should I report a concern?
  - What can I expect when I report?
  - What is the U.S. Center for SafeSport's SafeSport Code?
  - What is the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee's Athlete Safety Policy?
  - How much funding does the USOPC dedicate to the U.S. Center for SafeSport?
  - Why was the U.S. Center for SafeSport originally created?

**Note: Information provided in the Jan. 2020 end of the month report by Trish Hughes of USA swimming SafeSport:**

**110 clubs have completed Safe Sport Recognition as of December 31<sup>st</sup>!!**

517 clubs initiated the SSRP process

(Note: In communication with IT, it was discovered that the system was counting clubs that initiated both the Club Recognition Program and Safe Sport Recognition Program. We are now able to extract the number of clubs that have initiated SSRP which accounts for the change from prior communications in number of clubs who had initiated the SSRP process).

**New:** All Safe sport materials can now be ordered from the following website:

<https://usaswimmingbrandstore.com/products?s%5Bf%5D%5Bc%5D%5B%5D=%2FSafe+Sport>

### **Reminders.....**

- **All MAAPP Sample Forms :** Available at [www.usaswimming.org/maapp](http://www.usaswimming.org/maapp)
- **All past Safe Sport webinars are available here:** <https://www.usaswimming.org/articles-landing-page/2017/04/03/online-clinic-series---safe-sport>
- **Questions for Safe Sport can be directed to:** Maggie Vail, MSW | Safe Sport Education Manager | (719) 866-3552 | (719) 244-0530 | [//usaswimming.org/protect](http://usaswimming.org/protect) | @SwimSafeSport
- **Please continue to follow Safe Sport on Twitter @SwimSafeSport and on Facebook at USA Swimming Safe Sport.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheri Stoddard  
SCS Safe Sport Chair**