



United States
Olympic & Paralympic
Committee

1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Griffith:

Thank you for holding the recent Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on the U.S. Center for SafeSport – “Timeout: Evaluating Safety Measures Implemented to Protect Athletes.” Thank you as well for the follow-up questions for the record. Please find enclosed my responses to these questions.

Thank you again for your efforts to address athlete safety in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic movement. I am available at your request should you require additional assistance on this subject matter.

Sincerely,

Nicole Deal

Nicole Deal
Chief of Security and Athlete Safety
United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee

**Additional Questions for the Record and Responses
Nicole Deal, Chief of Security and Athlete Safety
United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee**

The Honorable Morgan Griffith

As this Committee works on potential legislation regarding the Centralized Disciplinary Database, what length of time would you recommend a name appear on the publicly available webpage?

The Center should create a searchable “archive” so anyone who ever had a sanction is searchable in the “archives.” This archive should not only include sexual misconduct sanctions, but it should also include emotional and physical misconduct sanctions. Sometimes a respondent may commit a “lesser” offense and then a year later or when their sanction is over for the “lesser” offense, they commit a sexual offense. If there was a searchable “archival” database available, organizations would know that at one point there was an emotional or physical misconduct sanction imposed. This information could help inform the implementation of safety plans or parameters for the previously sanctioned individual’s participation that could minimize risk and create a safer environment.

What do you believe is the most relevant triggering event that should be used to place someone associated with the Olympic movement in the database?

The Center’s current methodology is appropriate and serves the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements’ needs. An individual with a current temporary measure issued by the Center or a current sanction issued by the Center, USOPC, or NGB is in the CDD.

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky

In the final report of the Commission on the State of U.S. Olympics & Paralympics, the Commission states “[The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC)] charges each [National Governing Body (NGB)] or [Paralympic Sport Organization (PSO)] a baseline contribution fee toward the statutory annual SafeSport funding requirement of \$20 million each...each NGB or PSO is also charged a “high-use contribution” fee per case in addition to this baseline contribution—even for those in which SafeSport declines jurisdiction and sends the case back to the governing body.” The Commission found that a “Low Cost Case” which is a case resulting in a deferral of jurisdiction or administrative hold, would cost \$150, a “Medium Cost Case” which is a case resulting in an administrative closure, would cost \$1,500, and a “High Cost Case”, which is a case resulting in a decision by SafeSport, would cost \$3,000.

Ms. Deal: can you confirm that a fee per case structure still exists or has existed between the USOPC, NGBs, and PSOs?

The Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act (EOPAAA) requires the USOPC to pay the Center \$20 million the first business day of every year. Sec. 8(g)(2) of EOPAAA also enables USOPC to generate contributions from NGBs to fund the Center. The USOPC makes the full \$20 million payment to the Center at the beginning of the year in agreement with the NGBs via the NGB Council. The NGB Council is comprised of representatives from each NGB in the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic movement. The USOPC deferred to the NGB Council to determine how much NGBs should contribute to the Center’s funding. The NGB Council agreed to pay \$2.6 million out of the annual \$20 million to the Center. Furthermore, the NGB Council designed the NGB payment formula. The USOPC did not have input into the NGB payment formula. The payment formula in place is based on different factors (50 NGBS are all

different - size, number of athletes, etc.) and the NGBs agreed to the current model. The funding model takes into consideration: NGB revenue, case closures, membership, and passage of the Center's audit. On a quarterly basis, each NGB then makes a portion of their organization's payment to the USOPC to meet the full NGB \$2.6 million contribution to the Center.

If so, do you believe this risks disincentivizing some NGBs and PSOs, particularly smaller ones, from doing all they can to report cases and pursue safety to the fullest?

An NGB is not the only reporting pathway. Athletes, coaches, parents, and others can all report directly to the Center via the Center's portal or hotline. Additionally, it is mandatory as part of the Center's audit requirements to have the Center's contact information and link for reporting on all NGB websites. Any interference in the reporting process can be reported to Congress. Also, the number of case reports has increased every year.

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.

Are SafeSport investigators and employees trained in trauma-informed practices?

On April 1, the Center for SafeSport committed to dedicating 50% of an employee's time to implementing a comprehensive training curriculum for its Response and Resolution department, including enhanced trauma-sensitivity training grounded in research and best practices. Please reach out to the Center for SafeSport for further information.

Could you share the measures undertaken by the Center to adhere to its own timelines for resolving cases resulting in formal resolutions?

The USOPC does not have this information. You would need to refer to the Center for their internal case management procedures. As an independent entity, the Center does not share much information on its internal case management procedures.