



February 6, 2017

Ms. Malia Arrington
Director of Ethics and SafeSport
United States Olympic Committee
1385 S. Colorado Boulevard, Suite A-706
Denver, Colorado 80222

Ms. Shelli Pfohl
Chief Executive Officer
United States Center for SafeSport
1 Olympic Plaza 80909
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Re: *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

Dear Ms. Arrington, Ms. Pfohl, and the SafeSport Board,

The rising tide of child sex abuse and adult sex assault revelations across the United States and the globe has prompted many organizations to reform their policies to better protect victims. It is to the credit of the United States Olympic Committee (“USOC”) that it has taken up this issue with the drafting and re-drafting of SAFESPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. In the attached letter, we provide commentary on the draft SafeSport policies to better protect the vulnerable.

The following changes are proposed, among others:

- 1) The SafeSport Office and the Olympic family must be independent from one another, similar to the organizational structure of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (“USADA”).
- 2) The SafeSport Office and USOC/ NGB defense counsel must be separated by an ethical firewall when receiving and investigating reports of abuse.
- 3) All 47 NGBs and the Paralympics should adhere to the same SafeSport policies. The current draft creates a potential patchwork of different policies, definitions and procedures.
- 4) The powers and jurisdiction of SafeSport needs greater clarity. USOC/ NGB membership should carry expectations of adherence to SafeSport’s policies and investigations, similar to USADA.
- 5) All adults in the USOC, NGBs and their members should be required to report child sex abuse to the authorities, whether or not the particular state requires the person to report.
- 6) Investigations should be capable of being initiated by Third Parties.
- 7) A compliant victim may not be necessary and should certainly not be required.
- 8) SafeSport policies should clarify that a lack of criminal conviction does not necessarily mean that the Respondent is innocent.
- 9) No adult should be permitted to spend time alone with a child, unless they are a parent or legal guardian.
- 10) All victims of child sex abuse or adult sexual harassment and rape should be protected by a rape shield law.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hogshead-Makar
Champion Women

Marci A. Hamilton
CHILD USA

