



## ROPES & GRAY REPORT RELEASE REFORMS FACT SHEET: THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE'S COMMITMENT TO ATHLETE SAFETY

The United States Olympic Committee is firmly committed to implementing reforms and initiatives across the entire U.S. Olympic and Paralympic community to better protect, support and empower America's athletes. In 2018, we made significant progress to strengthen safeguards for all athletes, and our collective work in this area must never cease.

### Institutionalizing Safe Sport & Athlete Safety Programs

- The USOC has **doubled its annual funding of the U.S. Center for SafeSport**, enabling the agency to hire more investigators and staff, improve the speedy resolution of cases, enhance ongoing communication for survivors and their families, provide age-appropriate training on recognizing and preventing abuse, and offer improved and more accessible resources via SafeSport.org. The Center is a national nonprofit organization providing education, resources and training to promote respect and prevent abuse in sport, and investigating and resolving allegations of abuse.
- The USOC is working with the U.S. Center for SafeSport to investigate a **case management system to track grievances** (including non-sexualized cases of bullying and harassment) that will be accessible and integrated with data from the USOC, National Governing Bodies and the Center. We are also working on ways to use the data in that system to create a **comprehensive information resource** on banned and suspended individuals across the USOC, NGBs and the Center.
- The USOC **hired a vice president of athlete safety** in May 2018 to ensure best practices are regularly reviewed, and athletes and survivors are fully supported. This position replaced the director of ethics and safe sport that was originally created in April 2011.

### Athlete Advocacy

- The USOC is working to form an **Athlete Safety Advisory Group** to bring together survivors, advocates, child psychologists and other medical professionals to guide stronger safeguards against abuse throughout the Olympic and Paralympic community, and effective support for victims. This may lead to additional changes to USOC policies.
- **The Athlete Safety Policy**, which applies to all USOC members – including employees, coaches, contracted staff, volunteers, board, committee and task force members – will be further reviewed and modified as necessary based on input from the Athlete Safety Advisory Group.

### Evaluating & Reforming USOC Engagement with NGBs and Athletes

- The USOC is also now **requiring NGBs to disclose all ongoing investigations, unresolved grievances and ethics complaints and suspended members** not submitted to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
- The USOC **has chartered an Athlete & NGB Engagement Commission** and selected Time's Up CEO and former WNBA President Lisa Borders as chair. The commission will specifically review how the USOC interacts with and oversees the 50 diverse NGBs, and how we can better engage with the athletes we serve. **An Athlete & NGB Engagement Committee is being formed by the USOC board** with the aim of providing guidance in addressing the issues of greatest importance and concern to athletes and NGBs.

### Reforming USA Gymnastics

- The USOC worked closely with USA Gymnastics to **try to stabilize the organization** and create a more safe and supportive training environment for its athletes.
- The USOC determined that the challenges facing USA Gymnastics are simply more than it is capable of overcoming in its current form. For this reason, the USOC began the process of **revoking USA Gymnastics' recognition as the NGB for gymnastics** in the United States.