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February 2, 2018

Reaffirmation of USCA SafeSport Program and Policy

An Open Letter to the U.S. Curling Association Membership from the USCA Board of Directors

Dear USCA Members,

The appalling stories of sexual abuse of children and young adults that have come to light during the trial of former USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University doctor Larry Nassar have shaken the Olympic sports world and our entire country to the core. We understand that members of the U.S. Curling Association may wonder what safeguards your national organization has in place, so we wanted to take a moment to reiterate for you what these are.

The USCA Board of Directors first adopted a SafeSport policy and reporting procedures in April 2013 and approved an updated policy meeting further U.S. Olympic Committee and federal reporting requirements in April 2017, following the creation of the new U.S. Center for SafeSport. The [USA Curling SafeSport Website](#) features the [USA Curling SafeSport Handbook](#) along with information for reporting an incident, how members can take SafeSport training themselves, how to initiate background checks, and a webinar on preventing bullying behavior. Reports about incidents of bullying, harassment, hazing, physical abuse, or emotional abuse can be made to USA Curling by:

- (1) [Completing the online reporting document](#)
- (2) E-mailing details to SafeSport@usacurl.org
- (3) Phoning (888) CURLERS (287-5377) and speaking to a designated SafeSport coordinator

The [U.S. Center for SafeSport](#) opened in Denver, Colo., in March 2017, and USA Curling pays an annual fee to help support this center and access its services, as do all Olympic National Governing Bodies. The Center has exclusive jurisdiction over cases involving constitute (a) sexual misconduct (b) misconduct that is reasonably related to the underlying allegation of sexual misconduct and/or (c) retaliation related to an allegation of sexual misconduct. Covered Individuals – which includes Board members, employees, and volunteers in several capacities as defined in Section 1 of the USA Curling SafeSport Handbook – MUST report to the U.S. Center of SafeSport conduct of which they become aware that could constitute any of the above. Any reports made to USA Curling that fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport will be forwarded to the Center.

Individuals wishing to [file an incident report](#) can do so in a variety of ways. Reports can be made by (1) calling the U.S. Center for SafeSport office at 720-524-5640 Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. –5 p.m. MT; (2) reporting online at <https://safesport.org/response/reporting> (online reports are accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week); or (3) through mail at the U.S. Center for SafeSport, C/O Response and Resolution Office, 1385 South Colorado Boulevard, Suite A-706, Denver, CO 80222.



Reporting to the Center and/or USA Curling DOES NOT satisfy any legal reporting requirements under state or federal law. If the suspected conduct may also be criminal, you are strongly encouraged to report to law enforcement. For state-by-state reporting requirements, see www.childwelfare.gov.

Please see the *SafeSport Practices and Procedures for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement* and Supplementary Rules for U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement SafeSport Arbitrations at <https://safesport.org/response/policies> for more information.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Lepping', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rich Lepping

Chairman, United States Curling Association Board of Directors