

U S Olympic and Paralympic Committee Policy



Policy Name: NGB and HPMO Athlete Safety Policy

Date of Issuance: 9/13/2019

Policy Owner: Vice President of Athlete Safety

Applies to: NGBs and HPMOs

Purpose: To establish clear conformance, communication and coordination requirements for the national governing bodies (“NGBs”) and high-performance management organizations (“HPMOs”) regarding matters of athlete safety.

Policy Statement: The USOPC is committed to the safety and wellbeing of athletes and Participants, as defined by the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s (the “Center”) SafeSport Code for the Olympic and Paralympic Movements (the “Code”), involved in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. As part of this commitment, the USOPC’s policy, prevention and education efforts aim to create an environment free from emotional, physical and sexual misconduct and abuse, and to ensure effective and prompt action and resolution upon the occurrence of misconduct and/or abuse. Federal legislation and the Center both promulgate rules, policies, and procedures to protect and govern the well-being of athletes and this policy reinforces and builds on those principles by providing more specifics regarding both communication and coordination between the USOPC and all NGBs and HPMOs.

Section 1. Authority and Applicable Policies and Procedures

1.1. The Center

The Center is authorized by federal law to serve as the independent national safe sport organization to develop national policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes. NGBs and HPMOs are required to comply with all policies, procedures and protocols put forth by the Center to prevent and respond to misconduct and abuse.

1.2. NGB and HPMO Membership and Recognition

In addition to complying with the policies and procedures of the Center, NGBs and HPMOs are also required, either by the USOPC Bylaws and/or written agreement, to abide by all other applicable policies and procedures regarding athlete safety set forth by the USOPC, including but not limited to, this Policy.

Section 2. Communicating with the USOPC Office of Athlete Safety

2.1. General Inquiries

Any and all questions and/or concerns for the USOPC regarding athlete safety matters must be directed to the USOPC Office of Athlete Safety. A centralized point of contact within the USOPC provides for appropriate expertise, coordination and record retention while protecting the confidentiality and privacy of all parties involved.

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2.2. Allegations

NGBs and HPMOs must notify the USOPC's Office of Athlete Safety as soon as possible and in any case within 24 hours of learning of an allegation of Prohibited Conduct, as defined in the Code, that occurred at an Olympic & Paralympic Training Center ("OPTC") or at any third party-sponsored event in which the USOPC sends a delegation (a "Delegation Event"). Any temporary measure(s) imposed by the NGB/HPMO and/or the Center in response to the allegation must be included in the required notification (as described in the following section).

This notification requirement is **in addition to** any other requirement to report an allegation to the Center and/or law enforcement. Any such notifications shall be submitted to the USOPC's Office of Athlete Safety by email to athlete.safety@usopc.org.

2.3. Sanctions and Temporary Measures

NGBs and HPMOs must notify the USOPC's Office of Athlete Safety as soon as possible and in any case within 24 hours of imposing its own or being notified of Center-imposed sanction(s) and/or temporary measure(s), affecting Participants who the NGB/HPMO knows, or reasonably expects, to:

- be nominated for or selected as a Participant to a Delegation Event,
- have access to an OPTC, and/or
- receive a benefit and/or service from the USOPC as outlined in the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.

As well, the USOPC Office of Athlete Safety should also be notified in the event of any change or removal of any such sanction and/or temporary measure(s) within 24 hours of such change by the NGB/HPMO or being notified of a change or removal by the Center. Any such notifications shall be submitted to the USOPC's Office of Athlete Safety by email to athlete.safety@usopc.org.

Section 3. Jurisdiction

3.1. USOPC Assertion of Jurisdiction

The USOPC will assert jurisdiction over any alleged incident of Prohibited Conduct which is reported to have occurred at an OPTC or a Delegation Event where the Center has not exercised exclusive or discretionary jurisdiction, and over matters the Center refers to the USOPC. In limited circumstances, the USOPC may elect, in its sole and absolute discretion, to refer the incident and jurisdiction thereof to the appropriate NGB/HPMO.

3.2. Applicable Policies and Procedures

The USOPC Athlete Safety Policy shall apply and will govern the response and resolution of any allegation for which the USOPC asserts jurisdiction. In instances when the USOPC declines jurisdiction, the applicable NGB or HPMO shall be responsible for the response and resolution of the allegation according to its own policies and procedures.

Thank you for working with the USOPC to ensure the safety and well-being of athletes. Any and all questions about this policy should be directed to the USOPC Office of Athlete Safety at athlete.safety@usopc.org.