



LAKESHORE

February 9, 2018

Senator Jerry Moran
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room 521
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Moran and Blumenthal:

We hereby respond to your inquiry of February 2, 2018 regarding our role as the High Performance Management Organization (HPMO) for para-rugby. I believe you understand that HPMOs operate under annual contract with the USOC for sports where a National Governing Body (NGB) is not in place; as is the case with para-rugby (by the way, the US Paralympic rugby team is ranked Number One in the world!)

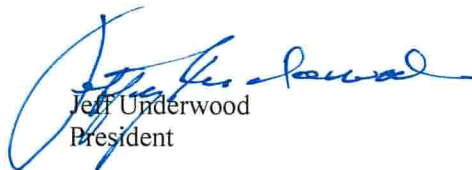
Lakeshore Foundation is a Birmingham, AL based nonprofit organization with the mission at serving people with physical disability through adapted sports, recreation and wellness. Our programs include a national initiative to provide our services to America's wounded warriors and their families.

With regard to our involvement with the USOC, we serve as the HPMO for para-rugby, as a designated Olympic and Paralympic Training Site, and as a Paralympic Sport Club. This response to your inquiry is specific to our role as an HPMO but please know that our own Safe Sport policies, in place since 2014, cover not only our USOC involvement but all the programs of Lakeshore Foundation.

In closing, thank you for your attention to the issue of sexual harassment. Lakeshore Foundation stands ready to provide additional information and respond to further inquiries that can assist in your important work.

Responses are enclosed.

Sincerely,



Jeff Underwood
President

/sjs

cc:

Thomas Shufflebarger
Chairman, Board of Directors

RESPONSES:

1. What reporting protocols for child and sexual abuse allegations are currently in place to ensure that all reports receive fair, timely, and thorough review by all appropriate parties, including law enforcement?

We adopted a Safe Sport Policy in 2014. This policy includes the expectation of prompt investigation and reporting to the Team Leader in Sport Performance at the USOC and applicable legal agencies. We would be pleased to provide the subcommittee with these policies or any other documents that would be helpful.

2. Are there special accommodations to account for volunteers that are separately employed by non-NGB institutions, like the case of Dr. Nassar who was employed by MSU, in these reporting practices?

Volunteers are held to the same screening, training and reporting expectations as all who interact with the team.

3. Has your organization ever utilized an NDA to enforce confidentiality against any athlete, volunteer, or employee in the past? To the extent possible, please provide all details regarding the justification and circumstances surrounding every individual NDA used by your organization.

No.

4. Has your organization ever utilized additional binding agreements other than NDAs with athlete under your purview? To the extent possible, please provide all details regarding the justification and circumstances surrounding every individual agreement used by your organization.

No.

5. Since the recent lawsuits filed against the USOC, USAG, and MSU for organizations failures to investigate, discipline, or remove Dr. Nassar after complaints of sexual abuse, has your organization taken any additional steps to improve the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of its criminal misconduct reporting mechanism?

The gravity and seriousness of the actions of Dr. Nassar have prompted a review of our policies and practices. Mandatory staff training continues, and minor policy revisions have been made.

6. Please identify any circumstance in which USOC did not take any action following a report of criminal justification and circumstances involved in USOC's decision to not act.

There have been no such circumstances.

7. In 2017, USOC engaged with a third-party consultant to assess compliance with SafeSport policies and procedures within the USOC and all of its NGBs and High Performance Management Organizations (HPMO) 5. Please describe the report issued for your organization, including any recommendations necessary for full compliance. If additional recommendations were issued, what actions were taken by your organization? Are there any remaining recommendations that your organization has yet to fully implement?

All applicable people involved with the Wheelchair Rugby National Team program had undergone background screening and completed SafeSport training; however, updates for the background screening had not been completed on the expected timeline in some cases. We had misunderstood the definition of every 2 years to be 24 months, rather the last day of the following year. All instances have been updated now and a process to ensure continued adherence is in place.