

UNITED STATES LUGE ASSOCIATION



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February 21, 2018

Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moran and Senator Blumenthal:

Let me start with saying that USA Luge is committed to protecting the well being of all our athletes on and off the field of play. Other than a few instances of minor on minor bullying, we have been blessed to be free of any criminal misconduct within our organization. We are very grateful for that and we will continue to work with the USOC and the Center for SafeSport to ensure from a governance and compliance standpoint we continue to provide a safe environment for all our athletes.

In response to your questions, I will answer them to the best of my ability. Please understand that we are answering these questions without the benefit of legal representation reviewing our responses to your questions.

Answer to question #1.

USA Luge enacts the SafeSport protocols, which clearly defines how allegations are reported via law enforcement and the Center for Safe Sport. USA Luge also has a whistle blower policy that encourages reporting of any violations of USA Luge policies.

All this information is available on our website <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Luge> and found under the tab listing rules and policies.

Answer to question #2.

Unlike USA Gymnastics, USA Luge has a very small number of athletes that compete in our sport. All adults working with our young athletes, with the exception of our team doctor, are direct employees of USA Luge and are required to undergo pre-employment background checks. We also run those background checks on all existing employees every two years. In addition, all employees working directly with our athletes are required to complete the SafeSport training modules. With regards to our association with our team doctor, he is employed by the Adirondack Medical Center and is fully credentialed through the State of New York. He is also required



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Answer to question #2 (continued) .

to be SafeSport compliant and must undergo annual background check by the USOC as part of his work at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid.

Answer to question #3.

USA Luge only utilizes NDA's with regards to specific technical knowledge related to our sled development and sled building. We ask our athletes to sign an "Acknowledgement & Confidentiality Statement" document (posted on our website under rules and policies) that prohibits them from sharing any of this technical information with any foreign entity.

Answer to question #4.

USA Luge has a Code of Conduct agreement that we ask all our athletes to sign. This policy is posted on our website.

Answer to question #5.

In the last several months USA Luge has worked with the USOC and outside counsel to modify our Bylaws and our SafeSport Handbook Policies to be compliant with all new mandates.

Answer to question #6.

USA Luge has not had any actions of any criminal behavior.

Answer to question #7.

The USOC via the Baker Tilly audit report made two recommendations to USA Luge.

Recommendation #1 – USA Luge's previous policy did not prohibit and/or define all types of misconduct.

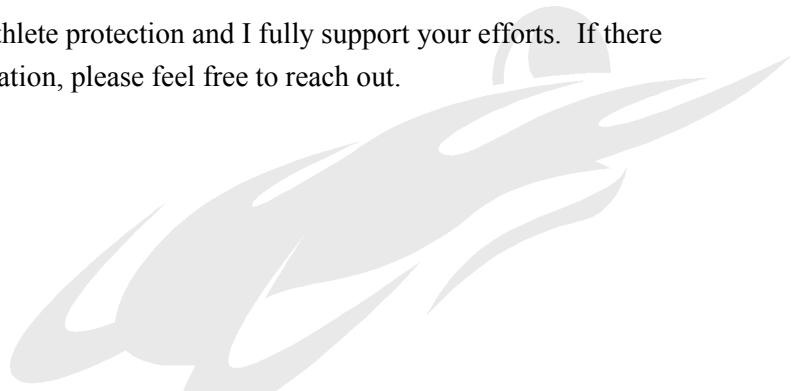
Recommendation #2 – USA Luge's previous policy was limited to interactions with minors.

Based on the recommendations above USA Luge revised our SafeSport policy to be more compliant with Athlete Safety Standards and second, we implemented a process to ensure all required individuals complete SafeSport education as well as initiate more frequent background checks for those with contact with our athletes.

On behalf of USA Luge, I appreciate your attention to athlete protection and I fully support your efforts. If there is any additional information you need from our organization, please feel free to reach out.

Respectfully,

Jim Leahy
CEO
USA Luge



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