



Where Olympic and Paralympic  
Journeys Begin

AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION  
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February 14, 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  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of February 2, 2018

Dear Senator Moran and Senator Blumenthal:

The American Canoe Association (ACA) recently, October 21, 2017, joined the United States Olympic Committee's National Governing Bodies (NGB) for the sport of Canoe/Kayak. ACA takes the athletes safety and well-being very seriously. The organization appreciates the committee's efforts to ensure the health and safety of our amateur athletes.

The following are responses to the seven questions from Senators Moran and Blumenthal outlined in a letter to all NGBs on February 2, 2018:

- 1) The ACA web site has reporting protocols in ACA Safe Sport pages (<http://www.americancanoe.org/page/SafeSport>) with links describing issues and appropriate parties to be contacted, including law enforcement;
- 2) Yes, ACA has criteria set for all volunteers regardless of affiliation. The following are required to be a racing/travelling volunteer:
  - Complete and submit the ACA Volunteer and Staff Selection Procedures Form ([PDF](#))
  - Submit Staff/Volunteer Code of Conduct ([PDF](#))
  - Complete all three (3) modules of SafeSport: [www.americancanoe.org/SafeSport](http://www.americancanoe.org/SafeSport)

- Successfully pass the ACA's Background Check
  - Will register my whereabouts with the U.S. State Department Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) while traveling for international events at: <https://step.state.gov/step/>
- 3) No, The ACA has never used an NDA to enforce confidentiality against any athlete, volunteer or employee.
  - 4) No. The only agreement that athletes are asked to sign is the Athlete Code of Conduct ([http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/competition-documents/2018\\_ACA\\_Athlete\\_Code\\_of\\_Con.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/competition-documents/2018_ACA_Athlete_Code_of_Con.pdf)). The ACA Competition Council, Athlete representatives, Athletes, ACA Staff and ACA Board are in the process of forming the National Team Selection Criteria which will be completed by April 1, 2018. Athletes will also be asked to sign the National Team Selection Criteria.
  - 5) Yes. In December 2017, the ACA Board of Directors asked ACA Executive Director, Wade Blackwood, to work with legal counsel in the creation of a SafeSport policy to be adopted by the ACA Board in March 2018.
  - 6) N/A: The ACA has been the US Canoe/Kayak National Governing Body for approximately four months.
  - 7) N/A: The ACA has been the US Canoe/Kayak National Governing Body for approximately four months.

Thank you again for helping to protect our athletes.

Sincerely,

American Canoe Association, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wade K. Blackwood". The signature is written in a cursive style.

By:

Wade Blackwood, Executive Director



