



February 16, 2018

Senator Jerry Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security

Senator Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security

Dear Senators,

Please see the response below to your question regarding USA Boccia.

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? – *If a child or athlete experiences sexual abuse they would contact USA Boccia and we would contact the appropriate parties including law enforcement and work together with those parties in terms of the allegations.*
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? – *USA Boccia current policy states any individual either staff, coach of volunteer must complete the SafeSport training and complete a background check.*
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, we have not utilized an NDA.*
4. Has your organization ever utilized additional binding agreements other than ND As with athletes 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 USOC, USAG, and MSU for organizational failures to investigate, discipline, or remove Dr. Nassar after complaints of sexual abuse, has you organization taken any additional steps to improve the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of its criminal misconduct reporting mechanisms? – *We are currently reviewing our policies and procedures but have not made any changes to our current policy.*
6. Please identify any circumstance in which USOC did not take any action following a report of criminal behavior from your organization. To the extent possible, please provide all details regarding the justification and circumstances involved in USOC's decision to not act. – *We have not had any allegations therefore we have not needed to report any instances to the USOC.*
7. In 2017, USOC engaged with a third-party consultant to assess compliance with SafeSport policies and procedures within USOC and all of its NGBs and High Performance Management Organizations(HPMO). 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?

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Below is the report from SafeSport Audit of USA Boccia. We have no remaining recommendations our organization has to fulfill.

Recommendation - USA Boccia must formally create and/or update their SafeSport related content to document a formal SafeSport policy that can be made available to all stakeholders, which complies with the Athlete Safety Standards.

USA Boccia Response - USA Boccia will create a task force to develop a SafeSport policy that will have our membership in mind. We agree with the condition and recommendation and will respond to the USOC with a detailed plan to ensure compliance with the current NGB Athlete Safety Policy.

Follow-up Action - USA Boccia revised its policy in December 2017 to address the recommendation.

Recommendation - USA Boccia must require that individuals it formally authorizes, approves, or appoints (a) to a position of authority over, or (b) to have frequent contact with athletes complete criminal background checks and education and training requirements in a timely manner and before they have contact with athletes to provide assurance that they are educated on the requirements of the Athlete Safety Standards. USA Boccia must consistently track and verify criminal background checks and education and training requirements are met for all required individuals. USA Boccia should review the testing results and require all necessary individuals to complete the necessary requirements (i.e., criminal background check and/or education and training).

USA Boccia Response - We will seek advice on securing background checks on staff and will formalize our policy on this as well. We agree with the condition and recommendation and will respond to the USOC with a detailed plan to ensure compliance with the current NGB Athlete Safety Policy.

Follow-up Action - USA Boccia has implemented a process to ensure all required individuals complete SafeSport education and background checks before they have contact with athletes.

If you have any further questions in regards to our policies please do not hesitate to reach out to USA Boccia.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Prince".

Rebecca Prince
Executive Director
USA Boccia

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