



February 13, 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: USA GOLF Response to Letter of February 2, 2018

Dear Senator Moran and Senator Blumenthal:

USA GOLF was established and recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for golf in accordance with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act in 2011. The mission of USA GOLF is to pursue competitive success in Olympic, Paralympic or Pan American competition and to contribute to the development of future elite American golfers. Given the array of well-established entities governing the game at both the amateur and professional levels, USA GOLF was established with a narrower focus than its fellow Olympic NGBs and therefore engages in significantly less contact with its athletes. For example, USA GOLF does not have an individual membership program, does not conduct events and does not certify coaches or trainers. Additionally, to date, USA GOLF has participated in just two events, the 2015 Pan Am Games and the 2016 Olympic Games. Professional and amateur golfers are autonomous in their health, training and career decisions. USA GOLF does not provide counsel or recommendations to its athletes nor does it offer services outside of the limited services provided at Olympic, Paralympic or Pan American competitions. Nevertheless, the safety and wellbeing of athletes is of paramount importance to USA GOLF. USA GOLF is fully compliant with the National Center for SafeSport and is committed to the protection of all athletes. To that end, the following are responses to your questions:

1. Pursuant to USA GOLF's Safe Sport Policy, employees, coaches, contracted staff, volunteers, board members, committee members and/or task force members are required to report rumors, suspicions, or allegations of child sexual or physical abuse by a colleague or co-worker, to: (a) the Executive Director of USA GOLF; (b) directly to the U.S. Center for Safe Sport (the "**Center**"); and where applicable, (c) appropriate law enforcement authorities. USA GOLF has created and made available an Incident Report Form to expedite and increase the ease of reporting any misconduct, however, USA GOLF will receive a report in the form most comfortable to the individual reporting, including anonymously, in-person, verbal or written reports. To further encourage reporting of abuse, USA GOLF, to the extent permitted by law and to appropriately investigate a complaint, will keep confidential the names of the complainant, potential victim, accused perpetrator and individual who reports abuse to authorities. Finally, USA GOLF requires all individuals authorized, approved, or appointed by USA GOLF who have a position of authority over athletes or have frequent contact with athletes to complete criminal background checks and participate in the USOC's education and training program (which includes information on USA GOLF's misconduct reporting protocols) before they shall be permitted contact with athletes.

2. While the spirit of all of USA GOLF's policies and procedures is intended to require any individual, irrespective of their formal or informal relationship with USA GOLF, to remain compliant with USA GOLF's Safe Sport Policy including its reporting requirements, USA GOLF's Safe Sport Policy explicitly requires that all volunteers adhere to it. Additionally, as mentioned above, to educate relevant individuals on misconduct and the requirements of the Safe Sport Athlete Safety Standards, all individuals authorized, approved, or appointed by USA GOLF who have a position of authority over athletes or have frequent contact with athletes must complete criminal background checks and participate in the USOC's education and training program no less than once every two (2) years.
3. No. With respect to claims against an individual for any form of misconduct or abuse, USA GOLF has never utilized an NDA to enforce confidentiality.
4. No. Under the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, NGBs are required to participate in binding arbitration where an athlete alleges that the NGB has denied him or her an opportunity to participate in certain competitions, and where a member alleges that the NGB has violated certain provisions of the Sports Act or USOC Bylaws. In these cases, it is the athlete who chooses whether or not to require an NGB to participate in binding arbitration, and the athlete is in no way obligated to participate. With that as background, in response to the request that each NGB describe the cases in which an NGB might have required an athlete to participate in forced binding arbitration, USA GOLF reports that it has never utilized binding agreements with an athlete that require an athlete to participate in forced arbitration.
5. As of January 26, 2018, USA GOLF has met the Baker-Tilly Safe Sport recommendations as required by the USOC and has become fully compliant with the Center (see attached Exhibit A). USA GOLF will continue to enforce and require stringent reporting requirements and will foster an environment of vigilance and zero tolerance for any form of abuse or misconduct.
6. Not applicable. USA GOLF has never received a report of criminal behavior.
7. Upon completion of the Baker-Tilly third-party audit of USA GOLF's Safe Sport Policy, USA GOLF was requested to make the following revisions:
  - a. Require additional background checks and training;
  - b. Verification of appropriate and ongoing training; and
  - c. Update USA GOLF's grievance process.

On December 8, 2017, USA GOLF's board of directors unanimously approved amending its Safe Sport Policy to meet the Baker-Tilly recommendations, and on January 26, 2018, the USOC confirmed that USA GOLF had promptly and fully implemented the Baker-Tilly recommendations (Exhibit A).

Sincerely,



Andrew Levinson  
Executive Director