



February 12, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection  
Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection  
Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Moran and Blumenthal;

In response to your letter of February 2, 2018, as the Executive Director of the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA), I am submitting answers to the list of questions you posed to me regarding the organization.

1. The USABA has posted our November 2018 Board of Directors approved SafeSport policy on our website. In addition, it has also been sent to our association's members and sports clubs. Since USABA is a High-Performance Management Organization (HPMO), we have different reporting requirements with SafeSport than National Governing Body (NGB's). HPMO's are not members of SafeSport. At USABA, we require that law enforcement be contacted directly on any suspected case of child or adult sexual abuse. A copy of the USABA SafeSport policy is attached to this response.
2. At USABA, we utilize volunteer certified athletic trainers who work with our National Goalball Teams. We require that each individual complete a SafeSport education program. In addition, as another safeguard, we require proof of background checks and an evidence of their credentials. They also are provided a copy of our SafeSport policy that provides protective guidelines.
3. The United States Association of Blind Athletes has never used an NDA in the scope of our operations.
4. The USABA utilizes a Code of Conduct for athletes, coaches, referees and team officials who participate in sanctioned events. This Code of Conduct provides for generally accepted behavioral standards of expectations when participating in a USABA sanctioned event. Under the Ted Stevens and Amateur Sports Act, USABA is required to participate in binding arbitration when an athlete alleges that USABA has denied him or her an opportunity to participate in certain competitions, and in cases when a member alleges that USABA has violated certain provisions of the TSOA Sports Act or USOC Bylaws. In these cases, it is the athlete who chooses whether or not to require USABA to participate in binding arbitration. The athlete is

not obligated to participate in binding arbitration. With that as background, in response to the request that each NGB/HMPO's describe the cases in which an NGB/HPMO might require an athlete to participate in forced arbitration, USABA reports that there are no situations where an athlete is required to do so.

5. The USABA Board of Directors passed a SafeSport policy for our organization, November 3, 2017 which specifically details reporting protocols to improve the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of our criminal misconduct reporting mechanisms. We have actively engaged and have required our National Team athletes and coaches, High Performance teams, sport club leadership, elected athlete representatives, our staff, and Board members about becoming engaged, informed and aware of all aspects of our SafeSport policy. In this policy, reporting and accountability are essential priorities for safety and protection.
6. USABA is not aware of or reviewed any report of criminal behavior that the USOC would be expected to act upon.
7. I am attaching the third party United States Olympic Committee SafeSport Audit of The USABA compliance with SafeSport policies and expectations. The USABA SafeSport policy was updated and subsequently approved by the USABA Board on November 3, 2017. The Safe Sport policy also can be found on the United States Association of Blind Athletes website at [www.usaba.org](http://www.usaba.org).

Furthermore, the Board of Directors at their February 2, 2018 meeting approved the [motion requiring all board members](#) take the on-line SafeSport class. The rationale for this approved motion was to ensure that those with fiduciary and governance responsibility for the organization are more fully aware of their responsibility and duty to protect our athletes,

The United States Association is committed to be in full compliance with all aspects of SafeSport and fully embraces all measures that protect the health and safety of the membership we serve.

Sincerely,



Mark Lucas, Executive Director  
U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA)  
*Empowering | Inspiring | Life-changing*  
Cell: (719) 352-9134  
[www.usaba.org](http://www.usaba.org)

CC: Michael J. Bina; President, USABA Board of Directors