



February 15, 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 Chairman Moran and Senator Blumenthal:

Please find the below responses to the seven questions posed in your February 2, 2018, letter regarding reporting protocols for allegations of sexual abuse and other criminal activities.

1. The reporting protocols currently in place at USA Judo for child and sexual abuse allegations are in accordance with the U.S. Center of SafeSport policies and are as follows:
 - All individuals, regardless of membership with USA Judo, are encouraged to report suspected child and sexual abuse or any violations of the SafeSport Code.
 - Reporting obligations and options to state or federal law enforcement as a mandatory reporter will be determined by reviewing the appropriate information within the following website: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state>
 - Covered individuals who are over the age of 18 are required to report suspected SafeSport Code violations related to or accompanying sexual misconduct.
 - Covered individuals who fail to report SafeSport Code violations may be subject to disciplinary action.
 - In addition to appropriate mandatory reporting to law enforcement, covered individuals must also report suspected SafeSport Code violations directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport.
 - If anyone from the American Judo Community has questions regarding the SafeSport Program, they are encouraged to contact the USA Judo National Office at 719-866-4730 and ask for CEO, Keith Bryant or COO, Corinne Shigemoto.

Links to SafeSport information and these protocols can be found in both the athletes and coaches section of the USA Judo Website (<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-judo/safe-sport-program>).

2. USA Judo does not have any special accommodations to account for volunteers who are separately employed by non-NGB institutions in these reporting practices.
3. To my knowledge, USA Judo has never utilized an NDA to enforce confidentiality against any athlete, volunteer, or employee in the past.
4. In the past, USA Judo has had athletes sign an "Athlete Performance Contract" (2016 example attached) which outlines the performance standards tied to funding and general behavioral and conduct standards expected of them when representing USA Judo. 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 Judo reports that, to my knowledge, there are no situations where it has required an athlete to participate in forced finding arbitration.
5. Since the recent lawsuits filed against the USOC, USA Gymnastics and MSU, USA Judo has reviewed its protocols and created more stringent and efficient processes, especially as it pertains to the background screening and SafeSport Certifications for USA Judo Coaches and Referees.
6. I am not aware of any circumstance in which the USOC did not take any action following a report of criminal behavior made by USA Judo.
7. USA Judo began the audit of USA Judo's SafeSport policies and compliance with USOC-assigned third-party consultant, Baker Tilly on May 25, 2017 and received a copy of its initial SafeSport audit report on September 27, 2017. Within the audit report, there were two areas where Baker Tilly suggested USA Judo was out of compliance:
 - 1) SafeSport Certification had lapsed for one coach randomly selected for audit testing.
 - 2) USA Judo employees were not background screened nor had current SafeSport Certification. At the time of the audit, USA Judo did not require background screens or SafeSport Certification for its employees.

The actions taken by USA Judo to be in full compliance are as follows:

- 1) Background screens and SafeSport Certifications for coaches, referees and staff are now being initially tracked by the USA Judo National Office in addition to the third-party contracted Director of Coaching Education.
- 2) Notifications were sent to all USA Judo Certified Coaches whose certifications had lapsed, requiring them to comply or USA Judo would "suspend" their coach certifications.
- 3) All current USA Judo Staff Members have submitted background screen applications and received a clear background check. All USA Judo Staff Members have also completed the SafeSport Certification Course.

A copy of the final report provided by the USOC pertaining to Baker Tilly's audit and implemented recommendations review is attached.

USA Judo is a strong advocate of the SafeSport initiative with athlete and member safety as its #1 priority. Thank you for your attention to this matter at the Federal level and please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Keith Bryant
CEO/Executive Director