



February 14, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety,  
Insurance, and Data Security  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moran and Senator Blumenthal,

In response to your letter dated February 2, 2018, USA Karate respectfully submits the following response to your questions. I truly appreciate your efforts to ensure the safety of athletes involved with the Olympic Movement. USA Karate is committed to the SafeSport program and has been since its introduction. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions with regards to our response.

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?

*USA Karate's reporting policy is outlined in our Participant Safety Handbook, which can be found on our website: [Participant Safety Handbook](#)*

*The policy specifies that any reports are directed to immediate supervisors, administrative staff or SafeSport Committee members. In addition, we have the ability to accept SafeSport related claims through our ethics hotline and online ethics violations website. Reports coming through the ethics process would be sent to the CEO who would, in turn, follow the reporting policy.*

*If an incident were reported that related to a suspicion or accusation of physical or sexual abuse of a child, it would immediately be reported to law enforcement and the US Center for SafeSport. As a matter of policy, USA Karate does not investigate suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse or attempt to evaluate the*



*credibility or validity of such allegations as a condition for reporting to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.*

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 Karate requires that all outside vendors that provide services to the NGB be compliant with SafeSport. USA Karate works with professionals from the USOC Sport Performance Team and we have a relationship with Greenville Health Systems – Steadman-Hawkins Sports Medicine group. Greenville Health Systems provides Doctors and Athletic Trainers at our signature events and they travel to support our Junior and Senior National Teams in international competition. Those individuals in contact with our athletes are required to be compliant with SafeSport which means they have completed a background check and SafeSport Training every 2 years. These individuals are required to follow the reporting protocols.*

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.

*USA Karate was restructured by the USOC and returned to the control of its members in 2010. Since 2010 USA Karate has not used any NDAs. USA Karate does not have any record of any NDA to which USA Karate was a party before that date.*

4. Has your organization ever utilized additional binding agreements other than NDAs 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.

*To the best of my knowledge there have been 2 binding agreements since 2010 that required confidentiality, neither of which related to suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse.*

1. A settlement due to an error made by a coach in the field of play
2. An outcome of arbitration on a grievance against a referee for the way a coach was treated at a signature event

*Again, neither of these agreements was related to suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse.*

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(r) organization taken any additional steps to improve the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of its criminal misconduct reporting mechanisms?

*USA Karate has made no recent changes to its SafeSport Policies and Procedures. However, USA Karate has reviewed those policies in light of the various concerns raised during the Nassar matter to ensure that our policies are appropriate.*

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.

*USA Karate has never had a situation where we requested information or support on a SafeSport-related topic from the USOC where the USOC did not provide assistance.*

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)5. 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?

*USA Karate has successfully completed the Baker Tilley audit with the following finding: Based on this review of USA Karate's SafeSport-related documentation and administrative materials, USA Karate's policies and procedures met the requirements of the Athlete Safety Standards. Therefore, there were no observations noted during this audit.*

*A copy of the Audit Report can be found on our website: [2017 USOC SafeSport Audit](#)*

Regards,



Phil Hampel  
Chief Executive Officer  
USA National Karate-do Federation

