



## **Report to Congress**

**June 2025**

The mission of the National Governing Bodies Council (NGBC) is to coordinate the efforts of National Governing Bodies to deliver Olympic and Paralympic medal success for Team USA, while growing sport on a grassroots level across America. Key to this work is our collaboration, advocacy, and partnership with key stakeholders such as the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and the Team USA Athletes' Commission. The NGBC relies upon representatives of 51 NGBs to share common issues, voice concerns, and make progress in improving the Olympic and Paralympic Movement for all constituents.

Brendan Quirk (USA Cycling, CEO) and Aron McGuire (US Bobsled/Skeleton, CEO) are Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the NGBC and have an Advisory Committee composed of the following five members of the Council:

Victoria Brumfield, USA Triathlon, CEO  
Jack Gierhart, US Biathlon, CEO  
Casey Jorgensen, USA Hockey, General Counsel  
Amanda Kraus, USA Rowing, CEO  
Michelle Steinfeld, USA Swimming, General Counsel

This leadership group meets monthly and communicates directly with the USOPC about issues that are central to the NGBs within the Olympic and Paralympic Movements. NGBC members are also engaged in work on various USOPC committees and working groups to contribute as much input as possible.

2024 brought a spectacular performance by Team USA at the Paris Summer Olympic Games. Our success was not only on the playing field. The NGBC also made substantial operational progress, with a focus on initiatives with the USOPC that included increasing transparency in the High Performance Grant Funding Allocation process, streamlining the quadrennial NGB recertification process, developing joint IP/marketing commercial opportunities, and enhancing collaboration in International and Government Relations.

The 2025 priorities of the NGBC build on the momentum of the excellent progress we made with the USOPC in 2024:

1. Improving our working relationship with the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the “Center”) and the Center’s functionality.
2. Exploring an increase in the overall amount of High Performance Funding available to NGBs.
3. Defining and pursuing the full set of opportunities related to LA28, and by extension SLC-UT 2034.
4. Delivering the best possible outcome for Olympic disciplines amidst the unprecedented upheaval in NCAA athletics.

Below is a summary of the state of each of these priorities:

**U.S. Center for SafeSport**

The NGBs wholeheartedly endorse their role in providing safe environments for our athletes and all participants in our organizations. NGBs have been exhaustive in their efforts to improve safety through stronger policies, mandatory training through the Center, background screening of adults with regular access or authority over minor athletes, and effective reporting policies that result in the Center and NGBs addressing those reports as appropriate. The NGBs’ commitment is demonstrated by the nearly 1.3 million members of NGBs who completed SafeSport Core Training and Refresher Training in 2024. Also demonstrating the NGBs’ commitment is that through audits of 52 NGBs in 2024, there were very few areas where NGBs had not fully implemented the Center’s audit standards:



The NGBs recognize that there have been challenges with the Center’s operations that have received public and governmental scrutiny. The NGBs believe that the Center’s work and success in the Olympic & Paralympic Movement is critical to the success of all NGBs. We also recognize that creating safe environments includes ongoing and continual work by the NGBs and

our grassroots programs, and a key part of these efforts is our collaboration with the Center. The NGBC has identified the following focus areas related to SafeSport in 2025:

- i. The NGBs' relationship with the Center
- ii. The potential federal legislation addressing SafeSport and the Center
- iii. The scope and jurisdiction of the Center
- iv. The Center's response and resolution process
- v. The need for policy development to mitigate against adverse effects on the NGBs and organizations under their jurisdiction.

The NGBC has appointed a working group to focus on these priorities, and that group is actively and productively working with the Center's leadership to address them. We hope to have the support of the government to incorporate changes as necessary to help effectuate change that will make our sporting environments safer and further ensure that the Center is a trusted resource for all involved in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

### **High Performance Funding**

The 2028 and 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Games offer a significant opportunity to elevate Team USA's performance, grow the national fan base, and strengthen strategic partnerships. Competitive success will be a driving force behind these goals. While the USOPC has made notable improvements in the High Performance funding process, including enhancing clarity, consistency, and transparency, NGBs believe there is still a significant funding gap. Current levels are insufficient to support the programming required to continue to win the overall medal and gold medal counts in the Summer Games, or to make meaningful progress in the Winter Games.

This effort will begin by establishing a shared definition of success between the USOPC and the NGBs. By setting realistic sport-specific medal goals, NGBs can determine the performance requirements, such as elite coaching, athlete services, training infrastructure, and competition opportunities, needed to meet those targets. Clarifying the role of each sport in achieving overall Team USA objectives will allow for more effective planning, coordination, and resource allocation across the Olympic and Paralympic landscape.

A joint working group, including representatives from NGBs and the USOPC Finance and Sport Performance teams, has been created to lead a financial gap analysis. This process will evaluate the difference between existing resources and those required to meet performance goals. With clearly defined needs and aligned priorities, funding gaps can be closed through targeted philanthropic campaigns, realignment of internal budgeting, and new sponsorship opportunities. These coordinated efforts are crucial to ensuring that Team USA athletes receive the necessary support through NGBs to reach the podium and maintain competitive excellence.

### **Overall Opportunity at LA28**

A joint NGB and USOPC Commercial Working Group is working to enhance collaboration and drive tangible improvements for NGBs within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement. By

fostering better partnerships between NGBs, the USOPC, and Organizing Committees for Olympic Games, the group seeks to create value through actionable initiatives. The overarching mission includes expanding sponsorship opportunities, increasing philanthropic contributions, and engaging more members and fans as the Movement prepares for the LA28 Games.

Focusing on three primary areas – Enhancing the “Making Team USA” media platform, expanding philanthropy, and growing membership/fans – the group plans to leverage the strengths of NGBs to maximize the value of their assets. This includes integrating NGB resources into the Making Team USA initiative, which aims to provide a unified brand that can attract sponsors and enhance fundraising efforts. The group also recognizes the importance of defining the collaboration between the USOPC Foundation and NGBs in fundraising and aims to clarify processes for athlete and NGB engagement, as well as share best practices for effective fundraising.

Ultimately, this working group reflects the need for strategic alignment and collaboration to increase the overall impact of the Olympic and Paralympic Movements. By identifying new growth opportunities, evaluating the value of NGB assets, and designing a cohesive sales structure, the group seeks to maximize engagement and financial support. This collaborative approach is seen as essential for building a sustainable future for Olympic and Paralympic sports in the U.S. as they work toward the upcoming Games.

### **Collegiate Athletics**

The NGBC is working together with the USOPC to focus on three core priorities related to NCAA athletics and its impact on the American Olympic and Paralympic Movement: pathway sustainability, connectivity, and opportunity with the NCAA.

In the face of financial pressure and realignment, NGBs are concerned about the future of broad-based sport sponsorship and are preparing for potential reductions in NCAA sport footprints. Simultaneously, many are exploring how to offer the most value to athletic departments to preserve meaningful development environments for athletes and coaches alike. Furthermore, NGBs are navigating fragmented athlete pathways -- highlighting gaps in governance, inconsistent competition rules, and limited NGB involvement in collegiate championship operations.

A particularly pressing concern is the growing impact of international athletes on Team USA's Olympic pipeline. While global diversity is a strength of collegiate sport, several NGBs – especially those in sports like rowing, track and field, and skiing – are raising alarms over the increasing number of U.S. college roster spots going to athletes who ultimately compete for other nations. This dynamic may be accelerated by House settlement-related changes to athlete compensation and could significantly affect American athlete development and retention.

NGBs are also engaging in federal advocacy and Title IX discussions, voicing concern about the ambiguous guidance around student-athlete revenue sharing and how it may influence enforcement and opportunity.

In closing, we speak for all 51 NGBs in expressing what an honor it is to serve our nation by supporting our very best athletes on the world's biggest athletic stage. While our most visible work is on global display at the Olympic Games, equally important is the way in which we come to life in local communities across America through our work in grassroots sports. We provide guidance and resources to local clubs, events, and leagues, as well as athletes of all abilities who find the unique sense of joy, purpose, and camaraderie that only athletics can bring.

Respectfully submitted,



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USA Cycling, CEO



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