



Report to Congress

June 2024

The mission of the National Governing Bodies Council (NGBC) is to support the interests of athletes and National Governing Bodies (NGB) through collaboration, advocacy, and partnership with stakeholders such as the Team USA Athletes' Commission and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC). The NGBC relies upon representatives of 51 NGBs to share common issues, voice concerns and work towards solutions to improve the Olympic and Paralympic Movement for all constituents.

Pat Kelleher and Li Li Leung are in their fourth year as the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the NGBC and have an Advisory Committee composed of the following five members of the Council.

- Sophie Goldschmidt, U.S. Ski & Snowboard, CEO
- Sonja Keating, U.S. Equestrian, General Counsel & COO
- Aron McGuire, USA Bobsled-Skeleton, CEO
- Marc Norman, USA Climbing, CEO
- Jim Tooley, USA Basketball, CEO

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

The NGBC has taken into consideration the various recommendations from the Congressional Commission report on the State of U.S. Olympics and Paralympics that was released in March of 2024. The work is ongoing in response to these recommendations.

Much work has been accomplished this year in advancing the relationship between NGBs and the USOPC. Communication is of the utmost importance in this collaborative relationship and has helped in continuing to make progress in the best interests of the Movement.

The NGBC has been encouraged by the progress that has been made in many areas, however work remains on several key issues which are outlined below and have been shared with USOPC leadership.

USOPC Funding

NGBs remain concerned about the lack of funding directed towards high performance. Direct, high-performance funding has been flat over the last two quads, while the number of NGBs, disciplines within those NGBs represented at the Games, expectations and operational costs have all increased dramatically during the same time, putting the stated goal of sustained competitive excellence at serious risk. It is incredibly challenging to remain successful on the field of play while competitors around the world invest more.



NGBs recognize that revenue generation is a challenge for all in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, especially with the new eco-system and marketing rights/IP framework surrounding LA28.

The NGBs remain interested about the application of new principles related to high performance funding allocations, and for future funding, would like to be confident that the “value investor” approach to funding will be utilized.

Audits

NGBs acknowledge the improvements made in the audit process and appreciate the efforts of the USOPC staff in this regard. However, there are still challenges for smaller NGBs that lack the resources to manage the audit and compliance process.

We recognize the significance of audits and accept it as necessary for compliance purposes and to be certified as an NGB, but we believe that the audit process can also be utilized as a “teaching and development tool” to assist each NGB in performing to its highest capacity. NGBs remain committed to continue working with the USOPC to further develop and improve upon the current process.

Marketing

While some progress has been made on marketing guidelines and intellectual property rights, the effort is an ever-evolving process.

Depending on the NGB, there is a range of perspectives on marketing programs and their impact on NGBs. However, there is a wider acknowledgment that USOPC is trying to work within the complex ecosystem of stakeholders, especially in the lead-up to LA28, to maximize value to NGBs. We’d like to see continued focus and dialogue to ensure the commercial well-being of NGBs is being kept top of mind.

International and Government Relations

There continues to be concern around the ability of NGBs to host international events and guests given the heightened scrutiny for entry into the U.S. of foreign nationals. Our hope is that the new relationship with the State Department will improve matters. There is also concern that there is not enough International Relations funding to help NGBs grow their international governance presence, which is a stated area of focus for the USOPC. Given the challenges attaining US visas, NGBs are placed at a distinct disadvantage on many levels (e.g. competitive, international presence, global governance, etc.) compared to our international counterparts.

Membership

NGBs continue to hear feedback from their communities that the existing USOPC and U.S. Center for SafeSport requirements are driving potential members to other youth sporting organizations that have lesser safety standards. With athlete safety being a leading priority for all stakeholders, we believe continued pressure is needed to bring forth legislation that ensures all sport entities are required to adopt a certain level of athlete safety education, policies, and reporting requirements. Our hope is that Congress also sees this need and will support NGBs in this effort.



US Center For SafeSport

Additionally, many NGBs are facing increased competition for participation in their respective sports. This is happening under the premise that it is easier for non-NGB sport organizations to operate outside of the Olympic Movement and governmental requirements that make our organizations leaders in their respective sports. We are confident that NGBs currently provide the safest environment for the youth sport experience. We are also aware that children can participate in sports with other organizations that not only fail to offer any abuse prevention training nor do they limit one-on-one interactions with minor athletes or require background checks. These organizations permit SafeSport and NGB banned or suspended individuals to participate, therefore we ask that Congress make efforts to broaden the applicability of safeguarding practices to all youth serving sports organizations to ensure safety regardless of where a child participates in sport.

Many NGB-related concerns with the Center were outlined in the Report from the Commission on the State of the U.S. Olympics and Paralympics. NGBs hope there will be traction and support to resolve some of the stated issues such as information sharing, process improvements, and funding to name a few. While there is much work ahead to continue to address not only the issues cited above but others as well, the NGBC remains optimistic about the future.

The NGBs are hopeful to have the support of our government to understand and help solve these critical issues that we face today. Our challenge remains to provide the best and safest environment for all participants, including elite athletes, so that they can fulfill their Olympic and Paralympic dreams while inspiring Americans of all ages.

The NGBs play a critical role in developing athletes who proudly represent our nation at the Olympic and Paralympic Games and inspire millions in every corner of the United States and beyond.

Finally, the summer NGBs are continuing to prepare their athletes and teams for the upcoming 2024 Games in Paris, and a critically important “hometown” Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028, while the winter NGBs look towards Milan-Cortina in 2026 and the likelihood of a Salt Lake City Games in 2034. At the core of their respective missions, the NGBs are the organizations that develop the athletes who proudly represent the USA at the Olympic and Paralympic Games and inspire millions of Americans.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Kelleher
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USA Hockey, Executive Director

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USA Gymnastics, President & CEO