

# U.S. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE POLICY



**Policy Name:** NGB Athlete Safety Policy

**Date of Issuance:** 06-18-2025

**Policy Owner:** Chief of Security & Athlete Services

**Applies to:** NGBs

**Purpose:** To establish clear conformance, communication, and requirements for the national governing bodies ("NGBs") regarding matters of athlete safety.

**Policy Statement:** The USOPC is committed to the safety and wellbeing of athletes and Participants, as defined by the U.S. Center for SafeSport's (the "*Center*") SafeSport Code for the U. S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement (the "*Code*"), involved in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. As part of this commitment, the USOPC's policy, prevention, and education efforts aim to create an environment free from emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct and abuse, and to ensure effective and prompt action and resolution upon the occurrence of misconduct and/or abuse.

Federal legislation and the *Center* both promulgate rules, policies, and procedures to protect and govern the well-being of athletes and this policy reinforces and builds on those principles by providing more specifics regarding both communication and coordination between the USOPC and all NGBs.

## Section 1. Definitions

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### 1.1 Terms

Capitalized and italicized terms are defined terms for purposes of this Athlete Safety Policy (the "*Policy*"). This means that they have a specific meaning whenever they are used in this *Policy*. Section 13 sets out all defined terms for purposes of this *Policy*, and their meanings.

## Section 2. Authority and Applicable Policies and Procedures

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### 2.1 The Center

The *Center* is authorized by federal law to serve as the independent national safe sport organization to develop national policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes. NGBs are required to comply with all policies, procedures and protocols put forth by the *Center* to prevent and respond to misconduct and abuse.

### 2.2 NGB Membership and Recognition

In addition to complying with the policies and procedures of the *Center*, NGBs are also required, either by the USOPC Bylaws and/or written agreement, to abide by all other applicable policies and procedures regarding athlete safety set forth by the USOPC, including but not limited to, this Policy.

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## Section 3. Communicating with the USOPC Office of Athlete Safety

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### 3.1 General Inquiries

All questions and/or concern for the USOPC regarding athlete safety matters must be directed to the USOPC Office of Athlete Safety. A centralized point of contact within the USOPC provides for appropriate expertise, coordination, and record retention while protecting the confidentiality and privacy of all parties involved.

### 3.2 Allegations

*NGBs* must notify the USOPC's Office of Athlete Safety as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after learning of an allegation of *Prohibited Conduct*, as defined in the *Code*, that occurred at an Olympic & Paralympic Training Center ("*OPTC*"), a *USOPC Sponsored Event*, or at any third party-sponsored event in which the USOPC sends a delegation (a "*USOPC Delegation Event*"). Any temporary measure(s) imposed by the *NGB* and/or the *Center* in response to an allegation must be included in the required notification (as described in the following section).

This notification requirement is **in addition to** any other requirement to report an allegation to the *Center* and/or law enforcement. Any such notifications shall be submitted by email to [athlete.safety@usopc.org](mailto:athlete.safety@usopc.org).

### 3.3 Sanctions and Temporary Measures

*NGBs* must notify the USOPC's Office of Athlete Safety as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours of imposing its own or being notified of *Center*-imposed sanction(s) and/or temporary measure(s), affecting Participants who the *NGB* knows, or reasonably expects, to:

- be nominated for or selected as a Participant to a *USOPC Delegation Event*,
- be a Participant at a *USOPC Sponsored Event*,
- have access to an *OPTC*, and/or
- receive a benefit and/or service from the USOPC as outlined in the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.

As well, the USOPC Office of Athlete Safety should also be notified in the event of any change or removal of any such sanction and/or temporary measure(s) within 24 hours of such change by the *NGB* or notified of a change or removal by the *Center*. Any such notifications shall be submitted by email to [athlete.safety@usopc.org](mailto:athlete.safety@usopc.org).

## Section 4. Jurisdiction

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### 4.1 USOPC Assertion of Jurisdiction

The USOPC will assert jurisdiction over any alleged incident of Prohibited Conduct which is reported to have occurred at an *OPTC*, *USOPC Sponsored Event*<sup>1</sup>, or a *USOPC Delegation Event* where the *Center* has not exercised exclusive or discretionary jurisdiction, and over matters the *Center* refers to the USOPC. In limited circumstances, the USOPC may elect, in its sole and absolute discretion, to refer the incident and jurisdiction thereof to the appropriate *NGB*.

### 4.2 Applicable Policies and Procedures

The USOPC Athlete Safety Policy shall apply and will govern the response and resolution of any allegation for which the USOPC asserts jurisdiction. In instances when the USOPC declines jurisdiction, the applicable

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<sup>1</sup> For a *USOPC Sponsored Event* that is run by an *NGB* (e.g., an Olympic or Paralympic Trials event), the USOPC reserves the right to take jurisdiction over any allegation of Prohibited Conduct not under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Center.

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*NGB* shall be responsible for the response and resolution of the allegation according to its own policies and procedures.

## **4.3 Interference/ Restrictions/Enforcement**

*NGBs* shall not interfere or attempt to influence the outcome of any Prohibited Conduct investigation regardless of jurisdiction.

*NGBs* must prohibit any individual who is an employee, agent, or contractor, from assisting a member or former member in obtaining a new job (except the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files) if the individual knows that such member or former member violated the policies or procedures of the *Center* related to sexual misconduct or was convicted of a crime involving sexual misconduct with a minor.

If an *NGB* Participant is sanctioned or subject to Temporary Measures under the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy, that sanction(s) or Temporary Measure(s) must be reciprocally enforced by and between all *NGBs* and LAOs within the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

## **4.4 Additional Requirements**

*NGBs* are committed to protecting opportunities for athletes participating in sport. *NGBs* will continue to collaborate with various stakeholders with oversight responsibilities, *e.g.*, IOC, IPC, international federations, to ensure that women have a fair and safe competition environment consistent with Executive Order 14201 and the Ted Stevens Olympic & Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. § 22501, et. Seq.

## **Section 5. Definitions**

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"Center" means the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

"Code" means the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

"NGB" means a U.S. Olympic National Governing Body, Pan American Sport Organization, or Paralympic Sport Organization recognized by the USOPC pursuant to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, 36 U.S.C. §§ 220501, et seq.

"OPTC" means an Olympic & Paralympic Training Center.

"USOPC Delegation Event" means events to which the USOPC officially sends an individual or group of individuals on behalf of the USOPC and/or the United States.

"USOPC Sponsored Event" means Olympic and Paralympic Trials, and any other event or competition organized, operated, sanctioned, or formally authorized by the USOPC.