

National Governing Body Council
Report to Congress
June 2023

On behalf of the National Governing Body Council (NGBC), we respectfully submit the attached report to the United States Congress to provide an update on relevant activity since the last report submitted June 2022.

Thank you,



Pat Kelleher
Chair
National Governing Body Council
USA Hockey, Executive Director



Li Li Leung
Vice-Chair
National Governing Body Council
USA Gymnastics, President and CEO

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 our stakeholders such as the Team USA Athletes' Commission and 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 third 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, US Equestrian, General Counsel
- 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.

Over the past year, the NGBs have been engaged and collaborative in working with the Commission on the State of U.S. Olympics and Paralympics (Commission). The NGBs submitted thousands of documents requested by the Commission and have individually committed their time and resources in responding to additional Commission inquiries.

Collectively, the NGBs have a positive story to share with the Commission in regards to the work they have done and continue to do to provide the best sports experience possible for all of their participants while developing elite athletes to represent our country. It has been a priority for the NGBC to help the Commission understand the role NGBs play in promoting, delivering and growing participation in sport.

Along with the work with the Commission, the NGBC has identified two major initiatives as focal points for the cumulative work of the NGBC:

- 1) **Athlete Safety and U.S. Center for SafeSport.** NGBs continue to work with the U.S. Center for SafeSport to build a constructive relationship to provide the safest environment possible for athletes. However, there are challenges with the Center in appreciating the work being done at the NGB level to build sport communities where participants can work and learn together free of emotional, physical and sexual abuse and misconduct.

We continue to be hopeful through our invested time and resources that we will be able to build a stronger, more collaborative working relationship with the Center. There is also the belief that greater oversight of the Center, along with government funding, would improve the operational effectiveness of the Center.

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 USOPC 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. These organizations permit SafeSport and NGB-banned 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.

- 2) **Resource Allocation.** The costs and challenges associated with training and developing athletes for elite competition are not reducing and, in fact, demands on NGBs are growing therefore further stressing already strained resources. The NGBC is currently working through challenges related to competitive funding allocations with the USOPC. Without compromising athlete safety, our goal is that Team USA remains competitive on the global stage and, as such, resources devoted to high performance will be crucial as competitive nations continue to gain resources and garner record high performances.

The NGBC has also identified another challenge with regards to international relations. It is widely recognized that the Olympic ecosystem is Eurocentric and, given that, the United States is significantly disadvantaged when providing input regarding policies, decisions, and priorities at the international level. The current situation with Russia and Ukraine continues to have significant impact within the international sport community.

The USOPC, with the support of the NGBs, is working on an initiative to improve entry for sport participants into the United States. In partnership with the U.S. Travel Association, the USOPC is co-authoring a letter of support for an appropriation request of \$3.5 million to fully fund a new office of the Assistant Secretary for Travel and Tourism at the Department of Commerce. When funded, the office will develop and coordinate a national travel and tourism strategy across the federal government and help enhance the competitiveness of American cities as international sports destinations for athletes. This would be a significant support structure for the NGBs to help increase international competitions being held on our home soil to help us develop, train, and strengthen our teams against elite rivals.

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.

Even though the past year has been extremely challenging for all NGBs, as well as for athletes, we are proud of those performances and salute all athletes from the grassroots to the Olympic and Paralympic level for being able to perform under such difficult circumstances.

Finally, the summer NGBs are continuing to prepare their athletes and teams for the upcoming 2024 Games in Paris, and a critically important home Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028, while the winter NGBs look towards Milan-Cortina in 2026 and a potential Salt Lake City Games in 2030 or 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.

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