



SafeSport Program Handbook

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Introduction

The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Luge. This includes not only on-ice safety, but also off-ice safety in any part of USA Luge's programs.

This document is intended to protect USA Luge participants from physical, sexual, psychological and other forms of abuse and misconduct (more specifically discussed in Section 2) that can be harmful to athletes of any age. This policy is applicable to athletes, coaches, staff, administrators, volunteers, officials and parents during all USA Luge related activities, as more fully discussed in Section 1.

The Safe Sport handbook includes the various policies that apply to all USA Luge sanctioned programs. By combining all of these elements into a comprehensive Safe Sport program, USA Luge intends to create the safest possible environment for participation in the sport of luge.

USA Luge reserves the right to amend this Policy from time to time as necessary.

Nothing contained in this policy is intended to supersede, replace, or otherwise abrogate the USA Luge Bylaws, the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, or the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements.

Section 1 **Application**

This policy is applicable to the following individuals “ Adult Participants”:

An **Adult Participant** is any adult (18 years of age or older) who is:

1. A member or license holder registered in an Athlete or Official division of USA Luge or any Clubs sanctioned by USA Luge
2. An employee or board member of USA Luge or any Clubs sanctioned by USA Luge
3. Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Luge or any Clubs sanctioned by USA Luge
4. Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Luge or any Clubs sanctioned by USA Luge to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.¹

Section 2 **Prohibited Misconduct**

Participants shall refrain from misconduct, including the following most common types of misconduct:

- Sexual misconduct
- Emotional misconduct
- Physical misconduct
- Bullying
- Harassment (including sexual harassment)
- Hazing
- MAAPP violations

Definitions of the foregoing, examples and exceptions may be found in the U.S. Center for SafeSport (Center) Code. <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution/safesport-code/>

All forms of prohibited conduct are intolerable and in direct conflict with the Olympic Ideals.

In support of the efforts to provide a safe environment to luge athletes, and prevent abuse and misconduct, USA Luge will annually distribute the USA Luge Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), protocols for reporting suspected or alleged abuse or misconduct, along with the US Center for SafeSport Code. Additionally, the MAAPP and Reporting Protocols will be distributed to event participants.

Section 3 **Jurisdiction**

Exclusive Jurisdiction - The Center has the exclusive jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations that a Participant engaged in one or more of the following:

- Sexual Misconduct, including without limitation child sexual abuse and any misconduct that is reasonably related to an underlying allegation of Sexual Misconduct;
- Criminal Charges or Dispositions involving Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct;
- Misconduct Related to Reporting, where the underlying allegation involves Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct;
- Misconduct Related to Aiding and Abetting, Abuse of Process, or Retaliation, when it relates to the Center's process;
- Other Inappropriate Conduct, as defined herein; and
- Willful Tolerance or Cyber Abuse when the underlying conduct is related to any allegations of exclusive jurisdiction listed above or the conduct is sexual in nature.

Discretionary Jurisdiction - The Center has discretionary jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations that a Participant engaged in one or more of the following:

- Non-sexual Child Abuse;
- Emotional and Physical Misconduct, including Stalking, Bullying Behaviors, Hazing, and Harassment;
- Criminal Charges or Dispositions not involving Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct;
- Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy or other similar Proactive Policy violations;
- Misconduct Related to Aiding and Abetting, Abuse of Process, or Retaliation, when it
- USOPC, an NGB, an LAO, or any other organization under the Center's jurisdiction.
- Willful Tolerance or Cyber Abuse when the underlying conduct is related to any allegations of discretionary jurisdiction listed above or the conduct is non-sexual in nature.

USLA Jurisdiction – The USLA shall have jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations of Prohibited Conduct that are not:

- Within the Center's exclusive jurisdiction
- Within the Center's discretionary jurisdiction and the Center has expressly exercised jurisdiction over the particular allegations; and
- Related to a matter wherein the USOPC asserts jurisdiction

When allegations presented fall within the Center's discretionary jurisdiction, USA Luge may investigate and resolve the matter, unless and until such time that the Center expressly exercises jurisdiction over the alleged matter.

Jurisdiction Notification

USA Luge must promptly inform an identified reporting party of its jurisdictional determination regarding their report to USA Luge, communicating that the matter either is being:

1. Referred to the U.S. Center for SafeSport,
2. Or addressed by USA Luge.

¹ This may include volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, officials, adult athletes, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition.

Section 3

Olympic Training Center, Weigh-in, Start House Policies and Travel Policies

Youth athletes are particularly vulnerable when residing at the OTC for extended periods, during weigh-in prior to races and when changing before, during and after training sessions in the start house. Due to the possibility of various stages of dress/undress in these venues, athlete to athlete problems such as sexual abuse, bullying, harassment and hazing can occur when coaches or adult supervisors are not in a position to observe. Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras increase the risk of various forms of abuse or conduct. As a result, there will be no use of a mobile device's recording capabilities during weigh ins or in start houses at USA Luge training sessions and events. This does not preclude photography/videography for training, public relations, or spectator purposes in areas where athletes are not changing.

Olympic Training Center

Training camps taking place at a US Olympic Training Center (OTC) have a unique set of challenges. With this in mind, athletes residing at the OTC must abide by a specific set of rules governing policies set forth by both the USOPC and those from USA Luge. These guidelines are reviewed and modified regularly. Athletes receive an updated copy outlining the rules and policies prior to the beginning of some camps and agree to abide by their requirements and consequences.

Weigh-in

Luge weigh-in has an inherent complication that requires athletes to disrobe (down to a base layer) in front of others. Weigh-ins typically take place at the USA Luge start house or in a building at the luge venue. Regardless of where the weigh-in takes place, every effort will be taken to assure privacy in the weigh-in environment. Separate male & female weigh-ins will be scheduled. Where possible, USA Luge will limit the number of adult male officials present during the male weigh-in and only female adult officials at the female weigh-in. No other extra personnel, administrators, friends or family of either sex will be present in the immediate area. The only exception shall be if a parent wishes to be present during the weigh-in of their child. If this is the situation, the parent may only be present when their child is being weighed-in and must exit the area when completed.

Start House

Luge has a unique training and competitive environment, where males and females may prepare for training and competition in the same start house. Nonetheless, it is not acceptable for athletes to be lurking around or otherwise observing the opposite gender while they dress

or undress. It is possible, particularly during events held internationally in other countries, that USA Luge may not have direct influence over the start house environment. However, coaches will endeavor to ensure that the environment provided is appropriate and safe regardless.

Travel Policy

USA Luge programs often involve significant overnight travel for teams to train or compete. Youth athletes are most vulnerable to abuse or misconduct during travel, particularly overnight stays. This includes a high risk of athlete-to-athlete misconduct. During travel, athletes may be away from their families and support networks, and the setting – new tracks, automobiles, and hotel rooms – is less structured and less familiar. A travel policy provides guidelines for those traveling. Adherence to travel policies helps to reduce the opportunities for misconduct.

A signature by each athlete (or where appropriate such athlete’s parent or legal guardian), and each adult accompanying a trip acknowledging receipt of and agreeing to the travel policy will be obtained. Some travel involves only local travel to and from the venue for training or competition while other travel involves overnight stays. All participants are required to understand and abide by USA Luge Minor Athlete Protection Policies (MAAPP), which include specific requirements related to travel, lodging, and transportation.

Section 4

Education and Awareness Training

Education is a key component of any abuse and misconduct prevention strategy. Awareness training provides participants with relative information necessary to more effectively monitor their organization, minimize the opportunities for physical and sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, and respond to concerns. It is also a strong statement that the organization places a priority on participant safety.

USA Luge requires safe sport education and training for all adult participants, officials and all individuals it formally authorizes, approves or appoints (a) to a position of authority over, (b) to have frequent contact with athletes, (c) any non-athlete individual that USA Luge authorizes to train, stay, or work at an Olympic Training Center and (d) all USA Luge Staff and Board or Committee Members (collectively, the “SafeSport Training Pool”). USA Luge also encourages all other athletes and anyone else involved in this sport to take the training.

For training resources, access the Center for SafeSport Education and Training Offerings, which includes parent training and training for minor athletes:

<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/courses/>.

USA Luge requires completion of the SafeSport certification prior to any contact with athletes, and in any event within thirty (30) days of the commencement of the new role that requires this training.

SafeSport Training and Certification

USA Luge will track all SafeSport Training Pool education and training within their membership platform and perform periodic checks to ensure compliance with this policy. Any person not in compliance with their SafeSport training will not be eligible to participate in any USA Luge sanctioned programs or events.

Access to the SafeSport training must be done via the membership platform for USA Luge. The steps are as follows:

- Set up a Membership Account with USA Luge using the website: usaluge.sport80.com
- Create your account
- Register and complete the SafeSport training by selecting the Center for SafeSport training on the right side of the page
- The course is free.
- Follow directions to complete the course
- Estimated time to complete the NGB core training is 90-120 minutes

USA Luge and the Center require annual updates to training and certification to remain in compliance with the Center for SafeSport Code.

Section 5

Screening & Background Checks

Purpose of a Screening Policy

- Protect our members from known offenders to ensure they do not have access to USA Luge athletes.
- Protect USA Luge's reputation as a sport where participants are safe from abuse.
- Help insulate USA luge, its staff, programs and volunteers from liability that could arise from allowing a previous offender to have access to children.

USA Luge Screening

USA Luge shall conduct a screening background check at least every two years for those individuals it formally authorizes, approves or appoints (a) to a position of authority over, (b) to have frequent contact with athletes, and (c) any non-athlete individual that USA Luge authorizes to train, stay, or work at an Olympic Training Center (collectively, the "SafeSport Background Screening Pool"). For purposes of clarification, USA Luge is considered to formally authorize, approve or appoint an individual in instances where USA Luge has control over the appointment process.

No less than annually, USA Luge will publish on its website the categories of individuals in the SafeSport Background Screening Pool. To view this list, click <https://www.USALuge.org>.

In USA Luge’s discretion on a case-by-case basis USA Luge may bypass this background check requirement for those people in the SafeSport Background Screening Pool who are under 18 years of age.

As to members of the SafeSport Background Screening Pool newly taking a role, USA Luge requires background screening prior to contact with athletes begins, and in any event within sixty (60) days of the commencement of the new role.

USA Luge will track all SafeSport Background Screening Pool background screening and perform periodic checks to ensure compliance with this policy.

Section 6 **Responding to Abuse and Other Misconduct**

USA Luge and its Participants are subject to the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the “Center”) Code (<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution/safesport-code/>) for the investigation and resolution of safe sport violations.

USA Luge will not interfere, attempt to interfere, or attempt to influence the outcome of any Center investigation. USA Luge prohibits retaliation before, during and after the process (whether led by the Organization or the Center) of resolving an abuse or misconduct allegation.

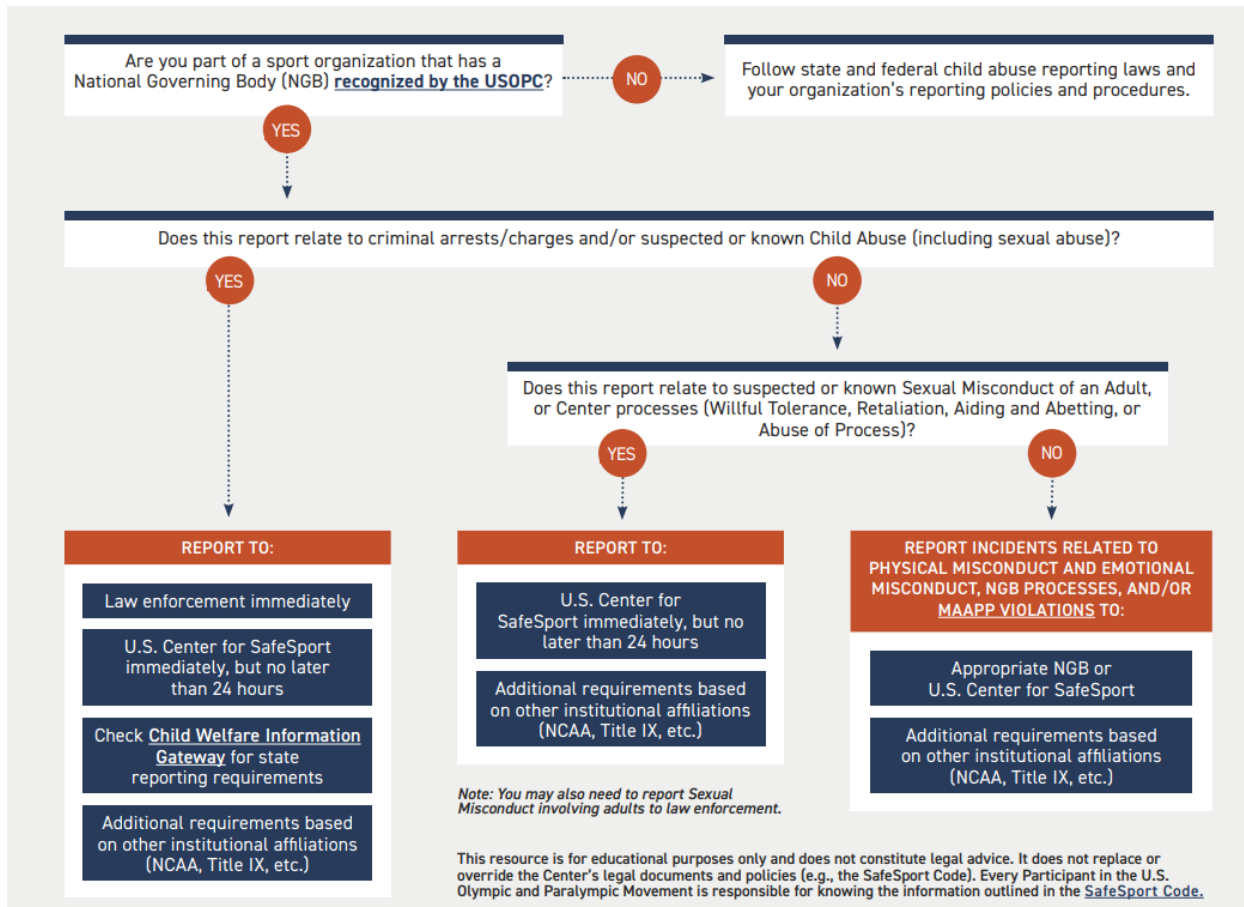
Section 7 **Reporting**

General Requirements – Under the Code, state, and federal law:

- Every Adult Participant who learns of information or reasonably suspects (1) child abuse, including physical and sexual abuse or (2) sexual misconduct must report the concerns immediately :
 - Make a report to law enforcement **AND**
 - Make a report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport through the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s online reporting form, www.uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern or by calling 833-587-7233 **AND**
 - Comply with any other applicable reporting requirements under state law.

- Every Adult Participant who learns of information or reasonably suspects emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, bullying, hazing, harassment, or a MAAPP violation must report it to USA Luge.

The infographic below, developed by the US Center for SafeSport, provides a flowchart to help assist in deciding where to report a concern.



From 'Steps for Reporting Abuse and Misconduct' (US Center for SafeSport: [https://uscenterforsafesport.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/SS-Steps-for-Reporting-Abuse-and-Misconduct Movement 121725 ua.pdf](https://uscenterforsafesport.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/SS-Steps-for-Reporting-Abuse-and-Misconduct%20Movement%20121725%20ua.pdf))

- Adult Participants must know all their reporting requirements under this Code, state law, and federal law. Ignorance or mistake as to one's reporting obligation is not a defense.
- The reporting requirements under this section are an individual obligation of each Adult Participant. Reporting to a supervisor or administrator does not relieve an Adult Participant of the obligations to report as specified under this section. Adult Participants must report even if they believe someone else has already reported.
- The obligation to report is broader than reporting a pending charge or criminal arrest of a Participant; it requires reporting to the Center any conduct which, if true, would

constitute Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse.

- Participants should not investigate or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of allegations involving Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse. Participants making a good faith report are not required to prove the reports are true before reporting to the Center or appropriate authorities.

Mandatory Reporting Requirements related to Child Abuse, including Physical and Sexual Abuse - Every Adult Participant who learns of information or reasonably suspects that a child has must immediately make a report to law enforcement and make a report to the Center within 24 hours. As a matter of policy, USA Luge does not investigate suspicions/allegations of child abuse or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of such allegations as a condition for reporting to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

An Adult Participant who learns of information or reasonably suspects that a child has suffered an incident of Child Abuse, including physical and sexual abuse, must immediately:

- Make a report to law enforcement **AND**
- Make a report to the U.S. Center for SafeSport **AND**
- Comply with any other applicable reporting requirements under state law.

Mandatory Reporting Requirements Relating to Sexual Misconduct

- An Adult Participant who learns of information or reasonably suspects that an incident(s) of Sexual Misconduct has occurred, must report the incident(s) directly to the Center immediately, but no later than 24 hours.
- This reporting requirement applies regardless of whether the suspected victim is an Adult or Minor.
- If the Sexual Misconduct involves a Minor, it must be reported as Child Abuse.

Additional Misconduct that Adult Participants must report to the Center

In addition to the reporting of sexual misconduct or child abuse, it is also important to report the following behaviors to the Center.

- Criminal Charge(s) or Disposition(s) involving Sexual Misconduct or misconduct involving Minors.
- Misconduct related to the Center's process, including any suspected incident(s) of: Aiding and Abetting
- Abuse of Process
- Retaliation.

Anonymous Reports

Reports may be made anonymously to the Center or to USA Luge. Anonymity means the organization will not know the personally identifying information of the reporter. It does not mean that the underlying information will be protected. Recognize, an anonymous report may limit the Center's ability to investigate and respond to a report, and if an Adult Participant reports anonymously, it may not be possible for the Center to verify that mandatory reporting obligations have been satisfied.

Consequently, Adult Participants are strongly encouraged to provide their name and contact information when reporting.

Reporting Options for Claimants

The pathways for reporting inappropriate behavior and conduct are provided below:

US Center for SafeSport Reporting

Online Form: [Report a Concern | U.S. Center for SafeSport \(uscenterforsafesport.org\)](https://www.uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern)

Phone: 833-5US-SAFE (833-587-7233)

USA Luge:

Email: athletesafety@usaluge.org or to Amy Chapin, USA Luge SafeSport Coordinator, amy@usaluge.org

Phone: 518-523-2071 x103

Anonymous reporting: <https://usluge.wufoo.com/forms/report-a-concern/>

State Regulations for Reporting to Law Enforcement:

It is important for anyone to check on the reporting requirements for each individual state. Given the strong presence of luge in the states of New York and Utah, links to reporting requirements are shared below:

New York: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/publications/Pub1159/OCFS-Pub1159.pdf>

Utah: <https://dcfs.utah.gov/services/child-protective-services/#:~:text=Utah%20law%20requires%20any%20person,or%20a%20law%20enforcement%20agency.>

Please report all issues falling outside of the Center's jurisdictional authority to USA Luge.

USA Luge - Response and Resolution

The USA Luge Bylaws reference the procedures to respond to and resolve alleged violations of this policy or violations of the U.S. Center for Safe Sport Code. USA Luge plays a critical role in the overall response and resolution process by adhering to safety policies, implementing temporary measures, and assisting in investigations. Specific roles and responsibilities of USA Luge in resolving reported concerns

- **Compliance with SafeSport Code:** USA Luge must comply with all policies and procedures defined by the SafeSport Code regarding the response to and resolution of abuse and misconduct.
- **Adjudication and Reporting:** While the Center has exclusive authority over certain child abuse matters and sexual misconduct, USA Luge may be responsible for addressing other types of misconduct. USA Luge must provide documentation to the Center to confirm if a matter was previously adjudicated or resolved.
- **Temporary Measures:** LAOs are responsible for implementing temporary measures to protect athletes, which may include restricting a respondent's access to facilities, suspending participation, or altering training schedules based on risks.

- **Investigation Support:** USA Luge is required to cooperate with the Center during investigations, which includes providing access to information and allowing the Center to work with them on safety plans and employment decisions.
- **Retaliation Prevention:** USA Luge must ensure that no retaliation occurs against any party involved in a SafeSport investigation.
- **Abiding by decisions of the Center:** USA Luge cannot override decisions made by the U.S. Center for SafeSport and must abide by the findings of the Center's investigation and resolution processes.
- **Incident Tracking:** All reported complaints and resolutions resulting from allegations to USA Luge or any member Club will be recorded on a spreadsheet and tracked. USA Luge will annually submit to the Center data regarding:
 1. Reports of emotional or physical misconduct made to the USA Luge or its Local Affiliated Organizations.
 2. Reports to the USA Luge or its Local Affiliated Organizations that a Participant violated the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP).
 3. Reports to USA Luge or its Local Affiliated Organization that a Participant engaged in retaliation.
- **Responses to the Center:** The USA Luge SafeSport Coordinator will respond to requests from the Center within 72 hours with all requested information available, including eligibility status of the participant and if there are any USA Luge imposed temporary measures or safety plans already in place.

Local Affiliated Organizations – Response and Resolution

A Locally Affiliated Organization (LAO)—such as a regional or local club affiliated with USA Luge plays a critical role in the U.S. Center for SafeSport's response and resolution process by adhering to safety policies, implementing temporary measures, and assisting in investigations. Specific roles and responsibilities of the LAO in resolving reported concerns include:

- **Compliance with SafeSport Code:** LAOs must comply with all policies and procedures defined by the SafeSport Code regarding the response to and resolution of abuse and misconduct.
- **Adjudication and Reporting:** While the Center has exclusive authority over certain child abuse matters and sexual misconduct, LAOs (under the guidance of USA Luge) may be responsible for addressing other types of misconduct. LAOs must provide documentation to the Center to confirm if a matter was previously adjudicated or resolved.
- **Temporary Measures:** LAOs are responsible for implementing temporary measures to protect athletes, which may include restricting a respondent's access to facilities, suspending participation, or altering training schedules based on risks.
- **Investigation Support:** LAOs are required to cooperate with the Center during investigations, which includes providing access to information and allowing the Center to work with them on safety plans and employment decisions.
- **Retaliation Prevention:** LAOs must ensure that no retaliation occurs against any party involved in a SafeSport investigation.
- **Jurisdiction:** The SafeSport Code applies to all individuals within an LAO, including members, employees, and volunteers.

- **Abiding by decisions of USA Luge and/or the Center:** An LAO cannot override decisions made by the U.S. Center for SafeSport and must abide by the findings of the Center's investigation and resolution processes.
- **Incident Tracking:** All reported complaints and resolutions resulting from allegations to USA Luge or any member Club will be recorded on a spreadsheet and tracked.
- **Responses to the USA Luge and the Center:** The LAO will respond to requests from the Center within 72 hours with all requested information available, including eligibility status of the participant and if there are any LAO imposed temporary measures or safety plans already in place.

Section 8

Monitoring and Supervision of the Program

The Monitoring and Supervision aspect of a SafeSport Program considers how the programs involved monitor, supervise and ensure that the other aspects of the program (i.e. implementation and enforcement of policies, training requirements, screening requirements, responding to adjudication procedures, etc.) are being followed, and how they may be improved, so that they result in a safe environment for the participants.

Monitoring and supervision must occur at different levels within USA Luge:

National Level – USA Luge

- USA Luge shall monitor compliance with the USA Luge SafeSport Programs in all Clubs.
- USA Luge shall ensure that all required training and background screening has occurred as set forth in this policy.
- USA Luge shall promptly address any reports of abuse and misconduct, and make all such reports as are required under the USA Luge SafeSport Program or applicable law, and shall monitor and supervise the Club Programs to ensure all such reports are made.
- USA Luge shall regularly check i-Sight to stay current on the status and outcomes of cases being managed by the US Center for SafeSport. USA Luge will also ensure it has ongoing access to i-Sight by keeping passwords and log-in credentials up to date.
- USA Luge shall maintain an Organizational Exclusion List (OEL) - a record of individuals—including coaches, staff, volunteers, and athletes—who are suspended, banned, or otherwise deemed ineligible to participate in any capacity within a specific sports organization due to violations of the SafeSport Code – as well as a Jurisdictional Hold (JH) list of minor athletes who are facing sanctions. These lists will be updated by USA Luge staff throughout the year, checking the US Center for

SafeSport's Centralized Disciplinary Database and including information related to SafeSport cases as it becomes available.

- USA Luge will track temporary measures imposed by the US Center for SafeSport, USA Luge, USA Luge sanctioned clubs, and/ or other oversight organizations.
- USA Luge will share the OEL publicly and will share this information along with the JH list and the list of imposed temporary measures with event organizers prior to competitions.

National Team Coaches

- The head coach for each national team shall be responsible for monitoring his or her team to ensure that all sport areas are being properly supervised in accordance with the SafeSport policies. Additionally the coach will ensure that the team's travel is conducted in accordance with the Travel Policy that all team electronic communications are in accordance the Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy.
- It is recognized that the Head coach may not be personally responsible for direct supervision of each of these areas at all time and may delegate responsibility to team personnel for certain activities to ensure compliance.

Club Programs

- Club Programs and their administrators shall ensure that the program institutes and enforces compliance of its teams with all parts of this SafeSport policy.
- Club Programs shall monitor their personnel to ensure that the programs coaches, participants, administrators, and other volunteers that will have routine access to youth participants have completed the required training in accordance with the Education and Awareness
- Club Programs shall promptly address any reports of abuse and misconduct, and make all such reports as are required under the USA Luge SafeSport Program or applicable law.
- Club Programs shall promptly notify USA Luge staff of any alleged misconduct as well as

Section 9 **Interim Measures**

Before the Center expressly exercises jurisdiction over particular allegations regarding a particular Participant, the relevant organization (the USOPC, NGB, or LAO) has the authority to implement necessary and appropriate measures, up to and including a suspension, to address any allegations of misconduct.

If the reported complaint indicates that a Participant's continued employment, membership or

participation poses a risk of ongoing physical or emotional harm, USA Luge may institute interim measures and/or suspend the accused individual pending final resolution of the complaint to eliminate any potential for danger to an athlete, sport participant or other individual. Except for employee/volunteer issues (over which USA Luge has absolute discretion), USA Luge will provide the [Participant](#) with notice and offer her/him an opportunity to contest the suspension.

Section 10 **Appeal Rights**

Any Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act suspension before final resolution may be appealed to the American Arbitration Association (AAA) at the written request of the accused individual within 30 days of the suspension as further detailed in USA Luge Bylaws, Article XXXI.