

GRASSROOTS TO GOLD:

ATHLETE SAFETY AT
EVERY LEVEL

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear SafeSport Community,

When the U.S. Center for SafeSport was established in the wake of high-profile cases of abuse in Olympic sport, the need for independent oversight was clear. Today, seven years—and tens of thousands of reports later—the Center has become an essential resource to our nation's athletes.

As a result of our work, a culture shift in sport is taking root. Athletes are rejecting the notion that sexual harassment is inevitable, coaches aren't turning a blind eye to inappropriate behavior, and parents aren't tolerating abusive practices. Together, we are establishing a culture where people are compelled to throw open the curtains on abuse rather than sweep it under the rug.

Whether we banned an abusive coach when criminal prosecutors declined the case, assisted law enforcement in bringing an abuser to justice, acted on allegations of abuse disclosed decades later, or sanctioned those in positions of power who failed to report abuse, the Center is bringing accountability to every level of sport.

Accountability is essential to culture change, but ensuring the sport community understands

safety policies and red-flag behavior is equally important. The fact that reports have increased by more than 30% in 2023 shows that the Center's efforts to educate the public about safe and inclusive sport environments are sinking in. We view the more than 24,000 reports received to date as evidence that people better understand what behavior is unacceptable and are speaking up when they know or even suspect that abuse or misconduct is happening. As we expand education and outreach, we only expect reports to increase exponentially just as they have since we opened our doors in 2017.

It is well known that meeting the growing demand has presented significant challenges, but the Center is committed to continuous improvement, and we have taken significant steps over the past year to better meet the needs of the athletes we serve.

We spent much of 2023 seeking feedback from athletes and stakeholders in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement on how we can improve efficiency, information sharing, and trauma sensitivity throughout our process. The **resulting improvements** include a departmental restructure; clearly categorizing outcomes for case closures and holds; ensuring consistent communication with parties in our process; devoting a specialized team to minor Claimants; and assigning staff and resources to improve process navigation, trauma-sensitivity training, and data collection; as well as other process refinements.

These changes are yet another step in the Center's ongoing evolution to adapt to the needs of the Movement. We will continue to listen and seek input as we find ways to improve how we show up for athletes at every level of sport.

From practice fields to podiums, from grassroots to gold medals, every athlete deserves to be safe, supported, and strengthened. That's our commitment. That's what drives us every day.

Sincerely,



JU'RIESE COLÓN
Chief Executive Officer
U.S. Center for SafeSport



APRIL HOLMES
Board Chair
U.S. Center for SafeSport
Paralympic Gold Medalist
Track & Field

OUR JOURNEY

We were born to right many wrongs—the abuse of athletes at high levels of sport, and the failure of powerful people and institutions to prioritize athlete safety above money and medals. By the late-2010s, the demand for major national change to address these injustices became so clear that the [U.S. Congress passed a law](#) designating the United States Center for SafeSport as the nation's independent safe sport organization. The Center's charge: to set clear standards for safer sport environments throughout the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement; educate the sport community on how to recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse; and investigate allegations of misconduct and sanction wrongdoers within sport.

The Center's authority encompasses 11+ million individuals in 50+ sports across the Movement, but the ultimate goal is to spark awareness and culture change everywhere in sport, so that every athlete can feel safe, supported, and strengthened.

As the world's first organization of this scope and mission, the Center has dedicated the past seven years to establishing a safety framework to reverse generations-long culture and traditions that left athletes at risk. The escalating number of reports of abuse and misconduct reinforce not only the depth of the problem, but also the Center's ongoing need to execute our duties effectively, build trust within communities, and marshal resources to meet the scope and complexity of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

While the Center has made great strides in making athletes safer, there is much work ahead. There was no blueprint on how to begin this work. There was simply a critical mission and a strong will to show up for America's athletes. The Center will continue to listen and seek input as we refine our processes and evolve to meet the needs of athletes of all levels of sport – from practice fields to podiums.



GOVERNANCE

The U.S. Center for SafeSport is governed by a volunteer [Board of Directors](#) who sets the Center's strategic direction and ensures that priorities align with the mission. This Board meets quarterly and includes committees for Audit, Finance, and Nominating & Governance.

Mirroring the Center's athlete-forward focus, the Board is chaired by four-time Paralympian April Holmes, one of several Board members who have competed in sport. Holmes' tenure marks the first time the Center's Board of Directors has been chaired by an athlete. Four new members were voted onto the Board in late 2023 and began their three-year terms on January 1, 2024.

The Board members contribute expertise in ethics and compliance, human resources, trauma-informed counseling, finance, and operations based on their leadership roles across sport organizations such as the NFL, NBA/WNBA, WTA, and other private and public sector entities. Board members are also required to complete annual SafeSport® training and operate with required independence from organizations within the Movement.

To support transparent operations, Center bylaws, Board meeting minutes, and other governance documents can be found [here](#), and the U.S. Government Accountability Office's annual certification of the Center's compliance with statutory independence obligations can be found [here](#).



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

A key Board responsibility is overseeing execution of the Center's Strategic Plan. The Center's just-completed 2021-23 plan advanced major strategic priorities including: delivering over 5 million SafeSport® online trainings, auditing and publishing findings for 100% of NGBs, launching an athlete advisory program, and increasing athlete safety educational resources.

Now that the Center has built strong operational foundations for our work, we find ourselves at an inflection point as we pivot to a new strategic plan that reflects on the past, acknowledges needs for change and improvement, and recalibrates our future direction.

Building Trust with America's Athletes, the [Center's 2024-26 Strategic Plan](#), sets that direction with priorities under five main themes:



ACCOUNTABILITY: Drive culture change through individual and organizational accountability throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Movement and ensure consistent and timely execution of the Center's primary functions.



REACH: Deliver relevant resources and consistent messaging to athletes, participants, and core stakeholders around SafeSport culture, prevention education, and investigative processes.



PARTNERSHIP: Cultivate partners to support survivors; drive understanding and usage of prevention education; drive research opportunities; and share knowledge and best practices with the global sporting community.



PREVENTION: Build a robust prevention education strategy and program to support the SafeSport model and increase awareness and understanding of how to prevent sexual, emotional, and physical abuse and misconduct.



SUSTAINABILITY: Fortify the infrastructure of the Center through culture building, technology investment, and diversifying revenue streams.



IN EXECUTING THE 2024-26 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS, THE CENTER WILL BY 2026:

- Assess and update the Center's investigative process.
- Increase abuse recognition and response at local and regional levels.
- Build collaborative relationships with survivor-centered groups.
- Deliver 5 million more trainings.
- Build and implement a sanctioning education program for minor athletes.
- Strengthen data collection and analysis to inform prevention education strategies.
- Develop an athlete-centered outreach plan encouraging usage and understanding of Center resources.
- Increase business development and bolster financial reserves to support long-term sustainability.

[VIEW COMPLETE 2024-26 STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

CULTURE CHANGE THROUGH THE SAFESPORT PROCESS

The Center is shifting culture to make sport safer for all athletes, from practice fields to podiums, by:

- Setting clear ground rules for 11+ million members of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement.
- Educating athletes, parents, coaches, and others on abuse prevention and response to give the sport community a shared, best-practices foundation for safety.
- Ensuring safety policies are followed through investigations and audits, and holding accountable individuals and organizations that don't adhere to the rules.

1 GROUND RULES

Sport organizations and Participants within the Movement must follow the Center's [SafeSport Code](#), which guides response to and resolution of abuse and misconduct claims, and the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#) (MAAPP), which limit one-on-one adult/minor interaction and set abuse prevention standards for training and sport settings. These two documents anchor an athlete safety framework that sets clear rules of engagement for the Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

The Center regularly assesses the MAAPP, taking into account feedback and emerging sport trends that require nuanced solutions. Updates (effective Jan. 1, 2025) based on this past year's review will make the MAAPP easier to use and address special circumstances related to lodging and medical care.

2 PREVENTION EDUCATION

Making safe and inclusive sport environments commonplace is what culture change requires, and that starts with educating stakeholders across and beyond the Movement on how to recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse.

The Center's comprehensive [education and training program](#) conveys critical athlete safety principles informed by research, including real sport experiences and data on what works best.

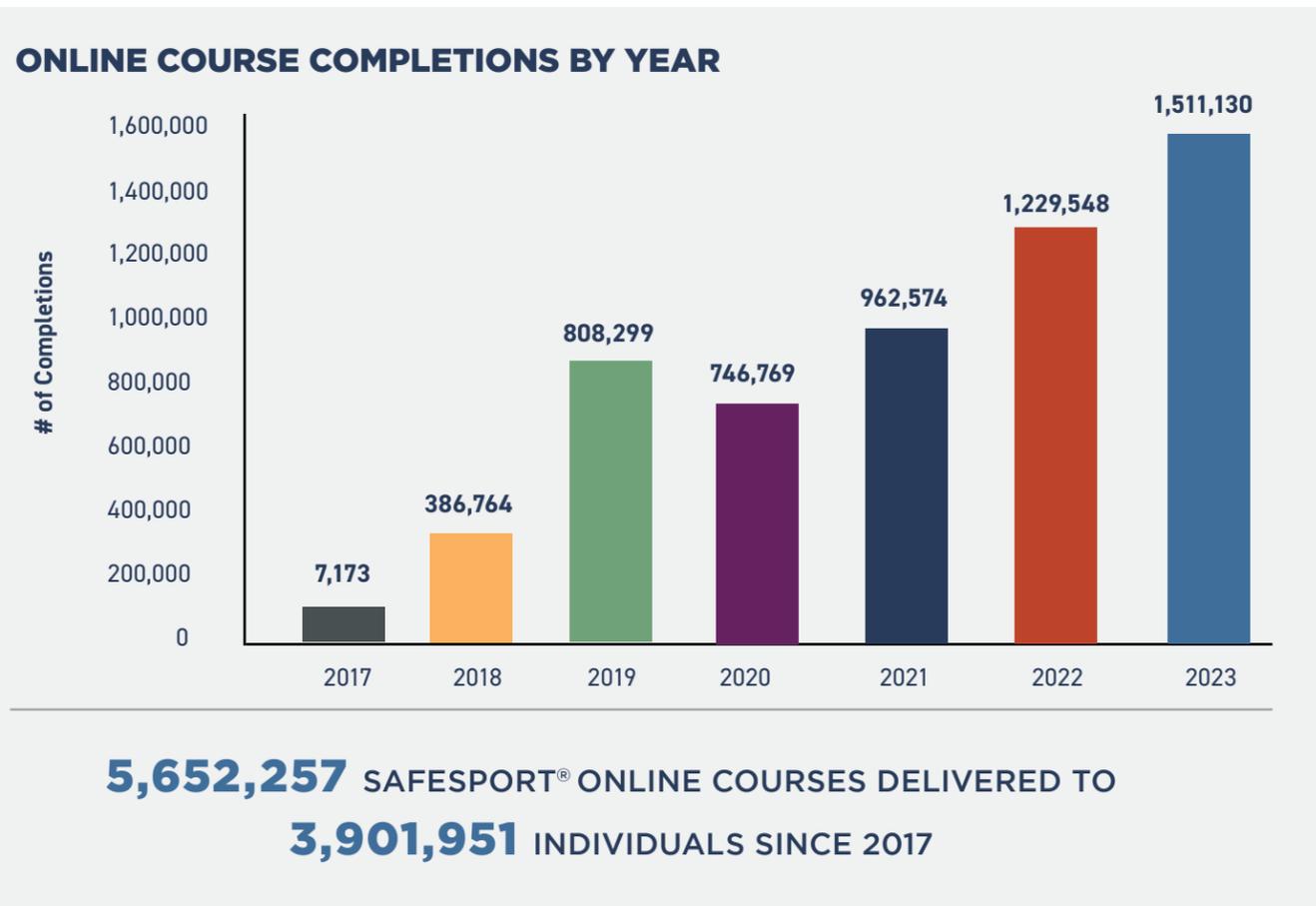
The SafeSport® Trained Core course anchors a cycle of online trainings Movement participants must take annually. In 2023, the Center laid groundwork to deliver education more efficiently and

conveniently, and in ways that reflect variance across sport cultures. The SafeSport® Trained Core is supplemented by annual refresher courses and [numerous other courses](#) tailored to parents, athletes with disabilities, health professionals, and others, including new courses specifically [designed for children and teens](#).

Beyond courses publicly available at [SafeSportTrained.org](#) (and through dedicated NGB portals), the Center produces digital toolkits and resources that go deep on specialized topics—such as [bullying](#), [hazing](#), and other [emotional and physical misconduct](#)—and also provides engaging, bite-sized guidance through videos and animations including the Center's [RoadMAAPP series](#).

In 2023, the Center launched a [Parent and Guardian's Handbook for Safer Sport](#), with age-appropriate, trauma-informed advice for talking to and listening to children on tough topics. In the years ahead, the Center will continue to make prevention education easier to access and absorb, to help practices that keep athletes safe take root in every sport, on every court.

LIVE TRAININGS (1/1/2023 through 12/31/2023)	41 TRAININGS	1,942 ATTENDEES
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CULTURE CHANGE THROUGH THE SAFESPORT PROCESS

3 ACCOUNTABILITY

Organizational Accountability

The Center also ensures all NGBs, including the USOPC, follow the ground rules we have set by executing regular and random annual audits. In early years, these audits focused on making sure NGBs had key administrative protocols to provide a consistent framework for athlete safety throughout the Movement. The Center has gone further in the past four audit cycles, scrutinizing whether safety requirements are being correctly applied at NGB-sanctioned events, and that quality control and training standards are followed.

Because most athletes compete, recreate, and otherwise engage with sport at grassroots levels, the Center announced in 2022 that event audits would begin to extend to regional or club events in 2024 to be sure safety measures are trickling down to local communities.

Audit reports are available online to offer transparency on NGBs' recent track record in providing safer sport environments.

The Center's Organizational Development & Compliance team helps NGBs implement safety practices through technical assistance, informal site visits to identify potential concerns prior to an audit, and customized resources that help NGBs clearly communicate rules to members.



Individual Accountability

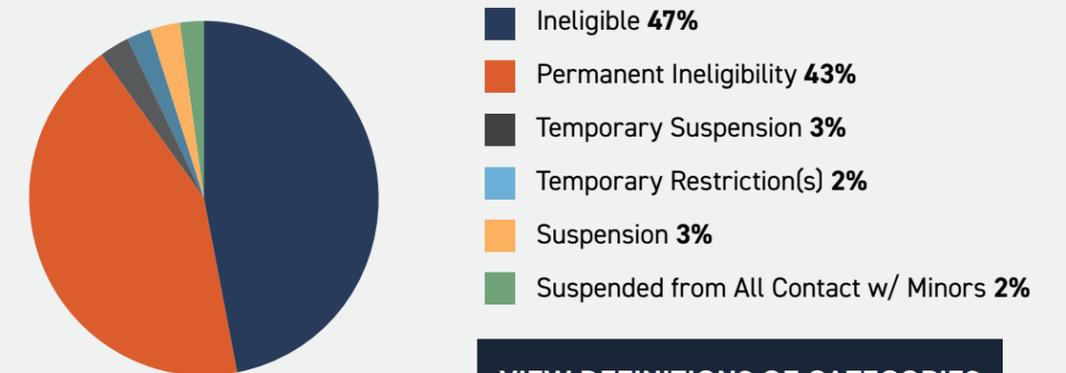
The Center's Response & Resolution team holds individuals in the Movement accountable by addressing reports of abuse and misconduct—which anyone can make through the [Report a Concern](#) portal. Also essential to the Center's accountability framework is the pioneering [Centralized Disciplinary Database](#), which is searchable by the public and lists over 2,000 individuals who are currently restricted or banned from sport participation within the Movement.

CENTRALIZED DISCIPLINARY DATABASE (CDD): (as of 12/31/2023)

2,040 INDIVIDUALS LISTED

The CDD is a resource designed to keep the public informed when adults connected with the Movement are either subject to certain temporary restrictions pending investigation by the Center or certain sanctions after an investigation found them in violation of the SafeSport Code. The database also contains certain eligibility decisions made by NGBs, their LAOs, or the USOPC, including those rendered prior to the establishment of the Center. Minors do not appear on the CDD.

CDD ACTION TYPE BREAKDOWN

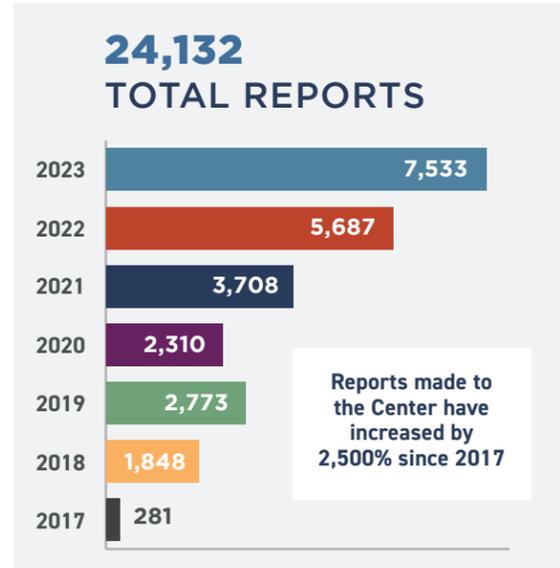


[VIEW DEFINITIONS OF CATEGORIES](#)

Please note: The CDD includes two more action types: limited participation and probation but both represent less than 1% of the types of action the Center takes. CDD numbers change frequently as Respondents with temporary suspensions and restrictions come off the CDD and others are added.

CULTURE CHANGE THROUGH THE SAFESPORT PROCESS

Managing the rapidly and consistently increasing volume of reports has been the Center's biggest challenge since inception. The 7,533 reports received in 2023 (up 32% from 2022, and more than 2,500% from 2017) reflect a sporting landscape that strongly relies on the Center as a critical resource for those who have experienced abuse or misconduct.



ALLEGATION TYPES (2021-23)

	2023	2022	2021	TOTAL
Sexual Misconduct	1,584	1,251	825	3,660
Criminal Disposition	604	479	361	1,444
Emotional/Physical Misconduct	2,722	2,039	1,118	5,879
Other Inappropriate Conduct	626	509	366	1,501
Aiding & Abetting	26	37	50	113
Misconduct Related to Reporting	280	350	288	918
Abuse of Process	146	169	88	403
Retaliation	124	129	94	344
Violation of MAAPP Policy	480	365	241	1,086
No Applicable Policy	98	106	79	283
Total	6,690	5,431	3,510	15,631

Please note: Multiple allegations may apply to a single matter.

CASE OUTCOME BREAKDOWN

(as of 12/31/2023)

[VIEW OUTCOME DESCRIPTIONS](#)

Please note: New case outcomes were established on April 1, 2024 and are not reflected in 2023 data. Learn more about these new outcomes on pages 24-26.

Case Outcome	Cases
Administrative Closure	6,614
Jurisdiction Declined	5,352
No Jurisdiction	3,245
Violation	2,197
Administrative Hold	934
No Violation	193
TOTAL	18,535

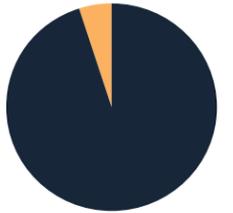
The Center spent much of 2023 engaging with athletes and NGBs as we were conducting a thorough review of the Response & Resolution processes to improve efficiency, information sharing, and trauma sensitivity. One of the resulting improvements was the restructure of the Intake, Legal, and Response & Resolution teams, combining them to make a cohesive unit reporting to General Counsel and Vice President of Response & Resolution, [Jessica Perrill](#). Other improvements focused on ensuring clear and consistent communication; improving educational resources; clearly categorizing case closures and holds; enhancing trauma-sensitivity training; establishing a specialized team for interviewing minors; and other **important process refinements**. These changes reflect the Center's ongoing evolution and commitment to continuous improvement. The Center will continue to review our processes, change as necessary, and seek input from athletes and stakeholders along the way.

ARBITRATION OUTCOME DATA (as of 12/31/2023)

To maintain a fair and impartial process, a Respondent may request a merits arbitration of a Center's final finding or sanctions. The Center contracts with an independent national arbitration body staffed by attorneys and former judges and with relevant backgrounds to conduct these hearings.

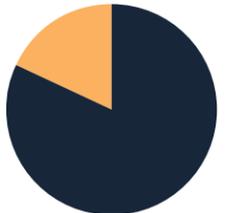
1,509 matters were eligible for arbitration

■ Went to Arbitration 5%
■ Did Not Go to Arbitration 95%



Outcomes of the 79 cases that went to arbitration by %

■ No Code Violation 18%
■ Code Violation 82%*



*This includes matters for which modifications to the findings and/or sanctions occurred, but the Respondent was still ultimately found to have violated the Code.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Safeguarding America's sport environments from abuse requires all-in commitment—from parents, coaches, and anyone with a stake in athlete safety. The Center's success in fortifying these environments relies not only on building relationships and reaching new audiences, but also listening to all those we serve, and being open to feedback and change when better ideas present themselves.

In 2023, some of these ideas came our way through our volunteer SafeSport Athlete Advisory Team (SAAT). The SAAT members bring a tremendous breadth of sport experience and topic-specific expertise, and provide thoughtful, deeply informed guidance to help the Center better evolve processes and authentically connect with athletes.

Other ideas emerged at our 2023 NGB Summit, which, in October, brought together over 140 NGB staff, executives, and safety professionals from across the Movement to discuss issues of mutual concern and work together toward solutions.

The Center also grew relationships in 2023 with youth sport and recreation organizations beyond the Movement, and expanded our reach through

content partners and fast-growing social media and newsletter channels. Organizations such as NBC Universal's SportsEngine, Stack Sports, MOJO Sports, the American Camp Association, and others included the Center's prevention education content in outreach to their audiences.

The Center is now two years into a multi-year PlaySafe LA initiative with the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department to help them develop a systemic abuse-prevention and safety advocacy program. As the city prepares to host the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, this work stretches across more than a hundred venues in America's second-largest metropolitan area.

In addition to emerging partnerships like these, organizations beyond the Movement (over 3,000 in all) have for years instituted U.S. Center for SafeSport® online training to help their communities better recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse and misconduct. Reach out today to customersuccess@safesport.org to learn more about how [SafeSport® courses](#) can benefit your organization.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT NUMBERS

DIGITAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN GENERATED
OVER 35 MILLION IMPRESSIONS

WEBSITE VISITS
INCREASED BY **17.7%**

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS
OVER 110 MILLION IMPRESSIONS



The U.S. Center for SafeSport plays an essential role in preventing and addressing abuse, but this mission isn't only for those directly impacted by misconduct. We all must stand in solidarity with our athletes. We all must work to ensure they have the chance to experience the gifts that so many of us, in every sport and at any level, have enjoyed. We all must take action.

- KATY SPAULDING, EQUESTRIAN, MULTI-SPORT ATHLETE, MEMBER, U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER, SAFESPORT ATHLETE ADVISORY TEAM (SAAT)



SafeSport's policies should not be up for interpretation by any coach, parent, athlete, or team: They are absolute and non-negotiable. If all teams were in complete compliance with all of SafeSport's preventative policies, there would be virtually no avenues for predatory adults to pursue minor athletes.

- CAMERON MASON, ROCK CLIMBER



FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

The Center continues to efficiently manage resources and maintain stable finances, generating a modest 2023 surplus even as future trends suggest the need for new revenues to support escalating resource demands related to Response & Resolution activities.

In 2023, Center revenue increased 4.35% due largely to growth in interest income (in an environment of elevated inflation) and modest revenue increases from grants and partnerships including the LA28 program. Most of the Center’s annual revenue comes from a \$20 million payment—required by federal law—from the USOPC, with added annual revenue of approximately \$2.4 million from a Department of Justice Keep Young Athletes Safe grant.

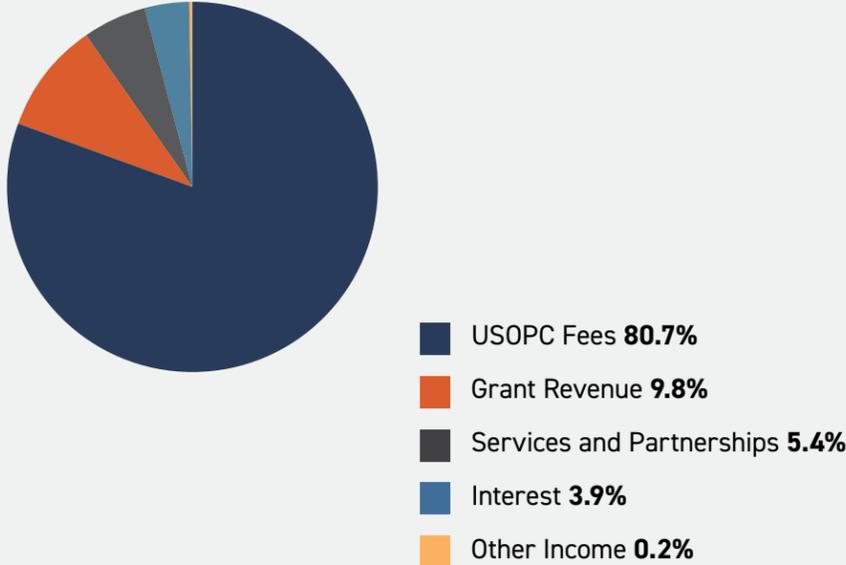
The Center’s \$3.2 million 2023 surplus allows the further supplementation of Center cash reserves as we enter a period when expenses are projected to exceed revenues. The Center’s annual funding from the Movement is fixed—unindexed for inflation—in the [Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act of 2020](#).

Since that act was drafted, cost-of-living increases have reduced purchasing power by 17%, and the Center’s report volume has increased by 100%.

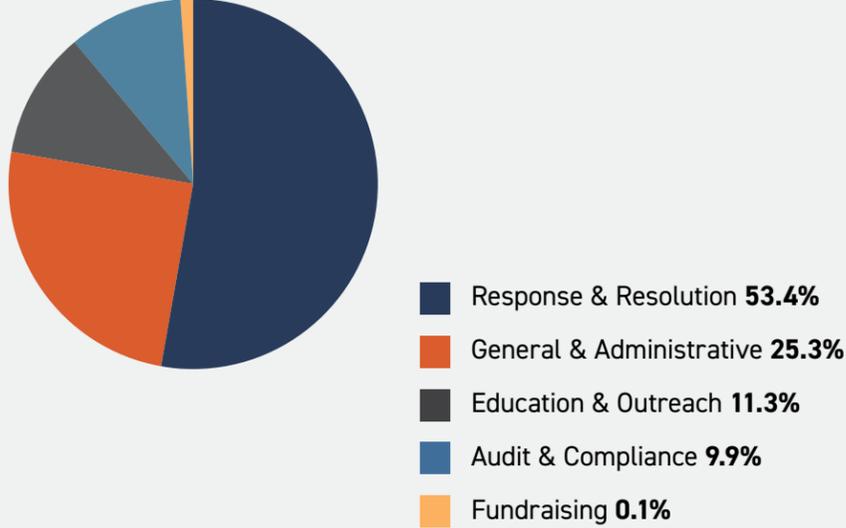
These trends increase the Center’s need to identify new revenue streams through business development and partnerships, and to grow public recognition of the greater need for resources to efficiently execute Congressionally mandated athlete safety activities on behalf of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

[VIEW FINANCIAL STATEMENT](#)

REVENUE



EXPENSES



WHAT YOU CAN DO

REPORT ABUSE

If you have experienced abuse or misconduct—or if you have reasonable suspicion of abuse or misconduct inflicted by someone in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement—you can make a report.

REPORT ONLINE

uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern

Phone: 1-833-5US-SAFE (587-7233)

TRAIN UP

Visit our Training and Education page for courses and resources to help you champion athlete safety in your organization.

VISIT TRAINING

uscenterforsafesport.org/training-and-education

LEARN THE RULES

The SafeSport Code and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) are two key documents guiding our athlete safety efforts—they apply to everyone in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

ACCESS RESOURCES

uscenterforsafesport.org/policies-and-procedures

MAKE A GIFT

Your tax-deductible gift helps us change the culture of sport together—for good.

DONATE NOW

uscenterforsafesport.org/donate



GLOSSARY

CLAIMANT

A person who is alleged to have experienced conduct that constitutes a violation of the SafeSport Code.

LOCAL AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION (LAO)

A regional, state, or local club or organization affiliated with an NGB, or affiliated with an NGB by its direct affiliation with a regional or state affiliate of said NGB. LAO does not include a regional, state, or local club or organization that is only a member of a National Member Organization of an NGB.

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY (NGB)

A national sport governing body certified by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and therefore subject to U.S. Center for SafeSport jurisdiction on matters related to abuse and misconduct; there are more than 50 NGBs.

RESPONDENT

An individual who is alleged to have violated the SafeSport Code.

SAFE SPORT ACT

The 2017 Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (S.534) is a federal law that designates the U.S. Center for SafeSport with the authority to respond to reports of sexual abuse and misconduct within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

SAFESPORT CODE

The SafeSport Code defines the U.S. Center for SafeSport's authority and jurisdiction prohibited categories of abuse and misconduct, and the Center's process for responding to and resolving abuse and misconduct claims affecting the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. The Code applies to all Participants in the Movement, and the Center's authority to enforce it derives from the federal SafeSport Act.

U.S. OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (USOPC)

The national committee for the United States for the training, entering, and funding of U.S. teams for the Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic, Pan American, and Parapan American Games.

U.S. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT (THE MOVEMENT)

An umbrella term that incorporates all individuals affiliated with the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and more than 50 affiliate sport national governing bodies and their local affiliate organizations. The U.S. Center for SafeSport has jurisdiction over the Movement on matters related to abuse and misconduct. It does not have such jurisdiction over individuals outside the Movement.

CDD CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

PERMANENT INELIGIBILITY

This means that a Participant is permanently prohibited from participating, in any capacity, in any program, activity, event, or competition sponsored by, organized by, or under the auspices of the USOPC, any NGB, and/or any LAO, or at a facility under their jurisdiction. This sanction is imposed only when a Participant is found to have engaged in egregious forms of misconduct and represents a permanent bar from participation in Olympic & Paralympic sport.

INELIGIBILITY

This means that a Participant is prohibited from participating in Olympic & Paralympic sport, similar to a suspension, essentially "until further notice." Ineligibility is a sanction typically imposed when a Respondent has pending criminal charges for serious forms of misconduct, in violation of the Criminal Charges and/or Disposition provision of the SafeSport Code. These matters are often reevaluated by the Center once those pending charges reach some form of resolution within the criminal justice system.

SUSPENSION

A specific period of time during which a Participant is prohibited from participating, in any capacity, in any program, activity, event, or competition sponsored by, organized by, or under the auspices of the USOPC, any NGB, and/or any LAO, or at a facility under their jurisdiction. Suspensions are imposed in response to various forms of misconduct, with lengths ranging from a few weeks, to several months, to multiple years, depending on the severity of the misconduct. Virtually all suspensions are issued alongside additional requirements that must be completed in order for a Participant to return to sport and are often followed by probation.

TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS

Temporary Restrictions are imposed or adopted on a case-by-case basis and take all currently available information into account. Temporary Restrictions are only implemented when necessary and are narrowly tailored to mitigate the specific, potential risks posed—either to a specific individual(s) or to the broader sport community. The imposition of Temporary Restrictions is not a finding that misconduct occurred, but rather a precautionary measure taken to mitigate potential risks; and Temporary Restrictions can be modified or removed as information and evidence is obtained throughout the investigative process. For more information regarding how the Center assesses the need for Temporary Measures, see Section XII of the SafeSport Code.

SUSPENSION FROM ALL CONTACT WITH MINORS

This sanction, which was occasionally imposed by NGBs prior to the Center's existence, prohibits all contact with minors in the context of sport.

Continues on next page

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

This means that a Participant is temporarily prohibited from participating, in any capacity, in any program, activity, event, or competition sponsored by, organized by, or under the auspices of the USOPC, any NGB, and/or any LAO, or at a facility under their jurisdiction. A Temporary Suspension is only implemented in matters where the Center has sufficient evidentiary support.

CASE OUTCOME DESCRIPTIONS

BASED ON THE 2023 SAFESPORT CODE

ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSURES*

The Center, at its discretion, may administratively close a matter. This may be done as a result of insufficient evidence, a Claimant(s) who elects not to participate in the resolution process, or other factors as determined by the Center. The Center may at any time, upon receipt of new information or evidence, or a change in circumstances, reopen the matter for further investigation.

JURISDICTION DECLINED

The Center has exclusive jurisdiction over allegations of sexual misconduct, but it also has discretionary authority to investigate other forms of misconduct such as emotional and physical misconduct. The Center generally chooses to handle discretionary matters when they: 1) involve severe injuries; 2) are related to a matter the Center has exclusive jurisdiction over; or 3) when an NGB has a conflict of interest. The Center carefully reviews each case before declining jurisdiction, and refers the matter back to the NGB for investigation and resolution.

NO JURISDICTION

The Center has jurisdiction over allegations defined as Misconduct under the SafeSport Code and that involve a Respondent who is a Participant in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement. If neither the conduct nor the Respondent fall within the Center's jurisdiction, the case cannot be pursued, and it will be closed for lack of jurisdiction.

VIOLATION

The Center has completed its investigation and determined there is sufficient information, by a preponderance of the evidence (more likely than not), to support a finding that the Respondent violated the Code. The written Notice of Decision (NOD) will note the violation and identify one or more appropriate sanction. The Claimant, Respondent, and the NGB will be notified of the Decision. The NOD will set forth any violation(s) of the Code, as supported by the rationale set forth in the Decision and Investigation Report; the sanction(s) imposed against the Respondent (if applicable); and the rationale for any sanction(s) imposed.

ADMINISTRATIVE HOLD*

An administrative hold means that the Center has learned of an allegation of misconduct against an individual who is not currently affiliated with the Olympic and Paralympic Movement but who has been affiliated in the past. If the individual seeks to join or participate in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement in the future, the relevant NGB must notify the Center and the Center can then reopen the allegations to investigate. An Administrative Hold does not mean the Center has determined whether or not an individual has violated the Code.

NO VIOLATION

The Center has completed its investigation and there is insufficient evidence to support, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Respondent engaged in conduct that violated the SafeSport Code. In cases for which no violation is found, no sanctions are issued.

***Please Note:** Beginning in April 2024, the Center redefined and recategorized Administrative Holds and Administrative Closures to provide more clarity and understanding. As a part of this change, the Center now provides to participants in its process and NGBs specific categories that explain the reason for these outcomes. The Center continues to preserve its ability to hold a case with the potential for re-opening it if more information becomes available or a Claimant later decides to participate in the investigative process. The following outcome definitions went into effect on April 1, 2024.

[See Code at Section XI.H.2-4 \(2024\).](#)

NEW CASE OUTCOME DESCRIPTIONS

BASED ON THE 2024 SAFESPORT CODE

ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSURES*

The Center, in its discretion, may administratively close a matter after exercising jurisdiction. A case that is Administratively Closed will not be reopened, absent extraordinary circumstances.

Administrative Closures include the following categories:

- a. No Applicable Policy: The alleged violation, even if true, would not rise to the level of a Code violation.
- b. Previously Adjudicated: The specific allegations reported to the Center are confirmed to have been appropriately adjudicated and/or formally resolved by the USOPC, NGB, or LAO, and no new information that materially changes the determination and outcome of the previous adjudication has been presented to the Center.
- c. Admonishment: The Center determines the alleged misconduct may presently or, if the conduct continues, in the future violate the Code and is best addressed with a Respondent via an educational conversation, followed by a Letter of Admonishment. The Letter of Admonishment may be used as an aggravator in any subsequent case(s) involving conduct of a similar nature. An Admonishment does not constitute a finding or admission by the Respondent of a Code violation. An Admonishment constitutes a final and binding disposition of the matter.
- d. Letter of Concern (Minor Respondents only): The Center determines that alleged misconduct may presently or, if the conduct continues, in the future violate the Code and is best addressed with a Minor Respondent and/or their Parent/Guardian with an educational conversation, followed by a Letter of Concern. The Letter of Concern may be used as an aggravator in any subsequent case(s) involving conduct of a similar nature. A Letter of Concern does not constitute a finding or admission by the Minor Respondent of a Code violation. A Letter of Concern constitutes a final and binding disposition of the matter.

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e. Deceased Respondent: The Center confirms the Respondent is deceased.

f. Unsupported Allegations: The reported Claimant(s) deny that they have experienced misconduct, and there is no corroborative evidence to support the allegation(s).

ADMINISTRATIVE HOLD

An Administrative Hold is the Center's recognition that there is currently insufficient information to proceed with an investigation; however, the Center holds these matters thereby retaining jurisdiction and may re-open them at any time when sufficient information is made available.

Administrative Holds may occur for any one or more of the following reasons:

a. Insufficient Information: There is insufficient information to proceed with or continue a formal investigation regarding an alleged violation of the Code. Lack of party and/or witness participation and/or relevant documentary evidence impedes a full assessment of the allegations, and such participation and/or evidence, if they were to become available, would be necessary to determine investigatory finding(s) or policy application.

b. Claimant Declined: The Center has made the requisite attempts to contact the Claimant and the Claimant has reported that they do not want to or are unable to participate in the Center's process at this time, and their participation is deemed necessary for the Center to proceed with an investigation.

c. Non-Responsive Claimant: The Center has made the requisite attempts to contact the Claimant and the Claimant has been non-responsive, and their participation is deemed necessary for the Center to proceed with an investigation.

d. Unidentified Claimant: The Center has received a report of misconduct which does not identify the Claimant. The Center has made the requisite attempts to contact the Third-Party Reporter/witnesses and the Center has been unable to identify a Claimant, and their participation is deemed necessary for the Center to proceed with an investigation.

Please note: Insufficient Information (a.) and Unidentified Claimant (d.) are the only Administrative Hold subcategories provided to NGBs.

JURISDICTIONAL HOLD

A Jurisdictional Hold occurs when the Center receives a report of misconduct allegedly perpetrated by a particular individual who is not currently affiliated with or participating in the Movement but who was previously in sport. These matters are held by the Center until such time as the individual becomes or seeks to become a Participant in the Movement, at which time the matter will undergo the Center's investigative process.

Please note: The data contained in this Annual Report is presumed to be accurate but may contain variances or inaccuracies due to changes in data collection systems and timing.

