Every single person involved in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement has a responsibility to protect the athletes who rely on sport for fitness, friendship and support, and skill development. The Center aims to give victims a voice, even when the justice system cannot. Our process was designed to hold individuals accountable for their actions—and it’s working. We began by creating the SafeSport Code, the rules and regulations that govern the behavior of participants in the Movement. To report violations of the Code, we offer a confidential reporting system either by phone, email, or online form. Claimants can engage at any time with our investigative team—a team that has more than quadrupled in size since opening our doors.

Our Investigators come from varied backgrounds. They are retired FBI and NCIS agents and sex-crimes detectives, former JAG prosecutors, Title IX investigators, public defenders, judges, and child protective services investigators. Many of them have spent their entire careers investigating sexual abuse.

The Center provides a consistent accountability mechanism and conducts thorough, neutral, trauma-informed, and unbiased investigations. Through these investigations, we are able to carry out the critical work of responding to and resolving violations of the Code with a comprehensive process that is fair to everyone involved. Both Claimants and Respondents are afforded the opportunity to have their voices heard throughout the process.

When we first opened our doors, the Center received 39 reports of allegations of abuse each month. Now, three years later, we receive more than 200 reports a month of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse—an increase of more than 500%.

The Center also has multiple internal safeguards in place before any person is sanctioned or suspended. An arbitration process is also available so that those individuals who think we got it wrong can challenge our decision before an independent arbitrator.

In 2019, we implemented a new, more robust case management system and launched a new and improved database that centralized disciplinary histories across the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. By year’s end, we had sanctioned a total of 627 individuals for egregious misconduct since opening in 2017.

We take our duty of identifying people who don’t belong in sport around children seriously. We also understand this process can be difficult, so we are here to provide support and—ultimately—healing and a sense of closure.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

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