

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: media@safesport.org**U.S. Center for SafeSport Releases Impact Report to Mark Five-Year Milestone**

DENVER—Today, the U.S. Center for SafeSport released a new report outlining the impact and progress the Center has made toward its goal of ending abuse in sport since it formed, five years ago this month.

The Center opened March 3, 2017 to address and prevent abuse and misconduct across the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement—in the wake of widely publicized reports of sexual abuse affecting Olympic athletes that suggested needed reform at individual, organization, and systemic levels.

Since its founding, Center activities have worked to keep athletes safer across America, at all levels from elite to grassroots. This report, *Our Journey Toward Safer Sport*, outlines how the Center has installed abuse prevention policies, systems, and processes to help Olympic and Paralympic sport organizations protect over 11 million athletes and allies across the Movement. In reinforcing the importance and urgency of athlete safety, the Center has made sport organizations and leaders more accountable for providing safer settings, and raised awareness of the need to do more to safeguard athletes from sexual, physical, and emotional abuse and misconduct.

“We’ve built this first-of-its kind Center from the ground up these past five years. With mature infrastructure, a growing staff, and stable funding sources, I expect the Center’s impact to increase as we pursue our goal of addressing and preventing abuse in sport and holding abusers accountable,” said Ju’Riese Colón, chief executive officer of the Center. “We see promising signs of change, but the continuing rise in abuse and misconduct reports we receive indicates that culture change—and universal adoption of SafeSport principles and practices—is sorely needed throughout sport. We are proud of how far the Center has come, yet we recognize the hard work is just beginning.”

Indicators of the Center’s impact include:

- **More bad actors restricted from sport**, with over 1,200 individuals sanctioned by the Center and over 1,600 adults listed in our Centralized Disciplinary Database
- **More abuse and misconduct reports resolved**, including 2,853 in 2021, a number that has increased at least 19% in each of the Center’s five years

- **More aligned and effective policies and processes**, providing to over 50 national governing bodies (NGBs) one set of policies for abuse prevention and training, and the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement
- **More oversight of organizational compliance**, including over 100 athlete safety audits of NGBs since Center inception
- **More reach**, with nearly 3 million online courses taken, over 900 organizations beyond the Movement choosing SafeSport training for their stakeholders, and dialogues across 15 nations to increase athlete safety beyond our borders

The report can be viewed in digital version [here](#), and in full PDF format [here](#).

The Center plans to provide regular updates in Our Journey Toward Safer Sport reports in the years to come, in addition to its [Annual Report](#) published each year in late spring.

About the U.S. Center for SafeSport

Headquartered in Denver, Colorado, the U.S. Center for SafeSport is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) responsible for responding to and preventing emotional, physical, and sexual misconduct and abuse in the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. The Center's mission is to make athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation's sports culture through abuse prevention, education, and accountability.

Under the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, the Center serves as the exclusive authority to respond to reports of abuse and misconduct in the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and their recognized National Governing Bodies and Paralympic Sport Organizations. The Center also serves as an educational resource for sports organizations at all levels, from grassroots amateur sports organizations. For more information, visit uscenterforsafesport.org.