
**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORT TO CONGRESS
ON POTENTIAL INTERFERENCE BY U.S.A. HOCKEY
MARCH 29, 2023**

Federal Law

The Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act of 2020 (EOPAAA) states that the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (the USOPC) and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) “shall not interfere in, or attempt to influence the outcome of...” a U.S Center for SafeSport (the Center) investigation. 36 U.S.C. § 220541(f)(4)(A). The Act further obligates the Center to report to Congress, within 72-hours, any actions of the USOPC or an NGB that might constitute an attempt to interfere in or influence a Center investigation.

The Center reminded USA Hockey and its board of directors of its reporting obligations and the policies clearly outlined in the SafeSport Code. Further, the Center notified USA Hockey and its board of directors that any future actions similar to those uncovered in the Center’s inquiry may be construed as intentional interference.

Report of Potential Interference by USA Hockey and Subsequent Inquiry

Pursuant to its obligations under federal law, on February 10, 2022, the Center reported to Congress potential interference based on the following questions.

Did employees of USA Hockey:

- (1) alert a Respondent¹ to a Center investigation;
- (2) provide detailed, confidential information about underlying allegations of misconduct to the Respondent and meet with the Respondent to discuss the matter and possibly align on a communications strategy; and
- (3) intend to interfere in, or attempt to influence the outcome of an investigation?

Following this report, an inquiry into the potential interference commenced and detailed below is a summary of the Center’s findings.

Summary of Findings

On March 29, 2023, the Center provided Congress, in accordance with federal law, an overview of its findings following its initial report on February 10, 2022.

This overview provides details from the Center’s inquiry.

- (1) Employees of USA Hockey alerted the Respondent to the Center’s investigation.

¹ A Respondent is a Participant alleged to have violated the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement (the SafeSport Code). See the Code at Section VIII.L. (2021).

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- (2) Employees of USA Hockey provided the Respondent information about the underlying allegations of misconduct and coordinating communications surrounding the matter occurred thereafter.
 - (3) It cannot be demonstrated by a preponderance of evidence that employees of USA Hockey intentionally sought to interfere with or influence the outcome of the Center's investigation.

Summary of Recommendations

To ensure that any future allegations of misconduct within USA Hockey are handled with the professionalism and independence they deserve, and in accordance with best practice and federal law, the Center underscored relevant sections of the SafeSport Code, including:

The Center has the exclusive jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations that a Participant engaged in Misconduct related to reporting, where the underlying allegation involves Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct. See the Code at Section IV.A.3 (2021).

The Center reminded USA Hockey that it will continue to conduct trainings for both the USOPC and NGBs on the issue of interference and availed itself as a resource to help USA Hockey understand its obligations, as well as clarify Center rules and processes should there be any future questions.