

Use this fact sheet to learn about our Response and Resolution Process. For more detailed information, please visit the [Response and Resolution](https://uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution-process/) page (uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution-process/).



WE RECEIVE A REPORT OF ABUSE OR MISCONDUCT IN SPORT.

Reports can be made by phone **833-5US-SAFE** (587-7233) or through the online form at uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern



WE SEE IF WE HAVE JURISDICTION—THE OFFICIAL POWER TO INVESTIGATE AND RESPOND.

The Center has jurisdiction if:

- The SafeSport Code covers the reported misconduct
- AND
- A member or Participant of the Movement committed the reported misconduct.

If we don't have jurisdiction, we send the report and any information we gathered to the relevant NGB (National Governing Body), law enforcement, or other appropriate party.



WE GATHER PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE.

The Center's Intake Administrators get basic information about the case. After the initial report, the Center's Intake Coordinators may speak to the Claimant (the person who may have experienced the reported abuse or misconduct). They also get information about the Respondent (the person who may have violated the Code).



WE TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT ATHLETES AND OTHERS IN THE MOVEMENT.

If our information suggests the Respondent may pose a risk, we set Temporary Measures for protection. For example, we may alter a Respondent's training schedule, limit their contact with others within the Movement, or temporarily suspend them from participating in the Movement. The Center may set or modify Temporary Measures at any point in the process.



WE MAY START A FORMAL INVESTIGATION.

One of the Center's experienced investigators conducts interviews and gathers evidence. There must be a "preponderance of the evidence" to find that a Respondent violated the Code—meaning it is "more likely than not."

Investigators give Respondents and Claimants 14 days to review the evidence. They can send the investigator any additional written information they believe is relevant to the case.

Investigators compile the evidence in a Formal Investigation Report. They share the report with a committee of reviewers, including their supervisor and the legal team.



WE LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE TO DECIDE THE APPROPRIATE OUTCOME.

A resolution closes the case. We choose an appropriate response, which may include sanctions (consequences). There are four categories of resolutions:

- **Formal Resolution** – We share the results of the investigation, Notice of Decision, and any sanctions with the Respondent, Claimant(s), the NGB, and the USOPC (United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee). Examples of sanctions are: receiving a written warning, writing an apology letter, getting SafeSport education, and being suspended or barred from the Movement.
- **Informal Resolution** – The Respondent agrees to accept responsibility for their actions and any consequences the Center may set.
- **Conditional Resolution** – These may be offered to Respondents who were under age 13 at the time of the alleged misconduct. This offer does not mean there has been a Code violation. Respondents who accept a Conditional Resolution are not admitting to misconduct. The Center determines the appropriate response which may include setting safety conditions or educational requirements.
- **Alternative Resolution** – These may be offered to Respondents who were between ages 13-17 at the time of the alleged misconduct. This offer does not mean there has been a Code violation, but Respondents must acknowledge their behavior may have violated the Code. The Center determines the appropriate response based on the facts of the case, such as setting safety conditions or educational requirements.

An administrative hold or closure means the investigation is over. However, we can re-open the case if the situation changes or we get more evidence. There are three categories of holds and closures:

- **Jurisdictional Hold** – The Respondent is not currently a member or Participant of the Movement. The Center jurisdictionally holds the case until the Respondent rejoins the Movement.
- **Administrative Hold** – The Center does not have enough information to continue investigating or the Claimant cannot be identified. For example, we may stop because the Claimant doesn't respond or want to participate.
- **Administrative Closure** – We may close a case for multiple reasons. For example, the reported misconduct does not violate the Code or an NGB policy or the Respondent is deceased. In some cases, the Administrative Closure includes a Letter of Admonishment (for Adult Respondents) or a Letter of Concern (for Minor Respondents). In both circumstances, the Center has an educational conversation with the Respondent and then issues a Letter. If the Respondent is reported again, the Letter(s) will be considered in the new case.



WE SHARE THE OUTCOME OF OUR INVESTIGATION AND ANY CONSEQUENCES.

The Center notifies the Respondent, Claimant(s), and NGB of the outcome. The Center must publicly share information about adult Respondents who have been suspended or barred from participation in the Movement. We publish and update this information in the **Centralized Disciplinary Database** (uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution/centralized-disciplinary-database/).

Claimants and Respondents are also free to discuss the incident, their participation in our process, and its outcome.