

For Immediate Release

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Contact: media@safesport.org**The U.S. Center for SafeSport Announces CEO Transition***Board thanks Ju’Riese Colón for her service, initiates nationwide search for new CEO*

DENVER—The U.S. Center for SafeSport announced today that Ju’Riese Colón is no longer serving as Chief Executive Officer. The board of directors has initiated the search for new leadership.

Board Chair and Paralympic gold medalist April Holmes will be leading an interim management committee composed of members of the board of directors and current leadership team to ensure the Center continues to execute its mission and serve athletes during this time of transition.

Ms. Holmes said: **“We are grateful for Ju’Riese’s leadership and service. As we look ahead, we will continue to focus on the Center’s core mission of changing sport culture to keep athletes safe from abuse. The board is committed to Center employees, stakeholders, and most importantly athletes.”**

Need for Abuse Prevention in Sport

The [U.S. Center for SafeSport](https://www.uscenterforsafesport.org/) is the nation’s only independent organization dedicated to ending sexual, physical, and emotional abuse in U.S. Olympic and Paralympic sport. The Center emerged in response to high profile cases of sexual abuse of minor athletes within Olympic and Paralympic sport in the mid-2010s. With the mission of making athlete well-being the centerpiece of the nation’s sport culture, the Center has since been setting safety policies, and receiving, investigating, and resolving complaints of abuse and misconduct. The Center also serves as an educational resource for sports organizations at all levels, from recreational sports organizations to professional leagues.

With the goal of ensuring athletes within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement are safe, supported, and strengthened, the Center:

- Establishes safety policies, including the [SafeSport Code](#) and the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#) (MAAPP).
- Investigates and resolves allegations of abuse and misconduct and levies sanctions, including temporary and permanent bans from sport.
- Delivers comprehensive abuse prevention education within and outside of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

About the U.S. Center for SafeSport

The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 codified the [U.S. Center for SafeSport](https://www.uscenterforsafesport.org/) (the Center), as the nation’s safe sport organization. It furthered the Center’s

independence while underscoring its authority to hold individuals accountable. It also charged the Center with developing policies, procedures, and training to prevent abuse and misconduct in sport.

In October of 2020, the Empowering Olympic, Paralympic, and Amateur Athletes Act of 2020 became law, even further strengthening the Center's independence and oversight functions while mandating minimum funding requirements for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

The Center opened its doors in March of 2017.

Reporting and Resources

[Report here](#) to the U.S. Center for SafeSport 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 also leave a message by calling the Center at: 833-587-7233.

[RAINN's 24/7 online hotline](#) is available for crisis intervention, referrals, or emotional support at any time. You can also call RAINN at: 800-656-HOPE (4673).

The [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) provides 24/7 free and confidential support at 988lifeline.org or by calling 988.

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