

For Immediate Release

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Contact: media@safesport.org**SafeSport Extends Hotline Hours for Reporting Abuse in Sport**

SafeSport merges two frequently accessed hotlines to offer a single, simplified way to make reports and ask questions about the reporting process

DENVER—The U.S. Center for SafeSport today announced that the hours of its [hotline for receiving reports of abuse and misconduct in sport](#) have been extended. SafeSport staff are now available to answer calls from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (MT). The expansion adds four additional hours of operation and offers more flexibility for callers across every U.S. time zone.

“Our commitment to elevating SafeSport programs is about taking actions—big and small—that enhance the experience people have with us,” said Olympian Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, [SafeSport](#) CEO. **“From a busy parent rushing to a swim meet to a flag football player running from practice to clock in for their night shift to a coach getting ready for an after-school soccer game, we want to create more opportunities for people to connect with another human when they dial SafeSport.”**

The expanded hours have been in place since last month. SafeSport also merged the reporting hotline with the hotline for informational inquiries about the Response & Resolution process, creating a more streamlined and adaptable access point for every caller. The hotline is staffed by individuals with training in trauma-informed best practices. Callers reaching out after hours can leave a message, which will be returned within one business day.

Need for Abuse Prevention in Sport

The [U.S. Center for SafeSport](#) is the nation’s only independent organization dedicated to ending sexual, physical, and emotional abuse in U.S. Olympic and Paralympic sport. SafeSport 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 leading the movement to make sports safer for all, SafeSport has since been setting safety policies, and receiving, investigating, and resolving complaints of abuse and misconduct. SafeSport 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, SafeSport:

- 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 Olympic and Paralympic Sport,

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- Delivers comprehensive abuse prevention education within and outside of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement, and
 - Implements a comprehensive audit and compliance function over all National Governing Bodies (NGBs) within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement to ensure adherence to safety, abuse prevention, and accountability standards.

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](#), as the nation's safe sport organization. It furthered SafeSport's independence while underscoring its authority to hold individuals accountable. It also charged SafeSport 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 SafeSport's independence and oversight functions while mandating minimum funding requirements for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

SafeSport 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 call SafeSport at 833-587-7233 to make a report or ask questions about the reporting process. The hotline is staffed from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (MT), and you can leave a voicemail if calling after hours.

[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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