

National Governing Body Council
Report to Congress
June 2022

On behalf of the National Governing Body Council (NGBC), we respectfully submit the attached report to the United States Congress to provide an update on relevant activity since the last report submitted June 2021.

Thank you,



Pat Kelleher
Chair
National Governing Body Council
USA Hockey, Executive Director



Li Li Leung
Vice-Chair
National Governing Body Council
USA Gymnastics, President and CEO

Pat Kelleher and Li Li Leung were elected as the officers, Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the National Governing Body Council (“the Council”) during the October 2020 annual meeting of all National Governing Bodies (NGBs) at the United States Olympic and Paralympic Assembly Meeting. Mr. Kelleher and Ms. Leung are now in their second year of a four-year term. Mr. Kelleher and Ms. Leung, determined three immediate next steps when elected:

- Establish an Advisory Committee as dictated in the Council Bylaws
- Identify and establish the Council’s Mission and Purpose
- Determine Key Strategic Initiatives

The Advisory Committee is composed of five members of the Council plus an Ex-Officio member. The make-up of the Committee reflects the diversity of the Council and no members are from the same NGB. The current Advisory Committee is made up of the following individuals:

- Sophie Goldschmidt, US Ski and Snowboard, CEO
- Rocky Harris, USA Triathlon, CEO
- Sonja Keating, US Equestrian, General Counsel
- Aron McGuire, USA Bobsled, CEO
- Jim Tooley, USA Basketball, CEO
- Max Cobb, US Biathlon, President and CEO, Ex-Officio (voice, no vote)

After establishing an Advisory Committee, the NGBC’s new Mission and Purpose were developed and adopted. To review, the Mission and Purpose are stated below.

Mission

- To support the interests of athletes and NGBs through collaboration, advocacy, and partnership with our stakeholders such as the AAC and USOPC.

Purpose

- To help NGBs support athletes to achieve sustained competitive success and pursue personal excellence, health and well-being on and off the field of play.
- To collaborate with all our stakeholders to improve the role NGBs play in promoting, delivering and growing participation in sport.
- To ensure communication between the USOPC and NGBs, and to serve as a source of NGB opinion and advice to the USOPC Board with regard to both current and contemplated USOPC policies.
- To facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices within the NGB community.
- To act as an advocate to communicate NGB interests, priorities and concerns with our stakeholders.

Key Initiatives and Challenges

Last year three key initiatives were identified by the Advisory Committee which align with the above Purpose and remain a focus of the NGBC.

- 1) **Athlete Safety and U.S. Center for SafeSport.** NGBs continue to work with the U.S. Center for SafeSport (“the Center”) to build a constructive relationship to provide the safest environment possible for athletes. This is being done through two working groups:
 - A Leadership Liaison Group made up of six NGB leaders who are helping to develop a longer-term strategy for the relationship between the Center, USOPC, and the NGBs to ensure the respective roles and responsibilities are clear and that the entities are operating optimally to deliver on athlete safety initiatives.
 - An Emotional and Physical Misconduct (E&P) Working Group made up of representatives from ten NGBs to help the Center gain clarity around the volume of E&P reports and how they are currently addressed by NGBs, as well as identify and develop policies, best practices, transparent communication routines, and needed training, processes, and services for the Center to exercise jurisdiction over more of the E&P cases.

We are hopeful through our invested time and resources that we will be able to build a stronger, more collaborative working relationship with the Center.

Additionally, many NGBs are facing increased competition for participation in their respective sports. This is happening under the premise that it is easier for non-NGB sport organizations to operate outside of the USOPC and governmental requirements that make our organizations leaders in their respective sports. Given established requirements and that leaders of NGBs are working hard to meet those requirements, NGBs currently provide the safest environment for the youth sport experience. We trust and ask that Congress will make efforts to broaden the applicability of safeguarding practices to all youth serving sports organizations (in addition to NGBs) to ensure safety regardless of where the child participates in sport. Sadly, we are aware that children can participate in sports with other organizations that not only fail to offer any abuse prevention training nor limit one-on-one interactions with minor athletes, and they permit SafeSport-banned coaches to participate. Our hope is that the entire sporting community recognizes the need for athlete safety measures everywhere.

- 2) **Governance and Compliance.** With an understanding that good governance and compliance breed better run organizations, the NGBC Advisory Committee has identified facilitating governance and compliance best practices among the Council as an important initiative. With the audit and compliance process being a new initiative, NGBs are working through the challenges presented by this newly adopted process. The NGBC has engaged with the USOPC to gain a better understanding of how to approach audits and is sharing best practices to help accelerate learnings across NGBs.
- 3) **Key Stakeholder Alignment.** NGBs also understand that gaining stakeholder alignment and working and communicating collaboratively will be key factors to the overall success of the Olympic Movement.

The NGBC is currently working through challenges related to competitive funding allocations with the USOPC and the two parties have developed a joint working group to analyze the issue. Without compromising athlete safety, our hope is that the US remains competitive on the global stage and, as such, resources devoted to high performance will be crucial as competitive nations continue to gain resources and garner record high performances.

The NGBC has also identified another challenge with regards to international relations. It is widely recognized that the Olympic ecosystem is Eurocentric and, given that, the US is significantly disadvantaged when providing input regarding policies, decisions, and priorities at the international level. Our hope is to have support of the US government to help solve sport-specific issues, such as processing visas for visiting countries' teams and officials and managing domestic COVID-19 regulations for international teams competing at US events.

The Advisory Committee and the NGB Council meet individually on a monthly basis to discuss these challenges and other current issues facing NGBs to further provide support within the Olympic Movement.

Even though the past year has been extremely challenging for all NGBs as well as for athletes, Team USA managed to perform extraordinarily well at both the Tokyo and Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are proud of those performances and salute all athletes from the grassroots to the Olympic and Paralympic level for being able to perform under such difficult circumstances. We look forward to what the next year will bring.

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