

Information on *Outside* Magazine Article and Safe Sport Program

- USA Swimming is a vastly different organization than we were prior to 2010. We have empathy for individuals who suffered sexual abuse and have learned from past cases how to better address issues of abuse.
- When incidents are reported to USA Swimming, we respond quickly and compassionately. We have an established process for responding to complaints and, since 2010, have seen the process work successfully to address and sanction violations consistently.
- The creation of Safe Sport in 2010 has given our sport and its members far greater preventative resources and reduction of risk than ever before. It is now an essential element of our organization's responsibility to its 400,000 members.
- Safe Sport is rooted in 6 core areas:
 - Policies & Guidelines
 - Screening & Selection
 - Training & Education
 - Monitoring and Supervision
 - Recognizing, Reporting and Responding
 - Grassroots Engagement & Feedback
- The Safe Sport program has made huge strides since its inception in 2010 and we continue to introduce new programming, educational tools, and outreach efforts. Safe Sport underwent a voluntary third-party review in 2013 by an expert in child sexual abuse to further understand what more we can do to keep our members safe.
- Numerous enhancements have been made to Safe Sport in 2014 based on the review's findings, including strengthening preventative education, extending protections for reporters of abuse and establishing a victim's assistance fund (to begin in 2015).
- USA Swimming's Communications team worked with the *Outside* magazine reporter, and was told that her angle would focus on the past and it would not be a favorable story to the organization.
- An important area communicated to the reporter was her concentration on the past would not accurately characterize the state of the organization and that this was a missed opportunity to share with the *Outside* audience how those impacted now have more resources than ever to prevent or stop an abusive situation.
- USA Swimming provided the reporter with background on policies, inactive cases and our Safe Sport program that was created in 2010. Only a small portion of that information was reflected in the article.
- In the instance of the central victim swimmer featured in the article, USA Swimming cannot comment on an ongoing case. However, USA Swimming repeatedly reached out to her and her family, and investigated her complaint. Her case is still pending.
- The article correctly notes that USA Swimming was one of the first sports governing bodies to create a public list of members who have been banned for violating our code of conduct.
- There was a mention late in the *Outside* article of an FBI meeting with USA Swimming. When representatives met informally during an industry conference late this summer, it was to discuss how the two organizations can collaborate to develop educational and other programming to prevent child exploitation.
 - The conversation was unequivocally unrelated to the handling of abuse cases and that topic was not mentioned in the meeting.