

American College of Sports Medicine, U.S. Center for SafeSport Partner to End Abuse in Sports

Oct 16, 2018

Organizations join forces to help athletes reach their full potential by protecting their well-being

(Indianapolis, IN)- The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) announced a formal partnership today that will allow the two organizations to leverage their strengths and address the growing issue of abuse among athletes.

“Now is the time to act, and this partnership brings together two influential organizations that share a common vision to protect athletes as they pursue their goals and dreams,” said ACSM President Kathryn Schmitz. “We commend the U.S. Center for SafeSport and its mission to make athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation’s sports culture, and we look forward to helping them achieve that mission.”

The U.S. Center for SafeSport is the first and only national organization of its kind focused on ending all forms of abuse in sport through prevention, education and accountability. As an independent non-profit headquartered in Denver, CO, the Center provides services to sport entities on abuse prevention techniques, policies and programs and provides a safe, professional and confidential place for individuals to report sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements.

“The Center is proud to partner with the American College of Sports Medicine to make sure our nation’s athletes are able to thrive in sports environments free from abuse,” said Shellie Pfohl, CEO of the U.S. Center for SafeSport. “We look forward to working together and providing parents, coaches, athletes and sports participants with nationally recognized resources on abuse-prevention and education.”

The Center will work with ACSM’s affiliate society, The National Youth Sports Health and Safety Institute (NYSHSI, a partnership between ACSM and Sanford Health), which advocates for

advancing the latest research and evidence-based education, recommendations and policy to enhance the overall experience of youth participating in sports, including safety.

The two organizations will collaborate on promoting the Center and its work by providing educational resources, creating an informational 'portal' within NYSHSI's Youth Sports e-Toolkit and producing a podcast series that includes valuable information for parents, athletes, sport governing bodies, coaches, administrators and more.

About the U.S. Center for SafeSport:

The Center is the first and only national organization of its kind focused on ending all forms of abuse in sport while carrying out its mission of making athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation's sports culture through abuse prevention, education and accountability. As an independent non-profit headquartered in Denver, CO, the Center provides services to sport entities on abuse prevention techniques, policies and programs and provides a safe, professional and confidential place for individuals to report sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. For more information please visit www.safesport.org.

About the American College of Sports Medicine:

The American College of Sports Medicine is the largest sports medicine and exercise science organization in the world. More than 50,000 international, national and regional members and certified professionals are dedicated to advancing and integrating scientific research to provide educational and practical applications of exercise science and sports medicine. More details at www.acsm.org

About Sanford Health:

Sanford Health is one of the largest health care systems in the nation, with 44 hospitals and nearly 300 clinics in nine states and nine countries. Headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and serving the Upper Midwest, with nearly 1,400 physicians, Sanford Health is dedicated to several initiatives, including global clinics, genomic medicine and specialized centers researching cures for type 1 diabetes, breast cancer and other diseases. Sanford Health has 28,000 employees, making it the largest employer in the Dakotas. Nearly \$1 billion in gifts from philanthropist Denny Sanford over the past decade have transformed how Sanford Health can improve the human condition. For information, visit sanfordhealth.org.

