

**National Governing Body Council**  
**Report to Congress**  
June 2021

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 new NGBC leadership was elected in October 2020.

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 last annual meeting of all National Governing Bodies (NGBs) at the United States Olympic and Paralympic Assembly Meeting in October 2020. The term of each officer will be for four years. Upon assuming those leadership positions, Mr. Kelleher and Ms. Leung, began to determine next steps they believed would best set up the Council and the Olympic Movement for success. The immediate next steps identified were as follows:

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

#### Advisory Committee

A National Governing Body Council Advisory Committee was named by the Chair and Vice-Chair and was confirmed by majority vote of the NGBC in November 2020. The role of the Advisory Committee will be to assist the Chair and Vice Chair in fulfilling the mission and purpose of the Council. 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.

#### Advisory Committee Members

- Kris Ekeren, US Fencing, Executive Director
- Marcia Hooper, US Rowing, Board Chair
- 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)

#### National Governing Body Council Mission and Purpose

The Advisory Committee developed a newly adopted Council Mission and Purpose which have been voted on and approved by the members of the National Governing Body Council.

#### New Mission

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

#### New 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 Assignments

It was determined that the Advisory Committee should align on three key strategic initiatives that tie back to the Council's new Mission and Purpose. This will allow the Committee to focus their time and resources so substantive progress can be made. The below outlines each of the key initiatives.

- **US Center for SafeSport and Athlete Safety.** To help the US Center for SafeSport create better communication lines/shared information processes and increase efficiencies to provide the safest environment possible for NGB athletes.

The Advisory Committee established a Leadership Liaison Group made up of six NGB leaders to help forward this initiative. The Group is made up of the following individuals:

- Phil Andrews, USA Weightlifting, CEO
  - Max Cobb, US Biathlon, President and CEO
  - Greg Fike, US Soccer, General Counsel
  - Casey Jorgensen, USA Hockey, General Counsel
  - Sonja Keating, US Equestrian, General Counsel
  - Li Li Leung, USA Gymnastics, President and CEO
- **Governance and Compliance.** To facilitate governance and compliance best practices among the Council as new certification requirements are established.
  - **Key Stakeholder Alignment.** To collaborate more and improve alignment with key stakeholders such as the USOPC and the Athlete Advisory Council.

Along with these key initiatives, the NGB Council also meets on a monthly basis to discuss current issues facing NGBs and to provide support within the Olympic Movement. We look forward to providing additional details as we begin to make more progress on the above outlined initiatives.

In closing, the past year has been extremely challenging for all NGBs, as well as our athletes. The work to recover from the pandemic will be with us for some time, but we look forward to supporting all of our athletes from the grassroots level to Tokyo and Beijing as they proudly represent our country in the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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