

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-3641
Minority (202) 225-2927

October 7, 2026

Mr. Jo Mirza
President and Chief Executive Officer
Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc.
P.O. Box 22409
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Dear Mr. Mirza:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce (Committee) is examining recent allegations of sexual abuse in Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) sports.¹ A recent investigation by *ProPublica* and *The Washington Post* examined the culture of athlete abuse in AAU sports and uncovered the organization's failure to institute meaningful reforms.² The AAU has nearly 800,000 member athletes and coaches, participating in more than 50 sports programs across the United States.³ Over the past decade, sexual abuse scandals and subsequent reforms have reshaped the expectation of safety in youth sports. Yet, AAU has still not implemented the reforms it promised to protect young athletes.⁴

ProPublica's reporting describes numerous abuse cases involving AAU coaches that occurred even after the organization's updated child protection policies were reportedly put in place in 2012.⁵ One of the most egregious was the case of Greg Stephen, co-director of a Cedar Rapids, Iowa basketball club, who was accused in 2018 of abusing more than 400 players.⁶ The investigation also detailed additional instances in which allegations of abuse were minimized, covered up, or dismissed, leaving victims unprotected and AAU without meaningful accountability.⁷

ProPublica found that although AAU claims on its website to offer child abuse prevention training in its Positive Coaching Alliance courses, that training is not actually

¹ Molly Hensley-Clancy, *A Youth Sports Giant Promised Reforms to Protect Kids From Sexual Abuse. Most Never Happened.*, PROPUBLICA (Aug. 13, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/aau-youth-sports-sexual-abuse-failure-amateur-athletic-union>.

² *Id.*

³ Amateur Athletic Union, Athlete, <https://www.aausports.org/athlete/> (last visited Sept. 30, 2026).

⁴ *Supra* note 1.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

available, and the training AAU does provide is not mandatory for coaches.⁸ *ProPublica* also uncovered that AAU, “has become a haven for coaches suspected of abuse,” noting that eight AAU coaches working with child athletes in the past five years had previously been banned or suspended by other sports organizations.⁹ This occurred despite AAU’s 2012 pledge that it would adhere to banned and suspended lists.¹⁰ Alarmingly, one AAU coach, Rick Butler, was banned by USA Volleyball in 1995 for having sexual relationships with teenage volleyball players he coached in the 1980s.¹¹ AAU did not ban Butler until 2018—and only after USA Volleyball disaffiliated with AAU over its continued relationship with him.¹² *ProPublica* also found that AAU does not have a dedicated or secure abuse reporting hotline, and simply routes callers to the AAU main office line.¹³

In 2018, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act (Safe Sport Authorization Act) was signed into law, establishing the U.S. Center for SafeSport (USCSS) as an independent entity responsible for investigating allegations of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse within all U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement and imposing sanctions on individuals that violate the SafeSport Code.¹⁴ USSCS also requires adult coaches and volunteers to participate in annual child abuse training.¹⁵ Under the Safe Sport Authorization Act, AAU is not under the jurisdiction of USSCS, but is required by the law to:

[O]ffer and provide consistent training to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors, and subject to parental consent, to members who are minors, regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse to allow a complainant to report easily an incident of child abuse to appropriate persons.¹⁶

Additionally, the Committee has a long-standing history of oversight of athlete safety and integrity of organized sport.¹⁷ In the 115th Congress, the Committee conducted a year-long investigation into allegations of sexual abuse in the U.S. Olympic sports community, finding that the U.S. Olympic Committee fostered a “culture within the Olympic community which prioritizes reputation and image, rather than athlete safety” and observed “inconsistency in

⁸ *Id.*; see Amateur Athletic Union, Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention, <https://aasports.org/athlete-protection-and-abuse-prevention-policy/>.

⁹ *Supra* note 1.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, Pub. L. No. 115-126, 132 Stat. 318 (2018); see Amateur Sports Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-606, 92 Stat. 3045 (1978) (Establishment of the U.S. Olympic Committee, which charters NGBs for each sport); see U.S. Center for SafeSport, 2026 SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement (Jan. 1, 2026), https://uscenterforsafesport.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-Safesport-Code_1225.pdf.

¹⁵ Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, Pub. L. No. 115-126, 132 Stat. 318 (2018).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Staff Report, H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, *Nassar and Beyond: A Review of the Olympic Community’s Efforts to Protect Athletes from Sexual Abuse*, 115th Cong. (Dec. 20, 2018), <https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/legacy/uploads/2018/12/EC-USOC-Report-12.20.18-Final-REV.pdf>.

policies and procedures across NGBs [National Governing Bodies] that result in athlete harm.”¹⁸ The Committee’s investigation found that when NGBs were left to implement their own bylaws, policies, and procedures for abuse, the result was inconsistent safeguards, including who qualified as a covered individual, background check requirements, the handling of complaints of sexual abuse, and the maintenance of banned and suspended lists.¹⁹ These inconsistencies meant that some NGBs lacked adequate preventative measures or were unable to enforce them effectively to protect athletes from abuse.²⁰

The Committee’s investigation led to several positive reforms in the Olympic and Paralympic movement, including the creation of a publicly searchable USCSS Centralized Disciplinary Database of suspended or banned individuals—accessible to any athlete or parent—and a uniform definition of a “participant” to clearly identify who is a covered individual under the SafeSport Code.²¹

While progress has been made in the Olympic and Paralympic movement, unfortunately we are seeing parallels between what the Committee saw in its prior investigation with what is being uncovered within the AAU today. It is unacceptable that AAU is failing to implement standard reforms to protect child athletes, and is misleading the public, parents, and athletes about preventative measures in place within AAU sports.²² To assist the Committee’s oversight, we request written responses to the following questions and requests for documents and information by October 21, 2026:

1. How many complaints, reports, and allegations of abuse has AAU received since 2011?
 - a. Please provide the total number of complaints, reports, and allegations received by AAU per year from 2011 to present.
 - b. Please provide the total number of complaints, reports, and allegations of abuse received by AAU in each sport, per year since 2011.
2. What are AAU’s policies and procedures for investigating complaints of abuse? Please provide AAU’s written guidelines for reporting abuse, including all guidelines for the Board of Review.
 - a. Does AAU require all abuse claims to be resolved through confidential arbitration? If yes, please explain why and how this ensures transparency and justice for athletes. If not, please describe how abuse claims are resolved.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 3.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 34-89.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ U.S. Center for SafeSport, Centralized Disciplinary Database, <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/response-and-resolution/centralized-disciplinary-database/> (last visited Sept. 30, 2026); U.S. Center for SafeSport, 2026 SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement, 10 (Jan. 1, 2026), https://uscenterforsafesport.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-Safesport-Code_1225.pdf.

²² *Supra* note 1.

3. What are AAU's policies for determining who is a "covered individual" and subject to AAU's policies and procedures on abuse?
4. How does AAU enforce its policies and safety rules?
5. What are AAU's policies and procedures for maintaining banned and suspended lists?
 - a. Does AAU intend to publish such a list? If not, why not?
6. Are all AAU coaches authorized and background checked annually per the Athlete Protection and Abuse Prevention Policy? If not, please explain why.
7. How many individuals have been suspended or banned as a result of AAU's investigations into complaints or information that it received regarding athlete safety or abuse?
8. What trainings on athlete safety and abuse does AAU offer for coaches?
 - a. What trainings on athlete safety and abuse does AAU require of coaches?
 - i. If training is required, how often are coaches required to participate in the training?
 - ii. If training is not required, please describe any other efforts to inform coaches about AAU's athlete safety and abuse policies.
 - b. Does AAU track the number of coaches that participate in AAU training each year? If so, please provide the number of coaches, as a percentage of AAU's total number of coaches, participating in each type of training per year, from 2011 to present, including a breakdown of the sports affiliations for the coaches who completed the trainings.
 - c. Please describe AAU's efforts to promote coaches' participation in child abuse training.
 - d. If AAU does not offer child abuse training, in accordance with The Safe Sport Authorization Act, please explain why and how AAU intends to implement this training requirement.
9. Is AAU planning to implement, or in the process of implementing, a dedicated and secure abuse reporting hotline? If so, please describe all plans and procedures for the abuse reporting hotline.

In addition to the above written requests, the Committee requests a briefing on this matter by no later than October 21, 2026. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. To

Letter to Mr. Jo Mirza

October 7, 2026

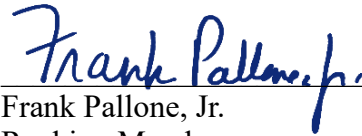
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schedule the briefing or ask any questions, please contact the Committee Majority staff at (202) 225-3641 or the Minority staff at (202) 225-2927.

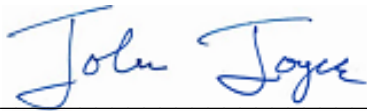
Sincerely,



Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce



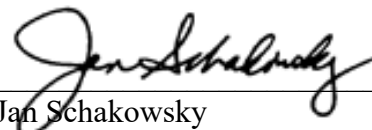
John Joyce, M.D.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
Investigations



Yvette D. Clarke
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations



Gus Bilirakis
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Manufacturing, and Trade



Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Manufacturing, and Trade