

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**The Committee to Restore Integrity to the USOC:  
CEO Scott Blackmun Must Resign**

*The House Committee on Energy and Commerce receives documentation that Blackmun failed to ensure that National Governing Bodies (NGBs) protected athletes from sexual abuse.*

New York, NY – February 7, 2018 -- The Committee to Restore Integrity to the USOC has provided the House Committee on Energy and Commerce a 13-page memo, along with supporting documentation, which outlines the numerous opportunities that the USOC had to prevent athletes from being sexually abused.

The memo states that Blackmun and the USOC knew going back nearly three decades that athlete sexual abuse was a frequent and reoccurring problem within the Olympic movement. According to the memo, Blackmun and the USOC refused to hold themselves or NGBs accountable for their failures to protect athletes in order to avoid civil liability. In the process, the Committee to Restore Integrity to the USOC states that Blackmun and the USOC created the underlying conditions for sexual abuse to thrive.

The Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act gives the USOC the authority and responsibility to demand that sport National Governing Bodies protect athletes from sexual abuse and other harms. Instead, the memo outlines numerous times that Blackmun refused to act in the interests of athletes.

During Blackmun's association with the USOC, the memo claims:

- 1) The USOC gave NGBs the funds to fend off athletes' demands for protection from abusive coaches in AAA arbitrations, as mandated by the Sports Act. Meanwhile, athletes are forced to pay for and find outside private counsel. Unlike other civil rights laws, athletes seeking to get their NGBs to comply with the Sports Act have no attorney's fee provision, even when they ultimately prevail.
- 2) The USOC remained silent when it was revealed that at least 36 coaches had been permanently banned from USA Swimming for sexually abusing athletes. The number has now grown to more than 130 coaches.

- 3) The USOC ignored three Taekwondo athletes who reported to then-head of the USOC's SafeSport, Malia Arrington, that they were sexually violated by their coach. The coach is now convicted and serving prison time.
- 4) Until very recently, Blackmun defended USA Gymnastics, rather than the sexually abused athletes who came forward. In fact, the USOC begun stratifying NGBs into categories and gave USA Gymnastics a Gold-tier rating... in December of 2017.
- 5) Blackmun reportedly supported the candidacy of a convicted rapist who had served prison time, an Olympic athlete from the sport of wrestling, for the position of Chair of the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council. This was at a crucial time when the USOC was opening the U.S. Center for SafeSport; an independent entity that is to investigate reports of misconduct, hold hearings, and remove sexual abusers from sport.

Said Nancy Hogshead-Makar, "Scott Blackmun has allowed one of the country's largest youth-serving organizations to avoid basic child protection measures, such as prohibitions on adults being alone with children. He has instructed the USOC to sit on the sidelines when athletes have been sexually abused. He has ignored the pleas of athletes, all in order to serve the USOC's corporate interests of limited civil liability. He does not deserve to lead our Olympic Team."

The Committee to Restore Integrity to the USOC is comprised of Olympic athletes and coaches, direct and indirect victims of sexual abuse, child advocacy experts, and attorneys who have represented athletes who have been the victims of sexual and other abuse along with NGB non-compliance.

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