



The Pacific Northwest Curling Association
<https://pnwcurling.org>

October 19, 2022

We in the Pacific Northwest have always taken great pride in our sporting community. However, the recent release of the Yates investigation into the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) has left us angry, sad, and disheartened. The Pacific Northwest Curling Association (PNWCA) stands with every athlete who has experienced any form of abuse or misconduct. There is no place for that in our community, and we are determined to work toward a better future where every participant can feel safe, supported, and heard.

We understand that, like us, the USA Curling Board of Directors is a group of unpaid volunteers who are navigating uncharted waters. In the Spirit of Curling, we are willing to believe that the communication failures so far are due to inexperience dealing with these challenging topics, rather than any malice. However, we need more information to confirm this leap of faith.

We demand that USA Curling take the following actions:

- **USA Curling CEO Jeff Plush must issue a statement himself explaining his failure to participate in the Yates investigation regarding his previous role as NWSL commissioner.** USA Curling's stance that it must wait for investigations to complete before making any conclusions is undermined by this discrepancy between words and actions. Additionally, Plush must publicly state his unambiguous and uncompromising cooperation with the ongoing NWSL Players Association investigation.
- **USA Curling must release an executive summary of the internally conducted investigation into Plush's conduct.** We understand that it may not be possible to release the entire investigation at this time; however, releasing no information is unacceptable. Members need more information to substantiate the claim that Plush took all legal steps that were available to him to protect the athletes in the NWSL. The threshold for acceptable conduct for people in such elevated positions of power is extremely high.
- **Plush and USA Curling CFO Eric Gleason must be replaced in the SafeSport reporting structure by disinterested parties who answer directly to the USA Curling Board of Directors.** Plush and Gleason both held leadership roles at NWSL and USSF, respectively, and the uncertainty around previous handling of misconduct reporting during their tenures is enough to cause a lack of confidence that claims will be handled properly. USA Curling must not tolerate any chilling effect on reporting of sexual misconduct or misconduct of any kind.

We demand to have a governing body that upholds the values and ideals of the curling community, which include both accountability and transparency. We view the actions outlined above as necessary first steps for rebuilding the broken trust between USA Curling and its members.

Board of Directors
Pacific Northwest Curling Association