

Letter to US Soccer Insiders

Dear Fellow Insiders,

The U.S. Soccer Fan Council is in place to improve the experience for fans of all ages of the National Teams. This includes keeping our players, our children, and all the support staff safe.

The abuses uncovered by both the Yates Report (released October 3, 2022) and the N.W.S.L. & Players' Union Report (released December 14, 2022) show us just how much work needs to be done to ensure the safety of our players and the integrity of the sport.

In the wake of these Reports, many fans have reached out to us to ask questions, share their thoughts, and gain a deeper understanding of the situation. While our response may not have been as quick as many of you would have preferred, we promise you that you have been heard.

First, you should know that U.S. Soccer held a brief meeting with us just prior to the Yates Report being released to the public. Following its release, we participated in a more in-depth meeting with U.S. Soccer leadership, including newly hired CEO JT Batson, to discuss U.S. Soccer's response to the recommendations in the report and to voice our thoughts, suggestions, and concerns on the matter. We knew the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) and the National Women's Soccer League Players Association (NWSLPA) Joint Investigative Team report was forthcoming and our resolve remained steadfast to address any new findings/concerns brought to light as a result of that investigation. As of the date of this writing, we are still digesting its contents, including its 39 recommendations, all of which directly align with, or build on, those of the Yates report.

By now you've seen some of the actions that U.S. Soccer is taking making the soccer records from SafeSport's Centralized Disciplinary Database public to identify individuals in soccer who are currently subject to discipline, suspended or banned; a progress update from Yates Implementation Committee Chair Danielle Slaton; and appointing Mana Shim as Chair of U.S. Soccer's Participant Safety Taskforce. This is just the beginning, and we remain committed to playing an active role in the ongoing response and implementation of the recommendations from both reports.

Lastly, we want to extend gratitude to U.S. Soccer leadership for their transparency in releasing the full, unredacted Yates report. This transparency and collaboration show the change that U.S. Soccer is making in becoming more inclusive and open which benefits all of us. We believe transparency and collaboration are vital in our journey ahead, as we all work to heal the wounds left by this abuse and take the steps necessary to prevent it from happening again. We recognize the path won't be easy and we're thankful to be taking it together.

Sincerely,

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