Date: April 12, 2019

To: Minnesota Swimming Board of Directors

From: Rebecca Binder, Safe Sport Chair

Re: Safe Sport Report for Year Ended April 2019

The mission of USA Swimming Safe Sport: ***USA Swimming is committed to safeguarding the well-being of all of its members, with the welfare of its athlete members as the top priority****.*

This past year has brought additional reports of abuse in the world of sport to our eyes and ears. Some of these reports hit close to home. We are not immune from bad actors in our community. As part of my commitment to educating the Minnesota Swimming (MNSI) membership about Safe Sport to prevent abuse, I am honored to be presenting “Making Safe Sport Inevitable” at the upcoming House of Delegates meeting. The Safe Sport Program is USA Swimming’s dedicated effort to increase awareness to prevent abuse and provide a safe environment for all members to enjoy the sport of swimming. The ultimate goal is to provide a safe, healthy and positive environment for everyone. I hope to provide you and your club with knowledge and tools that you can use to create an amazing team culture.

Over the past year our Safe Sport Committee has met almost monthly to work on our biggest goals of educating and promoting Safe Sport to the members of MNSI. I cannot thank the committee members enough for their dedication, energy and time spent talking Safe Sport with me each month. Thank you to Paul Lundsten, Amy Reed-Hall, Robb Ball, Melina Hughes, Byron Jia, Breandan Gibbons and our staff liaison, Cassy Shapley.

One of our biggest accomplishments has been providing education sessions to clubs – whether it is at a board meeting, a practice or an officials’ briefing at a meet. I have personally presented Safe Sport to approximately 330 swimmers and adults in the past year. Sounds like a lot, right? Compare that 330 to the total MNSI membership of over 8,300 … **We’ve only reached 4% of our members directly.** We have so much more to do. We cannot do it alone. If you are interested in being a part of the Safe Sport team, please consider joining our committee, attending a call or inviting us to present to your club. I will travel to you!

The committee is in the process of establishing our mission and goals for the coming year. Our goals so far include: refreshing the committee members; increasing the number of people that are able and willing to present Safe Sport; begin succession planning for the committee; continuing the education sessions; and, encouraging clubs to take the Safe Sport self-assessment, encouraging parents and athletes to take the on-line training and encouraging clubs to become Safe Sport Recognized Programs.

Additionally, we are researching how Minnesota can implement USA Swimming’s Recommendations for Gender Diverse Minors across the LSC as well as moving forward with our planning for a Safe Sport sponsored athlete hospitality area at the summer state meets. The committee will be putting out a call for help in staffing the hospitality area. Please consider offering an hour or so to help out. **There may be an awesome t-shirt in your future.** For more information, please contact me at safesport@mnswim.org.

Do you want to see Safe Sport principles of respect, inclusion, teamwork and fun in action? Attend a Minnesota Masters meet. I am awed and inspired at every Masters meet that I officiate. Masters swimmers demonstrate respect for each other and themselves, perseverance and love of the sport while having fun. The team culture of the Masters swimmers as a whole is one that I hope our USA swimmers experience on their club teams.

The next committee meeting will be held on May 2nd at 8:00 PM. Call in details are posted on the MNSI website. Please join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Binder (she, her, hers)

Safe Sport Chair

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