



# NIAGARA SWIMMING, INC.

## 2015 SAFE SPORT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

### REPORT

The 2015 Safe Sport Leadership Conference was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado on February 9 and 10, 2015. The topics covered were:

- **Keynote Address** – Dani Bostick – Ms. Bostick spoke about her childhood experience of abuse by her then-coach Chris Huott (banned by US Swimming in June of 2014)
- **Get the Right People on Board: Effective Hiring Practices** – Melanie Lockwood Herman
- **Panel Discussion: Leadership and Governance** - Todd Adams, John Bitter, Brandon Drawz
- **Facility Management and Risk Identification** – Michael Osborn
- **Bystander Engagement** – Lauren Sogor
- **Panel: Bullying/Conflict** – Nancy Richey
- **When Culture Breaks Down: Crisis Management** – Melanie Lockwood Herman
- **Online Child Exploitation: What Can I Do?** – Michael Osborn
- **Safe Sport Survey Report** - handout

The presentations are located here on US Swimming's website:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wjagx43y75zfjs9/AAA2FA6jfl8UdIUM\\_j6ZQf5Na?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wjagx43y75zfjs9/AAA2FA6jfl8UdIUM_j6ZQf5Na?dl=0)

Notable takeaways include:

- US Swimming continues to make Safe Sport a priority and remains committed to promoting it as a cornerstone of the sport
- The Safe Sport survey conducted in late 2014 yielded the following conclusions:
  - Safe Sport impact at the local level is low
  - Safe Sport is perceived as Nationally-driven, when for it to succeed it needs to be locally driven and fostered.
  - Typical local involvement focuses on passive methods (i.e., relying on membership and athletes to review materials) rather than active methods such as meetings and feedback sessions with members.
- A coach hiring web tool will go online as a pilot in March/April and fully in July/August, for all clubs to use as a free resource. I offered to be a pilot tester, as volunteers were sought.
- As a guidance for club administrators, Club Leadership and Business Management School online courses were recommended and can be found here:  
<http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1634&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en-US>

I recommend that during our next BOD meeting we discuss ways to more actively engage clubs in the LSC with regard to the Safe Sport program. I will provide the BOD with suggestions on how to do this prior to the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Torell  
Safe Sport Chair