

The Bowling Green Curling Club is committed to fostering a diverse, safe, welcoming, and supportive curling community for all curlers, regardless of race, gender identity, sexuality, age, ability, or socio-economic status. Curling is, and should be, for everyone.

We are deeply disappointed by the inaction of the USA Curling (USAC) board, despite the extremely disturbing findings about USAC CEO Jeff Plush's enabling of pervasive and systematic abuse and sexual misconduct against players during his tenure as commissioner of the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). These layers of inaction, like the abuse itself, are reprehensible and indefensible.

Difficult and uncomfortable situations like these require bravery, not silence. In fact, harassment, abuse, and sexual misconduct are the direct result of both individual abusers and silent bystanders. Silence enables abusers. For this reason, we are publicly standing with and lifting up the NWSL players and all athletes who have faced verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. We recognize the bravery and strength of the athletes who have spoken out, and we honor them by working to prevent others from facing similar abuse in the future.

Accountability is a community project and a community responsibility. We call on USAC to be accountable to their own stated goals, values, and responsibilities to the curling community.

Our board calls for the revisiting of all SafeSport complaints made while Jeff Plush has been CEO of USAC.

We also call for the following scaffolded actions:

1. Release the results of the 2021 and 2022 USAC Board of Directors' investigations of Jeff Plush.

If the USAC BOD fails to release adequate details of these investigations, or should our Board disagree with the USAC BOD's assessments, we will call for:

2. The immediate removal of Jeff Plush as the CEO of USA Curling.
3. The resignation of the USAC Board of Directors.

Should the USCA BOD not adequately follow through with these actions, the BGCC Board of Directors will reconsider our relationship with USAC going forward.

We also recognize that we are all individually and collectively responsible for making our clubs and the sport of curling a safe and supportive space for all people. Our board commits to reviewing our own policies around DEI, harassment, and misconduct to ensure that our club is doing the best we can to create a space where all members and guests are safe and welcomed. We will also review our internal procedures, including soliciting feedback from our membership, to ensure that should harassment or misconduct occur we are prepared to address cases promptly and take appropriate action. Finally, we commit to the ongoing work of intentionally fostering a welcoming community of curlers where all are valued and empowered to thrive.

The Bowling Green Curling Club Board of Directors

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