



October 26, 2022

Over the last week, we witnessed USA Curling disenfranchise a large number of its members through careful manipulation of parliamentary rules and voting rights at their Members' Assembly. The end result was the expulsion of the GNCC, which represents at least 25% of American curlers. We find this final outcome to be reprehensible and believe that with proper leadership over the preceding months this end result could have been avoided.

Additionally, the USA Curling board claims to have completed its own investigation into Jeff Plush's leadership at the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) during a time of pervasive and systematic abuse and sexual misconduct. They claim that the results of this investigation, along with "Jeff's candor during interviews with the Board ... reassured the Board about his strong commitment to upholding the very highest standards for athlete well-being." Without releasing the complete details of their investigation and more information on Jeff's "candor," we find this statement to be inadequate and self-serving.

In short, we are dismayed by the total failure of leadership currently on display at USA Curling. With strong leadership, we believe that the above issues could have been handled in more effective ways and we would not be witnessing the current division within the US curling community.

We want to take this opportunity to clarify our current position in regard to sponsorship of USA Curling. Prior to the pandemic, we were recognized as the official equipment supplier to the USCA. Due to pandemic-related pressures, we had to end that sponsorship early, effective back in 2021. This difficult decision was made prior to any of the current leadership failures.

This sponsorship title can still be seen on the teamusa.org website. Our understanding is that this website is controlled by the USOPC and it is out of date. We have reached out to the USOPC to see if our logo can be removed from their site.

While we originally ended our sponsorship with the hopes that it could be revived once pandemic-related pressures improved, we now find ourselves having to reconsider this position. We always take great pride in the partnerships that we develop through our sponsorships. We choose to sponsor individuals, teams, and organizations that reflect our values, including those of diversity and inclusion through curling.

We do not believe that USA Curling's current leadership shares those values. Until we can see our values reflected in that organization, we will be unable to revisit any sponsorship opportunities with them.

There are a lot of wonderful people involved in the curling community in the US. We have been inspired as we've seen curling grow throughout the country with excitement and passion over the last several years. We remain hopeful that the current divisions will not derail the growth of our sport, and those passionate members of the community will continue to strive for a more inclusive environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Townshend'.

Pete Townshend

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Brett'.

Andrew Brett

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Flowers'.

Erin Flowers

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