

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connect Sports Partners with The U.S. Center for SafeSport to Protect Athletes

SALT LAKE CITY, August 23, 2018 — Connect Sports is proud to announce it will partner with the U.S. Center for SafeSport (the Center) to bring comprehensive abuse prevention training to sports tourism professionals. The Center will conduct a presentation at Connect Sports' annual conference, held this year in Salt Lake City, Aug. 23-25.

In this partnership, Connect Sports is putting itself at the forefront of the biggest issue facing athletics. The Center is a leader in protecting athletes on and off the field of play and providing education, awareness and outreach to myriad organizations, including the U.S. Olympic Movements' national governing bodies attending Connect Sports, the annual conference featuring the world's largest collection of rights holders and sports planning organizations.

"We are proud to work with Connect Sports to bring the Center's abuse prevention training to thousands of sports participants, including sports meeting planners, visitors' bureaus, venues and facilities," said Shellie Pfohl, president and CEO of the U.S. Center for SafeSport. "It's critical that everyone who interacts with athletes receives the proper training and resources to ensure a safe, supported and strengthened sports environment."

Patrick Higgins, SDL, vice president of meeting and events at Connect, says the Center's work is at the very heart of what all sports tourism officials should be focusing on.

"It's time that the sports tourism industry as a whole steps up to keep our athletes safe," says Higgins. "This first-of-its-kind partnership with the U.S. Center for SafeSport will allow CVBs, sports commissions, hotels and venues to educate and certify themselves in how to protect traveling athletes from all forms of abuse. All it takes is one person to make a difference in the life of a youth athlete during their traveling experience."

About Connect

Connect is a leader in the meetings, events, travel and tourism industry. Specializing in destination marketing, the company produces digital programs, online and mobile solutions, meetings business and travel magazines, trade shows and consumer events, travel guides for newspapers and leisure magazines, and destination information which is distributed through broadcast and custom programs. Connect, formerly known as Collinson Media & Events, introduced the popular Marketplace format to the meetings industry and now produces national shows for meeting planners in the Corporate, Expo, Sports, Diversity, Association and Faith sectors as well as other state- and region-specific meetings- and hospitality-focused events. More information about the company's brands and services is available at connectmeetings.com.

About the U.S. Center for SafeSport

The Center is the first and only national organization of its kind focused on ending all forms of abuse in sport while carrying out its mission of making athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation's sports culture through abuse prevention, education and accountability. As an independent non-profit headquartered in Denver, the Center provides services to sport entities on abuse prevention techniques, policies and programs and provides a safe, professional and confidential place for individuals to report sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. For more information please visit www.safesport.org.

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