

July 25, 2012

Parents and Athletes of Potomac Valley Swimming

By now many of you have read the article written in the Washington Post by Amy Shipley. The events described evoke powerful emotions in us all, as people concerned with the welfare of our children.

The officers of Potomac Valley Swimming want to assure all of you that our highest priority is the safety of our athletes. We have worked closely with USA Swimming in support of the Safe Sport program that grew out of legislation passed in 2010, and are proud to be part of this program, which is the most comprehensive athlete protection program in Olympic sport.

More on this program can be found at www.usaswimming.org/protect.

In addition to conforming to the national program, PVS developed a task force specifically charged with issues dealing with safe sport. Also, the PVS House of Delegates endorsed the creation of a Board position that connects the task force to the Board.

We want to share some facts around the case presented in the Post today.

USA Swimming was provided with information late Friday afternoon (7/20/2012) which enabled it to initiate the Board of Review process on Monday (7/23/2012). The reporting process is one element of USA Swimming's comprehensive Safe Sport program which includes efforts in each of six

different areas: Polices & Guidelines, Screening & Selection, Training & Education, Monitoring & Supervision, Recognizing, Reporting, & Responding and Engagement & Feedback.

By the Amateur Sports Act, all members of a National Governing Body are entitled to due process before any action is taken on their membership. At USA Swimming, that due process is called the National Board of Review, and consists of a hearing by a three-person panel. It is that panel that will hear this case in the next week to 10 days.

In the meantime, we have been told by Curl Burke Swim Club that Rick Curl has taken a leave of absence, and will not be on deck.

Potomac Valley Swimming supports USA Swimming in all its efforts to protect our athletes and encourages anyone with first hand credible knowledge regarding sexual misconduct to report to USA Swimming.

We understand that this is an emotional time for our members, and we assure you that we will share further information when it becomes available.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Riley Eaton
General Chair
Potomac Valley Swimming