

An open letter to USASF members

June 5, 2020

The USASF's core priority is our members.

We recognize that the last three months have been challenging beyond measure. We have endured an abruptly interrupted competition season, witnessed the cancellation of events intended to unite the All Star community and were unable to celebrate some of life's most important milestones as a result of a global health crisis. And, just as we were beginning to recover, our world was yet again upended.

The highly visible and horrifying murder of a Black man by a White police officer profoundly impacted us all. The death of George Floyd outraged an already unsettled nation and weighs heavily on all of our hearts. Our deepest condolences go out to the family of George Floyd.

We further recognize that words of grief and support for change are not enough. Now is the time to move from conversation to action. As an organization, the USASF has never been afraid to take necessary action. We have tackled the topics of gender identity and sexual abuse and exploitation by connecting experts in those fields with our members to provide awareness, education, tools and resources. We even established more stringent requirements for membership. And, while conversations surrounding Race can elicit a range of emotions, we are addressing this area too.

The USASF is committed to ensuring Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Our conversations started long before this moment and we will continue this important dialogue. Earlier this week, several of our staff members joined a call with leaders from Black Girls Cheer and The Cheer Leaders' Alliance to better understand the emotions and experiences of our Black members in the current climate. We participated in meaningful dialogue aimed at establishing a unified path forward.

We have established an initial team of experts to include Sharita Richardson of Black Girls Cheer and Veronica Burton of The Cheer Leaders' Alliance who will help us directly address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our sport. We look forward to expanding this team and keeping you up to date on our progress. If you would like to participate in conversations or committees in these efforts, please [indicate your interest on this form](#). Our staff will contact you as soon as plans come together.

Our world has changed, and as we move forward, we will work together to address the challenges that face us while continuing to achieve our mission to support and enrich the lives of our athletes and members. All Star is a sport that welcomes everyone. Every Race, size, sexual preference, gender identity and ability. There's a place for everyone. We welcome you just as you are.

Join us.

The USASF Staff Family

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