

AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, Inc.

*"Dedicated to the development of today's youth
through Athletic and Academic excellence."*

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May 10, 2021

AHAI STATEMENT

In February 2010, AHAI received the only formal complaint it ever received regarding former coach Thomas “Chico” Adrahtas from an adult man who disclosed being sexually abused 26 years earlier in 1984 when he was a teenage player. Although Mr. Adrahtas had just resigned his coaching position in early 2010, AHAI suspended him pending a disciplinary hearing, which Mr. Adrahtas declined to attend, leaving his suspension in effect indefinitely. He was no longer allowed to coach any youth hockey program in Illinois.

AHAI’s then-President, Mike Mullally, immediately notified USA Hockey, amateur hockey’s national governing body, noting the urgency and seriousness of the allegation and that AHAI’s Rules & Ethics Committee was immediately commencing an investigation. Further, Mr. Mullally verbally reported the allegation to the State’s Attorney’s offices of DuPage and Cook counties, and to the now-deceased hockey director at Robert Morris University, where Mr. Adrahtas was coaching the school’s team. AHAI has no oversight of college hockey.

As Illinois law existed in 2010, the criminal statute of limitations on the 26-year-old allegation had long passed. Also, at that time, AHAI had no mandatory duty to report allegations of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, but AHAI did report those allegations to prosecutors. State law has since changed to include youth sports organizations as mandatory reporters. In 2010, the victim making the allegation was a middle-aged man capable of reporting the alleged abuse to law enforcement.

In 2020, after the 2010 allegation and similar allegations against Mr. Adrahtas were the subject of media attention, the U.S. Center for SafeSport exercised jurisdiction over individuals involved in AHAI’s leadership in 2010 to investigate whether they received a report of child sexual abuse by Mr. Adrahtas and failed to report the information.

Last month, SafeSport advised those individuals that it was ***“closing this matter and no further action will be taken.”*** SafeSport did not provide any investigation report or factual findings regarding the AHAI leaders’ actions and no public sanction was issued.

Separately, SafeSport last year completed a 21-month investigation and report and imposed “permanent ineligibility” on Mr. Adrahtas for sexual misconduct involving minors and abuse of process. Understandably, AHAI’s leaders do not have access to SafeSport’s confidential report, leaving them unable to review and assess the investigation’s findings. However, Mr. Mullally and other AHAI officials strongly dispute media reporting that they failed to notify law enforcement or Robert Morris University of the allegation AHAI received in 2010.

AHAI strongly condemns sexual misconduct and has zero tolerance for any conduct that poses a risk to the health, safety, and well-being of any of its players and participants. AHAI is confident that the association acted responsibly in handling the 2010 allegation and that it met or exceeded its legal, moral, and ethical obligations.



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