

ALEXANDER L. BJELDE

40 Jasmine Road

Lumberton, NJ 08048, U.S.A.

August 19, 2019

To whom it may concern,

I began fulltime training with Mr. Karel Fajfr as a junior male figure skater in September 2012, at the German Winter Olympic Center in Oberstdorf. He was my head coach until March 2016, when I moved to the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO. Mr. Fajfr supported this move as important to my further development and agreed to continue to coach and mentor to me on a part-time basis. I returned to Oberstdorf in June and August of 2016 for training. I subsequently retired from figure skating in early 2017 because of accumulated injuries, and since September of that year I have been a fulltime undergraduate student at Columbia University in New York City.

During my three and a half years living and training fulltime in Oberstdorf, and again during my weeks in Oberstdorf in July and August of 2016, Mr. Fajfr trained me between 3 and 6 hours a day on the ice, six days a week. We also traveled together to other training camps and to my competitions in Europe. To my knowledge, he resided in Oberstdorf and trained all of his students in same facility that I used. In fact, since Mr. Fajfr's method was to train his skaters in groups, usually of 3 or 4 per session, I directly saw his interactions with my fellow skaters while I trained or was otherwise in the rink. In addition, since I became well acquainted with many of the other skaters at the Oberstdorf facility, including Mr. Fajfr's other students at the time, I also heard secondhand of his coaching and interactions with his skaters.

I know Mr. Fajfr personally and by reputation to be a tough coach who is frank with his students about their performance and sets high expectations. It was precisely for this reason that I, and as far as I could tell, his other skaters, sought him out to be our coach in the first place. He was in demand and did not accept all applicants.

I can say categorically that Mr. Fajfr was never physically abusive towards me or, as far as I saw or heard, to any other skater, nor did he ever threaten any such contact. In fact, I never once witnessed him inappropriately touching or threatening to touch any skater. He never made me feel unsafe or emotionally degraded or injured. To the contrary, Mr. Fajfr was the most supportive and invested coach with whom I have ever worked, and he would often spend hours of his personal time, beyond our scheduled sessions, mentoring me. To this day I consider him a good friend and substantial contributor to my success.

To the best of my recollection, Isaak Droysen, started training with Mr. Fajfr at Oberstdorf on a part-time basis in mid-2014 and fulltime in 2015. From 2015 I trained together with Mr. Droysen in the same group of students on a daily basis, and we traveled together to several of our competitions. I did not witness any conduct by Mr. Fajfr that would, in my view, corroborate the claims that I understand Mr. Droysen has made concerning alleged physical and emotional abuse of him by Mr. Fajfr, nor did Mr. Droysen ever complain or express concern to me about Mr. Fajfr's treatment of him or anyone else.

If I had thought that Mr. Fajfr was emotionally or abusive to me or any of my fellow skaters, I certainly would have not spent these years training with him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander L. Bjelde', written in a cursive style.