

NSO Affiliation Criteria Policy

This is found in the 2010 edition of the USADSF Constitution, Bylaws, and Guidelines, under § 4.01 NSO Affiliation Criteria Policy.

The *NSO Affiliation Criteria Policy* is outlined as follows:

- (a) Incorporation as a not-for-profit corporation having as its purpose the advancement of amateur athletic competition;
- (b) Evidence of the corporation having the financial capability to plan and execute its obligations, or the presence of a plan to develop the needed financial capability;
- (c) A constitution and bylaws indicative of the corporation's commitment to the operations and ideals of the Federation, as determined by the Executive Board of the Federation;
- (d) Determination that the corporation is autonomous in the governance of its sport, does not delegate control of its affairs, is free of outside restraint, and when a USOC recognized National Governing Body exists, is affiliated with one, and no more than one, National Governing Body which governs a sport in the United States;
- (e) Demonstrates that its membership is open to any individual who is a coach, trainer, manager, administrator, official, or deaf athlete active in the sport for which recognition is sought, or to any deaf sports organization or club of the deaf which conducts programs in the sport for which recognition is sought, or to both;
- (f) Provides an equal opportunity to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in athletic competition, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin, and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate;
- (g) Adheres to the due process provisions of the Federation's Constitution and Bylaws in all grievance matters involving athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, officials, or members;
- (h) Governed by a board of directors or other such governing board whose members are selected without regard to race, color, religion, national origin or sex, except that, in sports where there are separate male and female programs, it provides for reasonable representation of both males and females on such board of directors or other such governing board;
- (i) Governed by a board of directors or other such governing board whose membership is comprised of a majority of deaf individuals;
- (j) Demonstrates that its board of directors or other such governing board includes among its voting members individuals who are actively engaged

in athletic competition in the sport for which recognition is sought or who have represented the United States or the Federation in international athletic competition in the sport for which recognition is sought within the preceding 10 years, and that the membership and voting power held by such individuals is not less than 20 percent of such membership and voting power held in that board of directors or other such governing board.

- (k) Recognizes the Federation's right to establish performance criteria and affiliation requirements, and to assess an NSO's performance and compliance, and to revoke, with cause and at any time, the NSO's status as an affiliate;
- (l) Demonstrates that its governance affairs are conducted in a democratic fashion and all elections are held in accordance with applicable provisions of the corporation's constitution and bylaws;
- (m) Demonstrates that none of its officers are also officers of any other amateur sports organization which is recognized as a NSO, or the Federation; and
- (n) Demonstrates, if it is a national deaf sports organization seeking recognition, or continued recognition, as a NSO affiliated with the Federation, that it is prepared to meet the obligations imposed upon all NSOs by the Federation as follows:
 - (1) Annual submission, on or before the first day of January, of a final report on all activities and events conducted during the calendar year preceding the due date;
 - (2) Annual submission, on or before the first day of September, of an audited financial report detailing the finances of the corporation during the preceding calendar year;
 - (3) Annual submission, on or before the first day of September, of an action plan for the subsequent calendar year, indicating organizational plans for athletes at the development and elite levels, and other organizational activities and events;
 - (4) Annual submission, on or before the first day of September, of a financial development plan for the subsequent calendar year;
 - (5) Annual submission, on or before the first day of September, of a request for funding to support athletic development and national and international events planned for the subsequent calendar year;
 - (6) Timely collection of dues and fees in accordance with timelines, guidelines and other requirements established by the Executive Board of the Federation;
 - (7) Recognition and demonstration through its actions that the Federation is ultimately responsible for international games and athletic events;

- (8) Prompt and timely submission of reports and other information when requested by the Federation, and
- (9) Annual submission, on or before the first day of September, a packet of documents and artifacts demonstrating the NSO is in compliance with Provisions A – N of this motion, to the Federation.
- (10) Maintain sub-page on USADSF's official website.