

IBSA Membership and Eligibility Policy

I. Title

1. This policy shall be referred to as the IBSA Membership and Eligibility Policy.

II. Purposes

2. The purposes of this policy are as follows:
 - a. To expand upon the provisions in IBSA's Constitution and Bylaws to prescribe the rights and obligations of IBSA's members; and
 - b. To determine the eligibility of athletes who are entitled to compete at IBSA sanctioned competitions.

III. Definitions

3. The following terms have the following meanings in this policy:
 - a. Bylaws: IBSA's bylaws.
 - b. Constitution: IBSA's Constitution.
 - c. IBSA Competition: a sports competition sanctioned by IBSA;
 - d. IBSA event: any other IBSA sanctioned gathering of IBSA members which is not an IBSA Competition.
 - e. IBSA Member: any nation which has met the qualifications to become a member of IBSA under IBSA's Constitution and who has received either provisional approval by the Executive Board for the period leading up to the next general assembly or by the General Assembly itself in accordance with the processes set forth in the Bylaws and the Constitution.
 - f. Membership fee: the annual fee that each IBSA member is required to pay in an amount prescribed by the most recent General Assembly to maintain its annual membership in IBSA as invoiced by IBSA's treasurer.
 - g. Membership year: the membership year is from January 1 to December 31 of the same calendar year.

IV. Obligations of Members

4. In addition to those obligations imposed on IBSA Members as prescribed in the Constitution and the Bylaws, IBSA members have the following additional obligations:
 - a. To pay the Membership Fee by February 1 of the calendar year to which the invoice issued by IBSA's Treasurer applies or 60 days prior to the holding of any IBSA Event or IBSA Competition, whichever is earlier;
 - b. If an IBSA member becomes a member part way through a membership year, to pay the Membership Fee within 45 days of the date of issue of the Treasurer's invoice or 30 days prior to an IBSA Competition or IBSA event, whichever is earlier;
 - c. To license all athletes who are participating in IBSA governed sports not less than 60 days prior to the start of any IBSA Competition and to pay all applicable licensing fees;
 - d. To enter all classification information and all other required demographic information for its athletes into the ISAS database not less than 60 days prior to the commencement of any IBSA Competition;
 - e. To ensure that all athletes wishing to compete on behalf of the IBSA Member meet all eligibility requirements of citizenship, sight class and sight class status;
 - f. To have a valid National Anti Doping Code, compliant with the World Anti Doping Code (WADC). Also, not to enter any athlete into an IBSA Competition who is under sanction for doping or for breaching any other IBSA or applicable IPC policies;
 - g. Enforce any sanctions against an athlete, Coach, volunteer or other support personnel that have been imposed by IBSA against that individual for inappropriate conduct or breach of the Constitution, Bylaws or applicable IBSA or IPC policies;
 - h. To be the sole entity entering athletes into IBSA Competitions for the country for which they are the IBSA Member; and
 - i. To cooperate with other organizations within their country who have athletes who meet the qualification standards to compete at IBSA Competitions and who have met all registration deadlines for competing at such competitions.

V. Challenges to IBSA Membership

5. Any organization within a country who wishes to challenge the status of the current IBSA Member to remain a member of IBSA must exhaust all of the rights and remedies available to it within its own country, including any applicable court proceedings, before bringing the matter forward for IBSA's consideration. IBSA shall not interfere in the affairs of two competing organizations within the same country.

6. In order to be admitted to IBSA as an IBSA member or to retain its status as an IBSA member, an organization must continue to meet the membership criteria as set forth in the Constitution.
7. If one organization wishes to contest the status of an IBSA member before IBSA itself after it has exhausted all of the available remedies within its own country, it must do so at least 60 days prior to the holding of any IBSA Competition or other IBSA Event.
8. In the event that IBSA is required to resolve a dispute between two competing organizations under this policy, the matter shall be referred to IBSA's Legal and Ethics Committee or a panel thereof which will render a decision. If this provision of the policy is triggered:
 - a. All materials to be filed in support of an application to have the matter determined will be submitted in writing using the English language.
 - b. The responding party will have 14 days to respond in writing to any application submitted.
 - c. The applicant will have seven days to submit any reply submissions.
 - d. The panel of the Legal and Ethics Committee shall have 35 days to decide the matter from the date the application was submitted. The Legal and Ethics Committee shall provide a written decision with reasons supporting its decision.
 - e. Any party may apply to the panel of the Legal and Ethics Committee for permission to lead oral evidence. If such an application is made, the responding party shall have seven days to respond. The applicant will have three days to reply.
9. A panel of the Legal and Ethics Committee hearing any matter under this policy, has, either on its own motion or by application by either party to a dispute, the authority to extend or abridge time periods as required to ensure that it may render a just, expeditious and fair result in the circumstances of each case.

VI. Deadlines of Local Organizing Committees

10. All IBSA Members shall comply with the deadlines imposed by a Local Organizing Committee for registering athletes, paying registration fees or other participants at IBSA Events and IBSA Competitions. Failure to comply with these registration deadlines will, result in the athlete or participant not being registered to compete or participate at the IBSA Event or Competition unless exceptional circumstances exist.