

**USSF Policy 212-1 Participation in Affiliated Organizations (emphasis added)**

Preamble: The purpose of this policy is to clarify terms under which participants may participate in the various programs offered by Organization Members. This policy should be read in conjunction with Bylaws 212 and 603.

**Section 1** For purposes of this policy, the following shall apply:

- a) “Affiliated Organization” means any Organization that is a member or identifiable subset of any USSF Organization Member.
- b) “Organization” means a club, league, team, association, or other group of Participants.
- c) “Organization Member” shall have the meaning set forth in USSF Bylaw 109.
- d) “Participant” means any player, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official that is sponsored, financed, coached, organized, or administered by an Organization.
- e) Any reference in this policy to registering with, becoming a member of, or complying with the requirements of an Organization Member may include registering with, becoming a member of, or complying with the requirements of a member of that Organization Member.

**Section 2** *Every Participant in every Affiliated Organization must be registered with at least one Organization Member. A Participant may be registered with more than one Organization Member.*

**Section 3** If an Organization that is not an Affiliated Organization wishes to become a member of an Organization Member, that Organization Member must require that the Organization comply with section 2 of this policy, either by registering every Participant in that Organization with that Organization Member or by providing reasonable proof (including, for instance, a verification letter from another Organization Member of the number of players registered from that Organization) upon request that *every Participant that it does not register with that Organization Member is registered with another Organization Member.*

Example: A club with 5,500 players wishes to join an Organization Member (OM-USA). The club is not currently affiliated with any Organization Member. If the club wants to register only a portion (for instance, 1,000) of its players with OM-USA, OM-USA must reject the request unless the club either agrees to register the other 4,500 players with OM-USA as well, or agrees to register these 4,500 players with another Organization Member.

If, however, the club is affiliated with another Organization Member already, and wishes to register only 1,000 players with OM-USA, the club must provide reasonable proof if requested to OM-USA of registration of the other players with the other Organization Member, *and then OM-USA must allow the club to register only those 1,000 players (subject to section 4 of this policy).*

**Section 4** An Organization Member must allow Participants from any Affiliated Organization to participate in its programs if those Participants register and comply with all of the reasonable policies, rules, regulations, and requirements of the Organization Member.

- a) *Each Participant (and only those Participants) that actually participates in the programs of the Organization Member must register with the Organization Member and pay any applicable registration fees.*
- b) An Organization Member must allow a group of Participants from any Affiliated Organization to participate in its programs if that group of Participants complies with all reasonable policies, rules, regulations, and requirements of the Organization Member. For purposes of this section, “reasonable policies, rules, regulations, and requirements” may include but are not limited to the following:
  - i) A requirement that the group of Participants be of a minimum size (such as having a minimum number of players, teams, or age groups);
  - ii) A requirement that the group of Participants include a minimum percentage or number of recreational players, unless the group of Participants are already registered with another Organization Member and are directly affiliated with a group of recreational players who could satisfy this minimum requirement;
  - iii) A requirement that the group of Participants follow all team formation rules;
  - iv) A requirement that the group of Participants follow all competition rules (such as numbers of players per team, game rules, and team selection rules);
  - v) A requirement that the group of Participants follow all licensing and certification rules (such as rules relating to referee certifications and coaching licenses);
  - vi) A requirement that the group of Participants observe rationally supportable geographic rules of the Organization Member;
  - vii) A requirement that the group of Participants be subject to all disciplinary rules of the Organization Member;
  - viii) A requirement that the group of Participants identify a board or governing body that will handle administrative issues and be responsible for compliance with applicable Organization Member rules (*but the Organization Member may not mandate that the group of Participants form a new corporation or entity, or identify a different board or governing body than the one already running the Affiliated Organization*); and
  - ix) A requirement that the group of Participants meet standards of financial accountability and transparency as well as any insurance and risk management standards.
- c) For purposes of this Section 4, *an Organization must apply its requirements consistently.*