

SECTION 2: INTERNATIONAL/FIG RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

The US Olympic Committee recognizes USA Gymnastics as the governing body for the sport of gymnastics in the United States. As such, USA Gymnastics has authority over all gymnastics competitions, exhibitions, and training exchanges hosted in the United States.

USA Gymnastics is a member of the Federation of International Gymnastics (FIG), the International governing body for gymnastics. As such, USA Gymnastics and all its members are subject to the FIG rules and regulations governing gymnastics exchanges between countries.

With the increased opportunities for participation in events involving foreign athletes, both in the United States and abroad, USA Gymnastics has the responsibility to inform its professional members of the FIG regulations governing these activities. The FIG and its member federations have jurisdiction over international events (events involving more than one country's athletes). Violations of the FIG regulations can result in restrictions of the member federation and/or its athletes. While USA Gymnastics realizes the cultural enrichment that these types of events provide to our members, strict compliance to the FIG Regulations MUST be followed. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

CONTACT THE USA GYMNASTICS MEMBER SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE AND DIRECTION. DO NOT DIRECTLY CONTACT ANY FOREIGN FEDERATION, CLUB, ATHLETE, COACH OR JUDGE.

I. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF USA GYMNASTICS PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS IN REGARDS TO INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES.

- A. EXCERPT FROM THE STATUTES OF THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE (FIG)**
VII. RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FEDERATIONS, UNIONS, GROUPS AND THE FIG
34.3 Inter-Federation Events and responsibilities of Federations
Federations may organize events among themselves in accordance with the Statutes and Regulations of the FIG. It is, however, forbidden for gymnasts or judges of a federation to participate in competitions or demonstrations in the sphere of activity of another federation without the prior consent of the federations involved. Likewise, the participation of gymnasts or judges of a federation in an event organized by a body other than a federation must be subject to the prior consent of any federations involved. Federations are also responsible to FIG for the behavior of their gymnasts, coaches, judges and other officials and they act as guarantors to the FIG in respect of these responsibilities.
- Article 28 CODE OF DISCIPLINE*
28.1 The sanctions which may be imposed upon a federation or an individual for an act of misconduct are:
- a) a warning, possibly with publication in the FIG Bulletin*
 - b) a suspension of the federation, or of a person, from participation in any official event of the FIG or from several such events*
 - c) exclusion from any future participation in the activities of the FIG*
 - d) refusal of admittance to any events of the FIG*
 - e) a financial imposition*
 - f) exclusion of a federation, following resolution of the Congress*
 - g) suspension from office of any elected member and possible exclusion of office following resolution of the Congress*
- B. Any competition/exhibition conducted in the United States which includes foreign athletes must be sanctioned by USA Gymnastics. For more details, see Rhythmic Rules and Policies, Part III, Section 2, III. "Sanctioning Requirements for Foreign Exchanges."**
- C. The Sanction Fee will be determined based upon the particulars of the event (up to \$250,000.00). Do not send any invitations (foreign or domestic) until the USA Gymnastics Member Services department has notified you that approval has been granted.**

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The following categories have been defined for participation of foreign athletes in this country and for participants of USA club athletes in a club exchange in a foreign country. All exchanges involving foreign athletes are under the jurisdiction of the FIG and the host Federation. Every procedure MUST be followed to protect the athletes and the federations.

- A. Competitions/Exhibitions conducted in the United States**
1. **Prior approval of Foreign Federation must be secured through request made by USA Gymnastics.**
 2. **All aspects of the event MUST be approved by USA Gymnastics. This includes but is not limited to:**
 - a. **sponsorships**
 - b. **marketing/property rights**
 - c. **equipment/format**
 - d. **television**
 - e. **all promotional, marketing, and advertising materials**
 3. **The use of the word "INTERNATIONAL" in the title of a competition/exhibition is strictly FORBIDDEN.**
 4. **Promotion or advertising depicting the event as a competition between two or more countries is forbidden. (i.e., USA vs. Canada)**
 - **Athletes from a foreign country competing in the United States represent only their club at the exchange; they are NOT representing their country as a National Team member.**
 5. **Higher sanction fees may be assessed for galas or exhibitions depending upon the level of the participating athletes.**
 6. **FIG has a 5% tax on prize money awarded at an event.**
- B. Training Exchanges conducted in the United States**
1. **Prior approval of foreign Federation must be secured through a request made by USA Gymnastics.**
 2. **Only a letter of invitation with the specific information is required; however, it is not necessary to sanction.**
 3. **Proof of Insurance coverage:**
 - 1) **It is the sole responsibility of the event host to secure proper insurance for the event. (Be aware that some insurance packages do not cover foreign athletes or coaches.)**
 - 2) **Training exchanges may not be "USA Gymnastics-sanctioned"; therefore, the Athlete Member insurance is not in effect.**
 4. **Prior notification to USA participants that they represent only their club at this exchange and they are not participating as official USA representatives.**
- C. Competitions, exhibitions and training exchanges conducted in another country**
1. **USAG must receive communication from the host country requesting permission for USAG members to attend.**
 2. **USA Gymnastics must approve of your club's participation BEFORE your club accepts an invitation to participate in another country's event. Notification requesting permission to participate in a foreign competition, exhibition or training exchange must be provided to the Program Director at the USA Gymnastics office. (A form is available on the website.)**
 3. **Events sponsored by and/or held in a foreign country CANNOT be "USA Gymnastics-sanctioned"; therefore, the Athlete Member insurance is not in effect.**
 4. **Any judge (US or foreign citizens) must receive permission from the National Federation of their country of citizenship before accepting an invitation to officiate a competition that is conducted outside of their country of citizenship.**
 5. **USA participants may only represent their club at these events/exchanges and they may not participate as official USA representatives.**
 - **For example: Official results may not reflect "USA".**
 6. **USA National Team members may not represent their club in an international event without the approval of the Program Director or the National Team Coordinator.**