

O-1 Visa Consultation Letters

What is an O-1 consultation letter?

Petitions for O-1 visas must be accompanied by consultation letters, also called advisory opinions, from a designated U.S. peer group or labor organization. A consultation letter becomes part of the underlying petition and is submitted by the petitioner to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) for review.

For what positions does USA Gymnastics provide consultation letters?

USA Gymnastics may provide a consultation letter requested by an applicant for any person seeking to enter the United States to perform the duties of a Gymnastics Coach. These positions may be for any discipline of gymnastics. USA Gymnastics does not provide consultation letters for gymnasts.

What is included in a consultation letter from USA Gymnastics?

After USA Gymnastics reviews the application and evidence provided to it by a petitioner, USA Gymnastics will issue a consultation letter that contains one of three possible responses: USA Gymnastics may 1) endorse a petition, 2) object to a petition, or 3) issue a “no objection.” Because federal regulations require USA Gymnastics to support an objection with specific facts, objection letters from USA Gymnastics often include detailed information about why the application did not satisfy the applicable evidentiary criteria or is otherwise deficient.

What evidence should I provide to USA Gymnastics (in addition to the petition) when requesting a consultation letter?

For O-1 petitions, provide all evidence necessary to establish that the beneficiary satisfies the applicable evidentiary criteria. USA Gymnastics bases its advisory opinions on actual evidence, not on conclusory statements in a cover letter or other document.

1. A request for the advisory opinion letter from the gymnastics club that wants to hire the coach. (This should include what position they would be hired for and if they are already working there or not.)
2. The coach's full resume that includes anything pertinent to the coaching position or athletic gymnastics achievements. Petitioners must be able to provide translated documentation of anything listed on the resume regarding coaching and athletic experience.
3. Documentation of Educational background particularly if education is in a coaching field. (All documentation must already be officially translated into English)
4. Any letters of recommendation they may have and submit will be reviewed but must be accompanied by an email and phone number of the person writing the recommendation.
5. You may also include any other documents or items deemed appropriate to this petition.

Where should I send my request for a consultation letter?

You should send a cover letter, a copy of the form I-129 petition and all supporting documentation listed above to:

USA Gymnastics
Attn: Jennifer Tarnowski
1099 N. Meridian Street, Suite 800
Indianapolis, IN 46204
jtarnowski@usagym.org

What does USA Gymnastics charge for consultation letters?

USA Gymnastics charges \$1000 per request for an advisory opinion for Member Clubs. We do not provide advisory opinion letters for non-member clubs.

Petitioners should submit with each petition, a check in the proper amount made payable to "USA Gymnastics." The subject line of the check should identify the petitioner and beneficiary. USA Gymnastics will not provide advisory opinions for petitions submitted without payment. If you wish to pay via credit card USA Gymnastics can send a Credit Card Authorization Form to submit your payment with the above required documents.

Is anything else required of me?

1. USA Gymnastics requires petitioners to become members of USA Gymnastics. To do this, petitioners will need to fill out and mail in a paper membership application [found here](#), with payment. You may use your clubs address if you do not yet have a U.S. address. Addresses must be updated to your U.S. address within 90 days of membership completion.
2. Submit a letter from current National Gymnastics Federation stating you were a member in good standing with their Federation.

How quickly will I receive a consultation letter from USA Gymnastics?

There is no specific time in which a consultation letter is issued, though USA Gymnastics attempts to issue a consultation letter within 45 business days of receiving a fully documented request (including paper membership application). Consultation letters will not be issued until membership is approved – this includes an international background check, safe sport course completion and safety course completion. After 45 business days, petitioners may inquire as to the status of their consultation letter by sending an e-mail to Jennifer Tarnowski (jtarnowski@usagym.org).

Can I have my consultation letter expedited?

USA Gymnastics does not have a process for expediting consultation letters; it responds to requests in the order they are received. If there is an extraordinary reason you require a consultation letter by a certain date, please note that date and the reason for your request in your cover letter.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact Jennifer Tarnowski at jtarnowski@usagym.org