



UNITED STATES
OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

FAQ regarding USA Badminton and the Section 8 process

1. How does an organization receive NGB recognition from the USOPC?

The Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act gives the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee the authority to recognize a sport organization as the official National Governing Body for an individual sport on the Olympic, Pan American, Paralympic, Parapan American and Youth Olympic Games programs.

A sport organization applies for recognition and a formal hearing process is led by the USOPC's internal Membership Working Group, which then gives a recommendation to the USOPC board of directors. The conditions for membership are spelled out in the USOPC's bylaws.

This process most recently took place regarding the new sports added for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, specifically for the sports of surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing.

2. How does an NGB lose its recognition?

If USOPC leadership has reason to believe that an NGB no longer satisfies the membership requirements outlined in its bylaws, the USOPC CEO can file a Section 8 complaint under the USOPC bylaws, as in the case of USA Badminton. Other bylaw provisions address complaints brought by athletes and others.

3. What is a Section 8 complaint?

"Section 8" is the area of the USOPC bylaws that describes the process for the USOPC to revoke recognition of an NGB and sever that organization from the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic movements. The process begins with the USOPC CEO issuing a complaint to the NGB in question. The USOPC CEO then appoints an independent hearing panel of three individuals to hear the complaint. The hearing panel must include a member of the USOPC board (who will chair the panel), as well as a representative of the Athletes' Advisory Council and a representative of the NGB Council.

4. Why did the USOPC initiate a Section 8 complaint against USA Badminton? Why now?

This is a situation in which there are no perfect solutions. Seeking to revoke recognition is not a decision that the USOPC came to easily, but we believe it is the right action. The USOPC has concluded that USA Badminton has failed to meet its responsibilities as an NGB and consistently failed to meet its obligations to its members and to U.S. athletes. Further, USAB has failed to conduct itself in a manner that demonstrates it can fulfill those responsibilities.

5. What is the timeframe?

There is not a definitive timeframe spelled out in the USOPC bylaws. The USOPC will seek a diligent, prompt and fair process. We recognize the urgency in providing resolution to athletes and the U.S. badminton and Para-badminton community.

6. How would revoking USA Badminton's recognition directly impact athletes? What changes?

The USOPC is actively working to deliver a smooth transition for USA Badminton's elite athletes and coaches in the event USAB's membership status is revoked.

If that happens, the USOPC will ensure elite U.S. badminton and Para-badminton players have the resources they need to excel, on and off the field of play, in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020 and beyond.

7. **How will the USOPC take over USA Badminton's high-performance program?**

If USA Badminton loses its member designation, the USOPC would assume immediate oversight on an interim basis of USAB's high-performance program and work to ensure elite U.S. badminton and Para-badminton athletes have the support they need to excel on and off the field of play. As part of that oversight, the USOPC would also be responsible for ensuring the fair selection of athletes and teams for "protected competitions" (i.e. major international competitions like the Olympic and Paralympic Games, or qualifying events for those Games).

The USOPC would remain in that role until a new or existing organization has been identified to assume that responsibility.

8. **Who will handle athlete safety and safe sport matters for the badminton and Para-badminton community in the U.S.?**

If USA Badminton loses its member recognition, anyone brought under the oversight of the USOPC as a result of that action will remain under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport and have the protections of the USOPC Athlete Safety program until a new or existing organization has been identified to assume the responsibilities of the NGB for badminton and Para-badminton.

9. **How can I help?**

As we work through this process, we are soliciting feedback from a wide variety of sources, including athletes, parents, coaches and administrators. If you have suggestions, please write to badminton@usopc.org.