

Appendix A YMCA Rules That Govern

Everyone wants, and should have, an equal opportunity to compete and a fair chance to win. Rules are needed to specify conditions that must be met by all players, coaches, managers, and administrators. The following rules apply to closed formal YMCA sports competition. When a YMCA athlete or team enters open competition, the eligibility requirements of the governing body of the sport concerned apply. These rules provide definitions and procedures for holding sports competitions. They do not forbid specific dishonorable practices. We look to the integrity of the player, coach, manager, and administrator to follow the spirit of the rules developed for healthy competitive sports in a Christian setting. Lapses in this spirit may be considered on an individual basis.

FAIR PLAY: Interpretation. The "Rules that Govern" is based on the fair play concept. The YMCA believes that fair play is the very essence of competition. This fundamental virtue is a special attribute of sport and inherent in it. Competition should be marked by a spirit of truth and honesty, with strict observance of all rules, whether written or unwritten. Fair play implies respect for oneself, one's opponent, and others involved in conducting the competition. Players, coaches, officials, and spectators share a responsibility for fair play: Fair play sets the game above the prize. Competition can provide an excellent means of developing a predisposition to play fairly. As this virtue develops, it can influence behavior in everyday life. It is for the development of such virtues that the YMCA promotes competitive sports.

Character Development in YMCA Sports: Values are basic beliefs about what is good or ought to be, that actually serve as guidelines for decision making and action. Character Development is the process of helping people develop values, becoming conscious of those values, and using them to make decisions. The YMCA believes that Character Development- focusing on the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility- is an essential element of its sports program.

- Caring: To love others and be sensitive to the well being of others involved in the sports program.
- Honesty: To have integrity, making sure that one's actions match one's values through participation in sports.
- Respect: To value the worth of every person, including oneself and one's teammates, opponents, and officials.
- Responsibility: To be accountable for one's behavior and obligations.

YMCAs have a responsibility for training volunteers to be sensitive to the appropriate values that may be developed through sport, and to create an environment conducive to character development.

Rule I. Definitions

- An Amateur: is one who engages in sports solely for the pleasure of competition and physical, mental, and social benefits derived therefrom.
- A YMCA Member: is a person, who, after due application, is enrolled by the Association as an annual member, entitled to full privileges, activities and services of that Association. In metropolitan YMCA's where association wide memberships entitle the individual to full privileges, activities and services of more than one unit, the person must compete for the unit in which he/she enrolls for the membership or designates at the time of enrollment the unit for which he/she will be competing.
- Dual Representation: An individual or team has dual representation when representing more than one organization during the current season whether in the same or different sports.
- Current Season: is defined by each sports National Event Committee.
- National YMCA Competition: consists of the championships authorized by the Program Services Division.
- Field/Cluster/State Competition: consists of the championships authorized by the YMCAs in those groupings desiring such competition.
- Closed Competition: occurs when individuals or units of the YMCA movement (recognized members of the World Alliance of YMCAs) compete among themselves.

- Open Competition: occurs when individuals or units of the YMCA compete with representatives of non-YMCA organizations or units.
- Formal Competition: is closed or open contests in which teams or individuals are officially designated by a local YMCA to represent that YMCA and for which entry fees are charged, standings are kept, awards given, and records and championships are contested.
- Competition Other than Formal: is that in which fellowship, recreation, and practice are the principal objectives. It includes events and activities in which no championships or officially recognized titles or standings are at stake, no entry fee is charged, no award is given, and no admission is charged for spectators. It may be intramural competition (contests within an Association or branch), inter-Association competition (social competition between neighboring Associations), competition under YMCA auspices, supervision or competition with non-YMCA groups.

EXCEPTION: Any competition conducted solely for memberships of one branch or single unit Association may be considered other than formal even though championships of officially recognized title or standings are at stake, entry fees are charged, awards are given, or admission is charged for spectators. For example: house leagues, church or Sunday School leagues, industrial leagues.

- Eligibility: Only certified Associations are eligible to compete in events involving other Associations.
- An Association: is a YMCA unit which is certified by National Board, holds an Association branch, or unit number, and is eligible for separate listing in the YMCA Directory. A Branch, Department, or Center of a Metropolitan Association shall be considered an Association for purposes of competition.
- Terminated Association: is one that has failed to meet standards established by National Board of YMCAs and has been removed from the list by action of National Board's Committee Associations. It is no longer considered a YMCA.
- Disqualified Association: is one that has been removed by Field, Cluster, State or National Event committee responsible for competitive activity in which the Association was involved. The Association shall be removed from the list of Associations eligible for sports competition in one or more sports at the Field, Cluster, State or National level because of violations or negligence in sports administration.

Rule II. Eligibility of Individual: (Please note Rule IV, Sec. 4)

- Eligibility: An individual who fulfills the following conditions shall be eligible to represent his/her Association in formal closed competition:
 - A. A YMCA member in good standing for the past 30 days : 90 days for Field - Cluster – State - National Championship. See Rule IV.3
 - B. Amateur athlete in the competitive season in the sport in which individual desires to represent the YMCA. Competitor may be a professional in other sports.
 - C. Eligible under the Permissible Dual Representation Rule. (See Sec.2)
 - D. Not in violation of any provision of any of the provisions of Rule V.
 - E. Certified by an authorized staff member of the Association as meeting the above conditions.
- 2. Permissible Dual Representation Rule: Shall be permitted when:
 - A. Individual is eligible to represent his/her YMCA in closed competition, in addition to other organizations he/she has represented or is representing, providing he/she has not competed for another YMCA during the previous four months.
 - B. Individual is eligible to represent his/her YMCA in open competition provided he/she has not represented another YMCA in open competition during previous four months and meets eligibility requirements of the governing body of the sport concerned.
 - C. Transfers by Consent. Individual wishing to transfer from one YMCA unit to another is

eligible to represent new YMCA upon written consent of YMCA unit he/she previously represented. This includes transfer from one metropolitan branch to another. Membership transfer must be completed before individual competes for new Association.

Rule III. Eligibility of Associations. An Association that fulfills the following requirements shall be eligible for representation in formal competition:

1. Is a certified YMCA.
- Is in good standing with its own State, Cluster, Field, Committee, Individual administering the YMCA Sports program.
- Confines its formal YMCA competition to Associations that are certified and comply with provisions set forth in "Rules that Govern YMCA Competitive Sports."

Rule IV. Championships

1. State, Cluster, Field and National Championships must be conducted as formal competition. (See Rule I.9)
2. Bodies which operate State, Cluster, Field, National Championships shall have authority to establish rules and regulations governing such sports competition.
3. For State, Cluster, Field or National YMCA Championships, each competitor shall have represented his/her Association in formal competition during the current season in the same sport and been a YMCA member in good standing for a period of 90 days prior to the date of event entered. In instances where an Association doesn't sponsor representative teams in formal competition in a certain sport, an athlete of that Association may be permitted to enter State, Cluster, Field or National competition in that sport provided the entry is approved by the committee or individual administering that State, Cluster, Field, National competition.
4. National Event Committees or groups of YMCAs shall have right to establish more stringent rules for their competitions & or championships.

Rule V. Violations

1. Violations which may lead to disqualification of an Association. The Field, Cluster, State or National Event committee responsible for any competitive activity in which an Association is participating may disqualify that Association for:
 - A. Failure to enforce and maintain "Rules That Govern YMCA Competitive Sports" as herein set forth.
 - B. Being a party to or condoning violations which disqualify an amateur under these rules.
 - C. Being suspended by National Board for failure to meet requirements for recognition as a member Association.
 - D. Misconduct or poor sportsmanship by athletes, coaches, or other local Association officials preceding, during, and after competition.
2. Violations which may disqualify an athlete from representing a YMCA in sports competition.
 - A. Exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - B. Competing under an assumed name.
 - C. Misrepresenting facts regarding eligibility or performance.
 - D. Involvement in substance abuse.
 - E. Failing to meet the conditions stated in Rule II "Eligibility of Individuals."

Rule VI Protests

1. Protests affecting eligibility of any individual or Association must be made in writing and may be made within 30 days of conclusion of the event. Whenever possible, issues that may lead to protests should be discussed and resolved prior to competition.
2. Protests shall be considered by Event Committee in charge of the competition.
3. A protested player or Association may be permitted to compete under protest.

4. The Event Committee shall have power to reject any entry.
5. Upon receipt of protests supported by reasonable proof alleging violations by an Association, the State, Cluster, Field, National Event Committee responsible for competition in which Association was participating, or Program Services Division, upon recommendation of National Event Committee, may declare Association concerned not eligible for formal competition in any sport until such time as thorough investigation is made and final decision rendered.
6. Event Committee responsible for competition in which individual or Association was participating shall render judgment regarding further eligibility at that competitive level in that sport. For example, a Cluster Event Committee cannot render eligibility decisions that affect events at other competitive levels, such as at Field or National level. However, when an individual or Association is ruled ineligible, this decision shall be reported to Event Committees at other levels. These Event Committees are authorized to support the eligibility ruling if they so choose.
7. Awards or trophies acquired by individuals or Associations under conditions for which they are subsequently disqualified shall be returned to proper committee

Rule VII. Reinstatements

1. Reinstatement of Associations.
 - A. Any Association which has been disqualified may apply for reinstatement by writing to the committee issuing the sanction, stating reason for such application.
 - B. Reinstatement of an Association that violates Rule V.1.C, may be made by the committee issuing sanctions when requirements for recognition as a member Association of National Board of YMCA of the USA has been met.
2. Reinstatement of Individuals
 - A. Applications for reinstatement must be approved and signed by the Chairperson of local YMCA committee related to program and Executive Director of the Association of which applicant is a member in good standing.
 - B. Committee issuing sanctions shall pass upon all applications for reinstatement of individuals.
 - C. Athlete shall be ineligible to compete while his/her application for reinstatement is pending.
 - D. Individual whose application for reinstatement has been rejected initially may apply again for reinstatement, subject to policy developed by the committee issuing the sanctions.

Rule VIII. Amendments and Revisions

1. Any proposed amendment must be submitted to Program Services Committee.
2. Program Services Committee will review any proposed revision to "Rules That Govern YMCA Competitive Sports" at its regular meeting. These will be subject to approval by National Board of YMCA of the USA or authorized committee of the Board.

Guidelines for Clusters/State/Fields Conducting Inter association Championships Where there is interest in particular sports for inter association championship events by groups of Clusters or States, committees should be appointed to administer and coordinate the championship.

- A. All clusters desiring to participate in championships should be represented on the committee.
- B. All representatives to committee from clusters should be appointed by either Cluster level organization of physical and program directors or of executive directors.
- C. Committee representatives should have one year terms and may serve consecutive terms.
- C. Chairpersons of committees must be appointed by National Field Consultants related to physical education & program.