# United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Certification Review Group



Certification Renewal Follow-Up Report for US Figure Skating April 16, 2025





UNITED STATES
OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE

# US Figure Skating Certification Renewal Follow-Up Report Executive Summary

In December 2024, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Board of Directors renewed the certification of US Figure Skating (USFS) as a National Governing Body (NGB) with a status of Renewal with Conditions. In accordance with the USOPC's NGB Certification Policy, and ratified by the USOPC Board of Directors, USFS had until January 31, 2025, to resolve the remaining deficiencies and fulfill the conditions outlined in the report issued December 2024. Upon the deadline, the Certification Review Group would then evaluate the NGB's progress and deliver an updated recommendation to the USOPC Board of Directors.

The CRG's initial certification review of USFS found that the organization was meeting most of the USOPC's NGB Compliance Standards in the five core areas of evaluation for certification: Governance and Compliance, Financial Standards and Reporting Practices, Athlete Protections and Rights, Sport Performance, and Operational Performance. However, at the close of the initial certification review period, USFS had not yet met several NGB Compliance Standards including needing to update several policies, missing conflict of interest disclosures from the Athlete Advisory Council, insufficient athlete representation on designated and other committees, execution of its background check policy, and demonstrate that all participants must comply with anti-doping requirements. Based on these deficiencies, the CRG made sufficient demonstration of these policy and process updates conditions of certification.

During the remediation period, USFS updated several policies, ensured that the Athlete Advisory Council completed conflict of interest disclosures, and demonstrated that the background check policy was being executed effectively. USFS also made significant progress on athlete representation on Designated and Other committees. Additionally, USFS resolved and is actively working on other marginal issues, which did not affect its certification status.

As a result of USFS' timely action to meet the conditions of its initial Renewal with Conditions certification, the CRG recommends that USFS' certification status be upgraded to Renewal in Good Standing for its certification term ending in 2028.

## **Certification History**

The CRG completed a certification renewal review of USFS in 2024 based on the USOPC's quadrennial certification renewal schedule. As a result of this review, the CRG recommended that USFS be certified with a status of Renewal with Conditions. The USOPC Board of Directors accepted this recommendation on December 12, 2024.

The ratification of the Renewal with Conditions status began a 50-day remediation period for USFS to resolve the conditions the CRG put in place for the certification. USFS' remediation period ran through January 31, 2025.

# **Certification Conditions**

USFS' Renewal with Conditions certification status was contingent on the completion of the following conditions:

- US Figure Skating must update its board-approved document to meet the requirements for athlete representation, consistent with Standard A.1 a & b of the NGB Compliance Standards.
- US Figure Skating must provide evidence of 33.3% athlete representation on its designated and other committees to fully comply with Standard A.1 a & b of the NGB Compliance Standards.
- US Figure Skating must update its conflicts of interest policy to fully comply with Standard A.6 b of the NGB Compliance Standards.
- US Figure Skating must provide evidence that its Athlete Advisory Council members complete a conflict of interest disclosure form, consistent with the updated and approved conflict of interest policy, and to fully comply with Standard A.2 a of the NGB Compliance Standards.
- US Figure Skating must update its code of conduct to fully comply with Standard A.5 a of the NGB Compliance Standards.
- US Figure Skating must successfully demonstrate that it is executing its background check policy in accordance with Standard C.3 a of the NGB Compliance Standards.
- US Figure Skating must include required anti-doping language for individual and organizational members in its bylaws or board-approved document, consistent with Standard C.4 b of the NGB Compliance Standards.
- US Figure Skating must successfully demonstrate that it requires all participants to comply with anti-doping requirements in accordance with Standard C.4 b of the NGB Compliance Standards.
- US Figure Skating must update its Whistleblower and Anti-Retaliation Policy to fully comply with Standard E.5 a of the NGB Compliance Standards.

### **Remediation Actions**

In accordance with its audit management action plan, USFS updated its bylaws, conflicts of interest policy, background check policy, and code of conduct, to meet the requirements of the NGB Compliance Standards, as well as updated the rulebook to include required anti-doping language.

USFS worked with the Athlete Advisory Council to ensure that conflict disclosure forms were completed and reviewed. Additionally, USFS was able to demonstrate it is effectively executing against the updated background check policy, in accordance with the NGB Compliance Standards.

Additionally, USFS made significant progress on ensuring adequate athlete representation on its designated and other committees, is working towards updating the relevant documents to ensure all participants are notified of anti-doping requirements and has included most requirements in an updated whistleblower and anti-retaliation policy. While full remediation of these conditions is in progress, the CRG determined that the remaining work does not present an obstacle to upgrading USFS to Renewal in Good Standing.

### **Additional Actions Taken**

While not conditions of certification, USFS also had marginal issues that were noted in its certification review but did not affect its certification status. During the remediation period, USFS updated its athlete agreements to meet requirements and define a reasonable number of appearances athletes are required to attend. USFS also submitted all NGB Annual Reports within the required timeframe. USFS has additionally made progress on including all requirements in their grievance procedures. This work demonstrates USFS' commitment to the NGB Compliance Standards and to its own organizational excellence.

#### Conclusion

USFS provided the USOPC Audit department with sufficient evidence to meet the conditions outlined in the initial Certification Report<sup>1</sup> issued in December 2024.

Thus, the CRG concludes that USFS is performing satisfactorily based on input from CRG members and its completion of the conditions required as part of its December 2024 Renewal with Conditions certification and there are no outstanding areas of concern affecting its certification status at this time. Accordingly, the CRG recommends that USFS' certification status be upgraded from Renewal with Conditions to Renewal in Good Standing for its current certification term ending in 2028.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>US Figure Skating, Renewal with Conditions</u> – December 2024.