

CERTIFICATION RECOMMENDATION FOR USA LACROSSE

Executive Summary

The USOPC's Certification Review Group (CRG) recommends certifying [USA Lacrosse](#) as the certified National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of lacrosse within the United States. The CRG's holistic review resulted in a Certified with Conditions status recommendation to provide USA Lacrosse until December 31, 2026 to remediate outstanding issues before the CRG considers an upgrade to Certified in Good Standing. The details of the CRG's review are included in the following report.

NGB Certification Overview

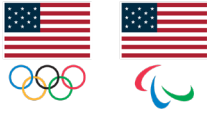
NGB Certification History

USA Lacrosse sought NGB certification for the sport of lacrosse for the first time in February 2025. The CRG sought applicants for certification at that time following the addition of the sport to the program of the Olympic Games in 2028. While the organization has not yet been a certified NGB, USA Lacrosse has been a Recognized Sport Organization of the USOPC.

Athlete Representation Review Working Group (ARRWG) Decisions

USA Lacrosse requested that the ARRWG review and approve expanded athlete representation options. The ARRWG's determinations can be found in USA Lacrosse's effective [Record of Decision](#).

USA Lacrosse received approval from the Athlete Representation Review Working Group for its definitions of USOPC 10-year and NGB 10-Year and 10-Year+ Athletes, a process required by the unique circumstances of lacrosse's addition to a Delegation Event program for the first time in 2028. As the NGB 10-Year and 10-Year+ definitions are contingent on athletes' participation in a Delegation Event or Protected Competition, a sport with no Delegation Event participation has no NGB 10-Year or 10-Year+ Athletes. USA Lacrosse worked with its current athlete representatives to craft a definition of NGB 10-Year and 10-Year+ Athlete that will capture its elite athlete population to be presented to the ARRWG. Population of athlete representatives meeting the definition throughout the USA Lacrosse Board and Designated Committees is a condition of this certification.



Athlete Well-Being

Athlete Safety

As a non-NGB amateur sport organization, USA Lacrosse has not yet been subject to the US Center for SafeSport’s (the Center) SafeSport Code, nor has it been through an audit by the Center. USA Lacrosse is currently going through the Center’s onboarding process for new NGBs to provide USA Lacrosse with time to fully comply with Center’s training and policy requirements before those requirements are fully applicable. USA Lacrosse, upon NGB certification, will follow this onboarding schedule and be subject to regular Center audits. The USOPC’s Audit department assessed additional athlete safety requirements within the scope of the Certification Audit, as noted below.

Anti-Doping

USA Lacrosse is prepared to maintain an anti-doping program consistent with the requirements of the USOPC and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) in its efforts to preserve clean and fair competition for its athlete participants. The organization is prepared to submit its Registered Testing Pool and Clean Athlete Program athlete lists on time, identify all athletes on Delegation Event Long Lists, and ensure that a staff member is responsible to serve as the USADA liaison in executing its anti-doping program. The USOPC’s Audit department assessed additional anti-doping requirements within the scope of the Certification Audit, as noted below.

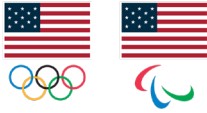
NGB Operational Health

Audit

The Certification Audit conducted in 2025 resulted in 13 findings. The associated graph shows the percentage of audit findings per core area of evaluation. USA Lacrosse created management action plans to resolve the identified issues in a timely manner. The outstanding higher risk audit findings have been incorporated into this recommendation as conditions of the certification.

Specifically, the USOPC Audit department found that USA Lacrosse’s conflict of interest process did not have a control to document completed disclosure forms. In addition, testing of USA Lacrosse’s background check process revealed a significant number of individuals who had not undergone a background check. Finally, to comply with the USOPC’s NGB Compliance Standards, USA Lacrosse must update its documentation to reflect membership compliance with anti-doping requirements. The USOPC Audit department will return to assess its efficacy in Q1 2027 to resolve the findings. Resolution of the findings are conditions of this certification.





Compliance

The USOPC will continue to assess USA Lacrosse’s operational health through its completion of ongoing compliance requirements, including the submission of required annual reporting, publication of required documentation on its website, required athlete representation on its board of directors, maintenance of required insurance coverage, and IRS standing, among other requirements.

Competitive Excellence

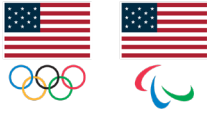
High Performance Programs

USA Lacrosse maintains and executes a high performance plan that supports Team USA athletes in achieving sustained competitive excellence. The organization has shown the ability to select a strong team and prepare its athletes for high achievement on the world stage in World Lacrosse events, and this experience provides a strong foundation for the organization to prepare Team USA athletes for Delegation Events as an NGB.

Conclusion

The CRG concluded, based on the results of the Certification Audit as well as individual CRG members’ assessments, that USA Lacrosse has met most of the requirements in the core areas of evaluation for NGB certification. Furthermore, the CRG is confident in USA Lacrosse’s ability to fulfill all management action plans and reach full compliance with the NGB Compliance Standards based on its interactions with USA Lacrosse staff. However, the CRG identified areas where USA Lacrosse has not yet demonstrated compliance with the NGB Compliance Standards and cannot yet be considered as a member in good standing. Accordingly, the CRG recommends that USA Lacrosse’s certification as a member organization of the USOPC be granted with a status of Certified with Conditions with a deadline of December 31, 2026, to fulfill the conditions of certification. The conditions of this certification are listed below.

Standard		Condition	Assessment
A.1 a & b	Athlete Representation	USA Lacrosse must fully populate its board, Athletes’ Advisory Council, and Designated Committees with sufficient athlete representation to meet the NGB Compliance Standards.	Submit to the USOPC Audit department testing to confirm that athlete representation requirements have been met.
A.2 a	Athlete Advisory Council		
A.6 a	Conflict of Interest Policy	USA Lacrosse must successfully execute on its revised conflicts of interest policy’s disclosure process to meet the NGB Compliance Standards.	Submit to the USOPC Audit department testing to confirm that conflict of interest disclosure and review processes



			are being executed in accordance with USA Lacrosse’s policy.
C.1 b	Child Protection and US Center for SafeSport	USA Lacrosse must make membership aware of their obligations under the SafeSport Code that come into effect when the organization becomes an NGB.	Provide evidence that USA Lacrosse has executed its communications plan for SafeSport obligations no later than May 1, 2026.
C.3 a	USOPC Athlete Safety Requirements	USA Lacrosse must update its background check policy to include missing elements and successfully execute on its revised policy.	Submit the updated USA Lacrosse Background Check Policy to the USOPC Audit department to confirm compliance and complete testing against the revised policy.
C.4 a	Anti-Doping Policy	USA Lacrosse must maintain a written anti-doping policy and add required anti-doping language to its relevant documentation.	Submit to the USOPC Audit department the USA Lacrosse’s Anti-Doping Policy and evidence that compliant language has been added to participant documentation to confirm compliance.
C.4 b	Anti-Doping Policy Language		

In accordance with the NGB Certification Policy, if the CRG determines that USA Lacrosse has successfully addressed the conditions by the deadline, the CRG will recommend that its certification status be upgraded to Certified in Good Standing. If USA Lacrosse does not resolve these issues to the CRG’s satisfaction by the deadline, its certification rating may be downgraded and the CRG will discuss whether accountability measures are appropriate to address USA Lacrosse’s delayed action.



Appendix

Certification Process

The USOPC promotes and supports a culture of good governance, ethics, and compliance among the NGBs that, as member organizations of the USOPC, make up the Olympic and Paralympic Movement. Amendments to the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (the Act), which became effective in late 2020, require the USOPC to certify NGBs.¹ The USOPC determined that as of January 1, 2021, all member organizations would be certified, and their certifications would be reviewed for renewal on a rolling basis every four years.²

Governed by the USOPC's [NGB Certification Policy](#), the NGB certification review process is supported by a cross-functional body of professionals at the USOPC, the Certification Review Group (CRG), who interact with NGBs in their day-to-day work. These professionals evaluate an organization's operations across multiple functional areas to provide a holistic review of its performance and culture.³ In addition to enumerated standards for NGB performance described in the Act, the [USOPC Bylaws](#), and the USOPC's NGB Compliance Standards, the CRG considers departmental observations about an organization's operations that may not be identified in a formal audit but are relevant to consider when evaluating overall performance.

Certification Standards, Exceptions, and Review Components

As required by Standard A.2 of the USOPC and IMS Compliance Standards, and described in Section 8.4.1 of the USOPC Bylaws, the USOPC must administer its membership by requiring NGBs to satisfy certification requirements in five core areas: Governance and Compliance, Financial Standards and Reporting Practices, Athlete Safety, Sport Performance, and Operational Performance. The USOPC Implementation Guide for NGB Compliance Standards provides NGBs with specific guidance for how they will be evaluated in each of these core areas.

Section 8.4.2 of the USOPC Bylaws permits an NGB to submit a request for limited exceptions to any of the NGB Compliance Standards which, as a result of its overall structure or other extenuating circumstances, cannot or need not be reasonably met. The CRG evaluates all requests received and grants or denies such limited exceptions.

Various provisions of Section 8.5 of the USOPC Bylaws permit NGBs to seek exceptions related to minimum athlete representation requirements on boards and designated committees as well as exceptions or additions to which of its committees are considered designated committees. The Athlete Representation Review Working Group evaluates and approves or denies all requests made under Section 8.5.

¹ See §220521(a) of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

² NGB Certification Policy, Section 1.

³ The CRG uses a four-year lookback period during this review process.