

# US Olympic and Paralympic Committee Policy



**Policy Name:** Sports Betting Policy

**Publication Date:** March 14, 2024

**Policy Owner:** Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer

**Applies to:** USOPC Board Members, Committee

Members, Staff, Select Volunteers, Credentialed Personnel, and NGBs

**Purpose:** To build on the principles outlined in the USOPC’s Code of Conduct and its Speak Up Policy, the Sport Betting Policy defines the USOPC rules, regulations, and standards of conduct related to sports betting.

**Policy Statement:** Sports betting activity associated with Olympic and Paralympic competitions can pose a serious threat to the integrity of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, its sports, its competitors, and global sporting competitions. To protect against corrupt betting influences, the USOPC has developed this Sports Betting Policy to maintain and uphold the integrity of Delegation Event competitions and the competitions used to qualify for Delegation Events, and to prevent betting-related misconduct relating to those competitions.

The USOPC follows the International Olympic Committee Code of Ethics, which is a framework of ethical principles based upon Olympic values and principles and states that “[a]ll forms of participation in, or support for betting related to the Olympic Games, and all forms of promotion of betting related to the Olympic Games are prohibited.”<sup>1</sup> In addition, the IPC Code of Ethics requires that all members of the Paralympic Family<sup>2</sup> must “[a]bstain from participating in, supporting, or promoting betting related to the Paralympic Games or any other IPC sanctioned event.”<sup>3</sup>

## I. Applicability

Although this Policy strictly applies to all Covered Individuals, all individuals associated with or who have information related to Protected Competitions and USOPC-Sponsored Events should be aware of the standards of conduct outlined in this Policy. Further, NGBs are responsible for applying the provisions of this policy to their staff, volunteers, and athletes. The application of this policy to Internally Managed Sport athletes and athletes named to Delegation Events will be addressed in athlete agreements and / or Delegation Event Terms.

## II. Definitions

- A. **Covered Individuals:** All persons to whom this Policy applies. Please see definitions below for Credentialed Personnel and Select Volunteers. Both categories of individuals may have access to Inside Information as a result of their access to Delegation Events

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<sup>1</sup> See IOC Code of Ethics at 17.

<sup>2</sup> Paralympic Family is defined as “a person who accepts and assumes a function in the IPC, or in association with the IPC, regardless whether it is a voluntary or paid position, elected or appointed, an athlete or team official.” IPC Code of Ethics at 2.

<sup>3</sup> See IPC Code of Ethics at §1.10.

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and / or may participate in activities that may affect the actual or perceived integrity of a Delegation Event.

- B. **Credentialed Personnel:** This term refers to individuals who receive Delegation Event and USOPC-Sponsored Event credentials.
- C. **Protected Competitions:** The term Protected Competition has the same meaning as USOPC Bylaws Section 1.3(x). Specifically, Protection Competitions include Delegation Events<sup>4</sup> and Qualifying Competitions.<sup>5</sup>
- D. **Proposition Betting:** Wagering on particular aspects or details associated with a Protected Competition or USOPC-Sponsored Event, or the individuals affiliated with those competitions. For example, betting on a tennis player winning 2 sets to 1 versus betting on the overall outcome of the match.
- E. **Select Volunteers:** This category of individuals refers to Delegation Event and USOPC-Sponsored Event volunteers.
- F. **Sports Betting Activity:** Staking or risking anything of value, financial or otherwise, on the occurrence of an uncertain sports-related outcome with the intent or expectation of winning additional money or something of value in return regardless of the location in which the sporting event takes place or in which the wager is placed. This definition includes a wide range of activities including those available in any gaming facility, casino, lottery facility, racetrack facility, or on the internet or electronically (e.g., fantasy sports leagues, Draft Kings, FanDuel), as well as Proposition Betting.
- G. **USOPC-Sponsored Events:** This term refers to Internally Managed Sport competitions that are run and managed by the USOPC's Internally Managed Sport department.
- H. **USOPC Team Members:** For purposes of this Policy, the term USOPC Team Members applies to anyone on USOPC payroll or employed through a temporary staffing agency (i.e., Adecco).

### III. Standards of Conduct

The below standards of conduct related to Sports Betting Activity apply to all Covered Individuals with the purpose of preventing betting-related manipulation and corruption, or perceived manipulation, relating to competitions in which the USOPC may be involved.

#### A. *Illegal Betting*

1. Covered Individuals may not engage or attempt to engage – nor instruct, ask, permit, cause, or enable other individuals or entities to engage or attempt to

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<sup>4</sup> USOPC Bylaws, Section 1.3(l).

<sup>5</sup> USOPC Bylaws, Section 1.3(z).

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engage – in any form of illegal Sports Betting Activity relating to any sport or event. Such activities include, but are not limited to, placing bets with illegal or unlicensed bookmakers (e.g., placing bets themselves and/or placing bets on behalf of or through a third party), operating an illegal or unlicensed bookmaker, or facilitating illegal or unlicensed bookmaking activity.

2. Because legal betting markets vary from state to state and from country to country, Covered Individuals are responsible for being aware of and understanding the sports betting laws and regulations in any jurisdictions in which they reside, compete, or travel.

### *B. Wagering on Protected Competitions and USOPC-Sponsored Events*

1. Covered Individuals shall not engage or attempt to engage, in any legal or illegal Sports Betting Activity related in any way to any Protected Competition or USOPC-Sponsored Events.
2. Covered Individuals shall not instruct, ask, permit, cause, or enable other individuals or entities to engage, or attempt to engage, in any form of legal or illegal Sports Betting Activity related in any way to any Protected Competition or any USOPC-Sponsored Events.<sup>6</sup>
3. Covered Individuals shall not engage in Sports Betting Activity relating to multi-sports bets (often known as “parlays”) that combine betting on Protected Competitions with other sporting competitions, e.g., combining bets that the United States wins in the first round of men’s football at the Olympic Games and that the United States men’s under-16 team also wins in the first round of an under-16 international tournament.
4. Covered Individuals may engage in legal Sports Betting Activity related to competitions that do not fall within the definition of a Protected Competition or are not a USOPC-Sponsored Event. For example, a USOPC Team Member may place legal bets on NHL games, but they may not engage or attempt to engage in legal or illegal betting, or ask, permit, cause, or enable other individuals or entities to engage, in legal or illegal betting on any sport included in any Olympic or Paralympic Games, including ice hockey or sled hockey.

### *C. Event Manipulation*

1. Covered Individuals may not influence, manipulate, or attempt to influence or manipulate any Protected Competition or USOPC-Sponsored Event in any way such that the outcome or any other aspect of the competition is determined by anything other than the competitors’ merits. Covered Individuals will be in violation of this Policy even if their attempts to influence or manipulate are unsuccessful, and regardless of whether there is any financial or non-financial benefit.

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<sup>6</sup> For clarity, it will not be a violation of this policy if a Covered Individual provides sports-related predictions (e.g., in the context of a promotional campaign), provided it is clear in context that such predictions are not specifically intended to encourage Sports Betting Activity.

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2. Covered Individuals may not request or instruct others to influence or manipulate any Protected Competition or USOPC-Sponsored Event in any such way that the outcome or any other aspect is determined by anything other than the competitors' merits. Covered Individuals will be in violation of this Policy even if their requests or instructions do not result in successful manipulation, and regardless of whether there is any financial or non-financial benefit.

### *D. Gifts and Bribery*

1. Covered Individuals may not be involved with the offering, giving, acceptance or receipt of a bribe, gift or any type of consideration, financial or otherwise, that could directly or indirectly result in the improper influencing or manipulation of any Protected Competition or USOPC-Sponsored Event in any way.

### *E. Inside Information*

1. Covered Individuals may not request or disclose, directly or indirectly, any non-public information that could potentially provide an advantage in Sports Betting Activity related to Protected Competitions or USOPC-Sponsored Events to any individual that does not have a legitimate need to know such non-public information. Examples of such non-public information include, but are not limited to, injury or health information, competitive strategy, and training or coaching details.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, Covered Individuals are expected to understand sharing information on social media may reveal non-public information that can be used for betting purposes and therefore should not share any non-public information through social media, which may include any of the examples listed above.
3. Covered Individuals may violate the Insider Information provision of the Policy whether they know or reasonably should know that the non-public information in question could potentially be used for the purpose of Sports Betting Activity.

## **IV. Sponsorship Considerations**

The USOPC does not prevent athletes or NGBs from entering into commercial sponsorship agreements with sports betting operators, provided (i) such operators are legal, regulated and duly licensed and (ii) any athlete that is a Covered Individual does not specifically promote betting on Protected Competitions or USOPC-Sponsored Events. Athletes should also be aware of IOC Rule 40 and the IPC's marketing guidelines, which describe how athletes' personal sponsors may use an athlete's name, image, and likeness before, during, and after the Olympic and Paralympic Games. (Those rules also outline how athletes may thank and recognize personal sponsors during the Games.)

For additional guidance for national federations, NGBs should consult the IOC's Guidelines for Sports Organisations on Sponsorship by Sports Betting Operators<sup>7</sup> and their international federation's guidelines.

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<sup>7</sup> See [Guidelines for Sports Organisations on Sponsorship by Sports Betting Operators \(June 2020\)](#).

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## V. Training

The USOPC will provide periodic sports betting training to Covered Individuals, as well as Internally Managed Sport athletes and athletes named to Delegation Event teams. NGBs should also consider providing training to their athletes to ensure athletes understand their responsibilities under applicable IOC, IPC, International Federation, and / or NGB policies.

## VI. Mandatory Reporting

### A. Reporting

Covered Individuals must immediately report suspected or known violations of this Policy to the USOPC through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#) or by calling the USOPC Integrity Line at 877-404-9935. Reports may also be made to the [IOC Integrity Hotline](#) or to the [IPC Whistleblower Channel](#). If circumstances make such communication impractical, reports may be made to any USOPC team member, including the USOPC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer and Ethics Director. Reports must be made in good faith, meaning that the reporting party has some basis to believe there may be a violation of this Policy.

Failing to report any suspected or known violations of this Policy will be deemed a violation of this policy and may be subject to discipline.

### B. Obligation to Cooperate

Covered Individuals must cooperate and participate in any investigation of a suspected violation of this Policy. Covered Individuals are also prohibited from obstructing or delaying any investigation.<sup>8</sup> Failing to cooperate with an investigation will be deemed a violation of this Policy and will be subject to disciplinary action.

### C. No Retaliation

The USOPC does not tolerate retaliation against anyone who makes good faith reports of possible ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperates with investigations of those reports, including reports related to this Policy. Please refer to the [Speak Up Policy](#) for more information about reporting potential violations of this policy and how those reports are handled.

## VII. Investigations

Please refer to the USOPC's [Compliance Investigations Procedure](#) for more information about the investigations process, the standard of proof required to establish violations of this Policy, and confidentiality.

## VIII. Disciplinary Action

Covered Individuals who violate this policy will be subject to discipline, which may vary based on the nature and severity of the violation and whether the Covered Individual is a USOPC Team Member, USOPC board or committee member, or a volunteer. Examples of such actions for

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<sup>8</sup> Obstruction or delay includes concealing, tampering with, destroying, damaging, disabling, or otherwise altering any documentation or other physical evidence, and intimidating or attempting to influence any witness, either directly or through a third party.

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USOPC Team Members may include termination of employment or temporary or permanent bans from future Delegation Events and / or Protected Competitions, and / or a loss of certain privileges related to Delegation Events. In appropriate cases, the USOPC reserves the right to refer violations of this policy to law enforcement.

The USOPC also reserves the right to consider a wide range of mitigating or aggravating factors when determining appropriate disciplinary action in any case. Examples of such factors include early acceptance of responsibility, *e.g.*, level of involvement, cooperation with investigations, isolated or repeated violations, and voluntary participation in training or education.

### **IX. Effect of Related Proceedings**

The USOPC may, without conducting its own proceedings, recognize and give effect to integrity-related decisions and disciplinary actions relating to current or prospective Covered Individuals by other sporting organizations, including any suspensions or permanent ban by another sports organization subject to Section IX below. Also subject to Section IX below, the USOPC may deny entry to a sporting competition to any athlete, trainer, coach, employee, or team member who is subject to an integrity-related investigation or disciplinary proceedings of another sporting organization.

### **X. Opportunity to Participate**

An investigation or an admission of guilt may result in the imposition of disciplinary action that affects an athlete's, coach's, or other person's right to participate in Protected Competitions under the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (the Act)<sup>9</sup> and Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws. In that instance, if a person wishes to challenge the disciplinary action, they will be afforded swift and equitable resolution of their disputes in accordance with the Act<sup>10</sup> and Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws.

For independent, confidential advice regarding athlete rights and responsibilities in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, including this Policy, Team USA athletes may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombuds (ombudsman@usathlete.org and 719.866.5000).

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<sup>9</sup> See 36 U.S.C. § 220522(4)(B).

<sup>10</sup> See 36 U.S.C. § 220509(a).

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## Policy History

Publication Type	Policy Approver	Enabling Action	Publication Date	Next Scheduled Review	Revision Summary
Initial Publication	Board of Directors	Board Vote; December 7, 2023	December 7, 2023	December 2024	N/A – initial publication
Revision	Board of Directors	Board Vote; March 14, 2024	March 14, 2024	March 2025	Clarified that certain sports betting-adjacent activity is not a violation of this Policy. Also included IOC and IPC whistleblower hotlines.