



USA ROLLER SPORTS GENERAL RULES FOR COMPETITIVE ROLLER SPORTS

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USA ROLLER SPORTS

Recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the Federation International de Roller Sports (FIRS) as the National Governing Body for Competitive Roller Sports in the United States.

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4730 South Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506
www.usarollersports.org

USARS GENERAL RULES FOR COMPETITIVE ROLLER SPORTS

GRI.00 GENERAL PROVISIONS

GRI.01 Authority

- GR1.01.01 USA Roller Sports (USARS) is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Nebraska for the general purposes of developing, improving and supervising roller sports as practiced by USARS members in all its aspects.
- GR1.01.02 USARS is recognized by the Federation Internationale de Roller Sports (FIRS), the international sports federation for roller skating, as the sole representative of the United States in international roller sports, with all of the rights, duties and responsibilities attached thereto.
- GR1.01.03 USARS is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as the National Governing Body of roller sports in the United States with all the rights, duties and responsibilities attached thereto.

GRI.02 Interpretation

- GR1.02.01 These General Rules are promulgated subject to the statutes and regulations of FIRS, 1985 Edition, and the Constitution and By-Laws of USOC as adopted April 28-29, 1979, and as said statutes, regulations, constitutions and by-laws may from time to time be amended. They are to be interpreted so as not to conflict with said documents but they are to be interpreted so as to allow USARS all available flexibility in applying enunciated principles to the particular needs of roller sports in the United States. USARS eligibility requirements are not more restrictive than those of the International Federation.

GRI.03 Definitions

- GR1.03.01 All definitions of terms contained in the USOC Constitution and By-Laws shall apply to these General Rules unless a different meaning is clearly intended.
- GR1.03.02 PROTECTED COMPETITION means any athletic competition between any athlete or athletes officially designated by USARS as representing the United States, either individually or as a part of a team, and any athlete or athletes representing any foreign country where (a) the terms of such competition require that the entrants therein be teams or individuals representing the respective nations, and (b) the athlete or group of athletes representing the United States are organized and sponsored by USARS and are selected by USARS in accordance with a defined selection or tryout procedure that is open to all and publicly announced in advance. The term "protected competition" shall also include any domestic athletic competition or event organized and conducted by USARS which has been designated by the USARS in its selection procedure, and publicly announced in advance, as a competition or event directly qualifying successful competitors therein as an athlete representing the United States in a protected competition as defined in the immediately preceding sentence of this subsection.

GRI.04 USARS Service Marks and Trademarks

- GR1.04.01 The registered and unregistered service marks and trademarks of USARS are the exclusive intellectual property of USARS.
- GR1.04.02 Members may use the registered and unregistered USARS service marks and trademarks only with the prior express written authorization of USARS. Such authorization may be granted or withheld in the absolute discretion of USARS. Requests for authorization must be directed to the USARS headquarters office.
- GR1.04.03 The Executive Director of USARS may adopt forms and guidelines for the administration of authorized uses of USARS service marks and trademarks, and make such forms and guidelines available to members upon request.
- GR1.04.04 The unauthorized use of USARS service marks and trademarks is strictly prohibited, and shall be grounds for disciplinary proceedings in addition to other legal remedies.

GR2.00 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

GR2.01 Competitive Card

- GR2.01.01 In order to compete in a USARS member-sanctioned roller sports contest, a person must be a member in good standing of USARS through applying for and obtaining a USARS competitor's card in the appropriate federation, except as provided in GR2.01.02. A person *that is not a member in good standing must* obtain a single event registration *in order to participate*. *Single event registrations* may not be used to enter a Regional or National Championship.
- GR2.01.02 In order to compete in USARS protected competitions only; a person must be an roller skater that has applied for and obtained a USARS Class I Member in good standing or obtain a "USARS protected competition" card in the appropriate federation.

GR2.02 Non-Competitive Card

- GR2.02.01 In order to participate in the conduct of USARS activities and supervision of the organization or to be entitled to membership privileges, a person, other than a roller skater or coach, must have applied for and obtained a USARS non-competitive card.
- GR2.02.02 In order to participate as an official in the conduct of a USARS protected competition only, a person must be a USARS official or FIRS official, or someone who has applied for and obtained a USARS protected competition non-competitive registration card.

GR2.03 Code of Conduct

- GR2.03.01 Every member and every protected competition cardholder who accepts a membership or protected competition card thereby agrees to be bound by the Code of Conduct.
- GR2.03.02 The Code of Conduct is as follows:
It shall be the responsibility of each USA Roller Sports member to be thoroughly familiar with the Code of Conduct and all other rules and regulations of USARS that may apply to him or her; to observe them in spirit as well as in letter; and to strive continuously to uphold the high ideals of competitive roller sports. USARS members shall demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethical behavior and shall be courteous in word and demeanor to competitors, officials, and spectators while

participating in or attending sanctioned roller skating competitions. When training for, traveling to or from, or attending or participating in USARS sanctioned activities, all persons, whether at the meet site or not, shall conduct themselves with decorum and in accordance with the rules of the host facilities and the laws of the jurisdiction in which they are located.

- GR2.03.03 A person whose actions, statements or conduct violate this Code of Conduct is subject to discipline. The meet director may remove any individual who is unruly, disruptive or who otherwise is disturbing the running of an activity from the skating area. The meet director may administratively suspend a competitor or official, who is unruly, disruptive or otherwise disturbing the running of an activity.

GR3.00 RULES OF COMPETITIVE STATUS

GR3.01 *Competition*

- GR3.01.01 Fundamental to sports competition is love for the activity itself, without regard to its remunerative aspects. The Rules of Competitive Status set forth below are based upon this principle and are intended to protect it and foster a spirit of sportsmanship in the athletes who compete in the roller skating *sports*.

- GR3.01.02 These Rules of Competitive Status are promulgated subject to the statutes and regulations of the FIRS, Rule 26 of the Olympic Charter, and Article VII of the By-Laws of the International Olympic Committee, as amended April 1979, and any amendment subsequently adopted by the respective organization. They are to be interpreted so as not to conflict with said Charter, By-Laws, statutes and regulations, and in keeping with the principle of sportsmanship expressed in Rule GR3.01.01.

GR3.02 *Definitions*

- GR3.02.01 “Competitive roller skater” is a person who conducts him or herself in the Olympic tradition of good sportsmanship while engaging in USARS competitions and all other sponsored activities of USA Roller Sports. The competitor must be truthful and honorable in dealing with other athletes and officials and when establishing eligibility for USARS competitive events which are determined by age or previous competitive experience. There are no occupational requisites or restrictions applied to USARS competitive eligibility.

- GR3.02.02 A “restricted class A” is a person who is temporarily ineligible to participate fully in the activities of USARS, being affected by one or more rules causing restriction of the privilege of competition. A “restricted class B” is a person who is permanently ineligible to participate fully in activities of USARS because of a rule violation, which bars his or her return to competition.

GR3.03 *Acts Causing Loss of Status*

- GR3.03.01 (a) Persons who have competed as an roller or ice skater under an assumed name for the purpose of making a fraudulent entry;
(b) Persons who have issued or allowed to be issued any challenge to compete in a roller skating contest against any professional roller skater, or have placed a wager upon the outcome of any roller skating contest in which he or she competes;
(c) All competitors, including but not limited to current and immediate past national and world champions, wishing to continue to maintain eligibility to compete in USARS sanctioned competitions, may not have their image or name used in paid print or electronic advertisements without specific permission granted in writing from USARS. The contractual terms of such media ads must be satisfactory to skater, sponsor and USARS as determined by the USARS Executive Committee.

GR3.04 *Acts Causing Restriction, Discipline, Suspension, and Eligibility to Compete*

- GR3.04.01 Class I members who have participated in international roller skating activities when they knew or should have known that such activities are not sanctioned by USARS are subject to discipline. Prospective applicants for Class I status who have participated in international roller skating activities when they knew or should have known that such activities were not sanctioned by USARS are ineligible for Class I membership. Prospective applicants for a USARS protected competition card (2.01.02) who have participated in international roller skating activities when they knew or should have known that such activities were not sanctioned by USARS are subject to ineligibility for protected competitions.

- GR3.04.02 Class I members who resign membership in USARS shall be ineligible for Class I membership privileges for the remainder of the competitive season, and for all USARS activities except protected competitions.

- GR3.04.03 Class I members who participate in USARS sanctioned competitions, including those offering “Novice, B, or C events” or other named beginner events, but who based upon USARS records appear to be ineligible for such participation under the rules, upon discovery, shall be summarily suspended from *competitive* status for a period of one year, by order of the Executive Director of USARS; provided, however, that the affected member shall be entitled to immediate reinstatement of *competitive* status if he or she can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, that the order of suspension resulted from a mistake of fact, or a mistake in the interpretation or application of appropriate USARS rules; and, further provided, that no other cause for suspension under this section is shown to exist.

- GR3.04.04 Class I members who fail to abide by the Code of Conduct or otherwise behave in a manner inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws and General Rules of USARS or the statutes and regulations of FIRS are subject to discipline.

- GR3.04.05 Discipline as used in General Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, shall mean: verbal or written reprimand, probation (with or without conditions); suspension (with or without conditions) for a definite period of time, not to exceed two (2) years; or expulsion from membership. Suspension shall be presumed to mean ineligibility to participate in any organizational or competitive activities unless otherwise specified, except that ineligibility to participate in protected competitions must be specified in the disciplinary decision. Any protected competitions, including training trips, camps, or trials for which a person is ineligible as a result of a suspension or expulsion must be specified in the decision of the Committee. Discipline of a Class I member as a result of the violation of the Rules of Status may include the loss of *competitive* status and eligibility to participate in USARS sanctioned competition, including protected competitions. Discipline of the holder of a protected competition card may include suspension of his or her eligibility to participate in protected competitions.

GR3.04.06 Any Class I member who is suspended from *competitive* status shall be suspended from all Class I membership privileges during such suspension.

GR3.05 Enforcement of Competitive Status Rules

GR3.05.01 The enforcement of *competitive* status rules shall be governed by the rule defining discipline; by the rule defining the authority of the Membership Eligibility Committee; and by the rule governing appeals to the USARS Executive Committee.

GR3.06 Policies Regarding Financial Support of Roller Skating

GR3.06.01 USARS does not and shall not assume any financial responsibility or liability in the event any sponsor fails to fulfill his, her or its agreements to sponsor a club or skater. No action or statement of USARS now or hereafter shall be construed as constituting a guarantee, warranty or endorsement of any products provided by a sponsor or contributor.

GR3.06.02 Sponsorship Funds: The USARS will establish sponsorship funds for the purpose of escrowing funds earned by a skater for scholarship, sponsorship appearances in television or movie productions, or in appearances of another nature, provided a contractual agreement among the USARS, the *USARS members* and the party responsible for the appearance has been executed in advance. The *USARS member(s)* is able to use funds as by submitting documentation of the expense. No administrative fee will be retained by USARS. Note: Educational Trust Funds currently held on behalf of skaters shall continue to be maintained until the skater reaches college age as per their certificates of agreement.

GR3.06.03 Items Which May Be Compensated

(a) The following items may be reimbursed at cost:

1. sports clothing, including uniforms or costumes and warm-up suits;
2. sports equipment, including skates, wheels and spare parts, and rink rentals; protective equipment for hockey and speed skaters;
3. travel expenses from and return to place of residence; plus room and board during competitions and training camps or training trips sponsored or sanctioned by a bona fide sport organization, including USARS and the United States Olympic Committee;
4. medical care, physiotherapy and preventive health treatment;
5. education, including tuition, books and fees, at any accredited public or private education institution;
6. training, including coaching fees;
7. competitive club dues and entry fees.

(b) In addition, while attending a competition, training camp or training trip as described above, a roller skater may receive a daily allowance over and above the cost of housing.

(c) USARS skaters may receive compensation in addition to travel and housing expenses for non-competitive appearances, clinics and exhibitions.

GR3.06.04 Logo Identification on Skater Uniforms/Costumes

(a) Sponsorship advertisements and/or logos appearing on competitive uniforms or costumes of athletes engaged in skating or training in the venue of USARS sanctioned competitions shall be governed by the following rules:

(b) World Team Championship Uniforms: USARS reserves to itself the right to restrict the use of all logos on World Championship Team uniforms in compliance with FIRS rules. A member of a World Championship Team must abide by USARS requirements concerning wearing of advertisements and/or logos on World Team costumes or uniforms should USARS establish a National Team sponsor. If there is a conflict between the USARS sponsor and contracts with individual members of World Teams, USARS rights shall take precedent. Under no circumstances will an individual place an advertisement or logo on a World Team uniform, before, during or after a World Championship, without the written permission to do so from USARS Headquarters. World Championship uniforms are furnished by USARS and remain the property of USARS, and may be recalled at any time. In any roller skating competition only athletes who are members or who have been members of USA World Teams may wear the official USARS World Team uniform. In Regional or National Championships, the World Team uniform may not be worn.

(c) Wearing of an unlicensed sponsorship logo during competitive events (includes warm-ups) is prohibited. The first violation shall result in an automatic 60-day suspension of competitive status, the second such violation is a 90-day suspension. An automatic one-year suspension is established for any further infractions of the sponsorship logo rules. The Executive Director upon evidence of a rule violation shall impose these penalties. Penalized skaters shall have the right to appeal to the Membership Eligibility Committee if they can establish that the evidence submitted is incorrect.

(d) No person may display on competitive costumes or uniforms, manufacturer's logos that are not registered with USARS under the General Rules. Competitors may wear sports clothing and equipment in competitions, including PIRS races, bearing names of the manufacturer and their logos without these being registered as USARS sponsors only under the following conditions: The name or trademark on the clothing can appear a maximum of four (4) times on the uniform and be no larger than 50mm high and 75mm wide (2"x3"). Manufacturers' logos and names can appear on equipment such as skates, helmets and hockey sticks, without restriction to size. Clothing markings that do not meet this regulation must be removed or the garment manufacturer must register as a National sponsor.

GR3.06.05 Athlete/Team Sponsorship Fees: Approved Annual Athlete/Team Sponsorship fees for competitive events are based upon the effective range and importance of such advertising within the community of roller-skating.

(a) Two categories of influence are established:

1. Local businesses or corporations whose operations are confined to a single city or state - \$100 annual USARS registration fee.

2. Multi-State or National businesses or corporations and skate equipment manufacturers and suppliers - \$1,000 annual USARS registration fee.

- (b) Once an athlete/team sponsor is registered with USARS, the number of individuals that the athlete/team sponsor may wish to endorse is without limitation. USARS will not be party to such negotiations, the financial terms of these agreements being between the skater and the sponsor. USARS athlete/team sponsorship licenses are renewable each calendar year on January 1.
- (c) Restriction on Print or Electronic Media Advertising - All competitors, including but not limited to current and immediate past National and World Champions, wishing to continue to maintain eligibility to compete in USARS sanctioned competitions, may not have their image or name used in paid print or electronic advertisements without specific permission granted in writing from USARS. The contractual terms of such media ads must be satisfactory to skater, sponsor and USARS.
- (d) For sanctioned competitions, USARS restricts the use of the public address system and the program/schedule identification of speed teams and/or individual race contestants to that of the skater's USARS club or that person's given name. Speed skaters may not be identified by sponsoring teams or other such commercial involvements in the announcements of speed skating action, during award ceremonies or on printed program rosters. This does not restrict competitors from appearing in commercial ads placed in meet programs by USARS registered athlete/team sponsors, subject to section (c) above.
- (e) National USARS registered athlete/team sponsors have the right to use the images of USARS champions for both print and electronic advertisement, provided they also receive the individual skater's permission.

GR3.06.06 Sponsorship Without Product/Company Identification

- (a) Skaters may continue to solicit sponsors that do not hold a license with USARS if these sponsors do not seek product identification with the skater. In other words, should any entity wish to support a skater or team without being identified on the competitive uniform or during awards ceremonies or in print and media advertising, there is no need to register such sponsorship with USARS, and the funds can be provided directly to the sponsored skater.
- (b) Should the sponsoring party seek to have their contribution to the individual skater channeled through a charitable institution for tax purposes, USARS will accept custody of these funds under conditions acceptable to the Internal Revenue Service and redistribute these funds to the athlete on a designated sport expense basis as identified in GR3.06.02. No administration fee will be deducted.

GR3.06.07 A current list of USARS-approved athlete/team sponsors will be sent to the meet host of each sanctioned contest within seven days of the start of the contest and is available on the USA Roller Sports website.

GR3.06.08 Tax Aspects - USARS is classified as a charitable corporation and contributions to it by individuals or businesses are deductible as charitable contributions. Contributions by business entities as private sponsors, cooperative sponsors or business contributors may qualify, in full or in part, as a business expense deduction. However, USARS makes no representation in this regard and does not purport to offer tax advice. Any business interested in being a private sponsor, cooperative sponsor or business contributor should obtain advice from its own tax consultant. Determinations of this kind often need to be made on a case-by-case basis. Athletes receiving support under any program outlined in Rule 3.06 may be subject to state or federal income tax liability, and should consult with a competent tax advisor.

GR3.06.09 USARS does not assert jurisdiction over any matter of private contract between a coach and a competitor.

GR4.00 MANAGEMENT OF SANCTIONED USARS ACTIVITIES

GR4.01 General

GR4.01.01 All sanctioned USARS activities consisting of club contests, interclub contests, state championships, regional championships, national championships and protected competitions shall be under the control of a meet director who, except as otherwise provided in these rules, shall apply, enforce and interpret USARS rules and regulations and who shall have the responsibility and authority to make decisions governing the activity, participants and spectators. Certified Meet Directors are required for all regional championships, national championships and protected competitions. For figure skating there are two classes of USARS Meet Directors Certification. They are (A) Invitational, State, Regional, National and Protected Championships and (B) League and Interclub Contests.

GR4.01.02 The meet director shall be responsible for giving adequate advance notice of the activity to interested and qualified participants, for supervising the registration process and for insuring that an adequate number of qualified assistants, referees, judges and other officials are present. The meet director shall coordinate and supervise the work of all other meet officials. At all qualifying meets the Certified Meet Director shall be responsible for checking commissions of all officials before they are used.

GR4.01.03 Meet Directors Certification courses are conducted at the USARS National Championships, USARS coaches' conferences and via mail testing. There are separate certification courses for Figure, Speed and Hockey Meet Directors. Certification is valid for a one to three-year period, providing USARS does not receive verified complaints on the Meet Director that warrants action by the USARS Board of Directors and that the Meet Director maintains USARS membership. To be eligible to participate in a Meet Director Certification course, an applicant must:

- (a) Be a current USARS member
- (b) Be a minimum of 25 years of age
- (c) Have some experience in conducting USARS sanctioned meets
- (d) Obtain approval from the appropriate technical committee (Figure, Speed or Hockey)
- (e) Include a list of their activities as a contest official for the past three years

GR4.02 Selection of Meet Director and Officials

- GR4.02.01 The meet director for shows, exhibitions and club contests shall be the president of the organization applying for the sanction or the person designated in writing by the president. The meet director shall have authority to appoint such additional qualified officials as are necessary under the rules or otherwise desirable for the conduct of the contest.
- GR4.02.02 The meet director for interclub contests and such additional qualified officials as are necessary under the rules and, in cooperation with host club, such other assistants and qualified officials as may be desirable for the conduct of the contest shall be selected by the league officers. In the absence of a league or its failure to act, the officers of the state association may make the appointments. In the absence of a state association or its failure to act, directors of the regional association shall make the appointments.
- 4.02.03 The meet director and other qualified officials for a qualifying or regional championships shall be selected by the officers of the regional association.
- 4.02.04 The meet director and other qualified officials for the USARS National Championships and for protected competitions not otherwise specified shall be selected by the USARS Board of Directors.

GR4.03 Safety and Health

- GR4.03.01 The meet director shall inspect the activity site prior to the beginning of the activity to determine that there has been reasonable compliance with all USARS safety standards. Should safety hazards be found to exist, the meet director shall require these hazards to be corrected before allowing the activity to begin. The meet director shall be responsible for enforcing all USARS safety standards during the activity. Equipment required for safety under USARS General Rules must be worn at all practices and competitions, otherwise USARS accident/medical insurance is void.
- GR4.03.02 The meet director shall be responsible for providing proper medical supervision for the *competitive* roller skaters.
- GR4.03.03 All skaters who seek to enter USARS competitions wearing casts that cover an injury will be subject to the following considerations:
- Soft casts usually present no problem.
 - If a hard cast is required, it must be covered by a padded wrapping (such as an Ace bandage).
 - A doctor's release must be obtained and available to meet officials.
 - If in the person's normal skating motion the hard cast presents a hazard to other skaters, it will be considered interference and the skater will be disqualified.
 - Metal finger splints should be covered.
 - It is virtually impossible, sight unseen, to tell which casts will present a hazard until that skater is actually involved in competition. The meet director may consult with appropriate medical personnel and event officials to determine whether or not the skater shall be permitted to skate in competition, however, the meet director will make the ultimate decision. Contest safety and the skater's rehabilitation should be considered paramount.

GR4.04 Rules Enforcement

- GR4.04.01 The meet director shall be responsible for enforcing the rules of *competitive* status and the *Competitive* Code of Conduct at the activity. Any alleged violation of the *Competitive* Code of Conduct by a skater or other USARS member occurring during travel to, attendance at, or participation in a USARS sanctioned activity shall be reported to the meet director and treated as a disciplinary protest.
- GR4.04.02 The meet director shall be responsible for applying the rules of eligibility, which may be applicable to the activity. In the case of shows, exhibitions, club contests and interclub contests, the meet director also shall be responsible for interpreting and applying any local rules of eligibility.
- GR4.04.03 The meet director shall be responsible for verifying that all competitors possess a current USARS competitive *membership* card in the appropriate federation. Those competitors not possessing a valid card shall not be eligible to skate.
- GR4.04.04 The meet director shall be responsible for seeing that all records established during the competition, if any, are validated.

GR4.05 Unruly Persons

- GR4.05.01 The meet director shall have the authority to remove from the skating area any person who is unruly, disruptive or who otherwise is disturbing to the running of the activity, whether or not the person is a USARS member.
- GR4.05.02 The meet director, in cooperation with or with the consent of the facility manager, shall have the authority to remove from the facility where the activity is being held, any person who is unruly, disruptive, or otherwise disturbing to the running of the activity, whether or not the person is a USARS member.

GR4.06 Rules Committee

- GR4.06.01 The meet director, in the case of club contests and interclub contests, may appoint and in the case of state, regional and national championships and protected competitions, shall appoint a rules committee consisting of from three to five USARS members, whose duty it shall be to aid the meet director in the investigation of disciplinary protests and alleged violations of the *Competitive* Code of Conduct and to advise and consult with the meet director regarding the proper interpretation and application of USARS rules and regulations.

GR4.07 Organizational Structure

- GR4.07.01 The organizational chart for contests and championships shall be as follows:
Club, league, state or regional association rules must be in conformity with these USARS By-Laws and General Rules. Individuals or clubs seeking redress under USARS rules must follow due process through each of the above organizational structures of which they are a member. Any such complaint must be made in writing with a copy being sent to the USARS National Headquarters.
- GR4.07.02 In the case of regional or national championships involving only one *sport*, or in the case of club and interclub contests involving one or more *sports*, the meet director also may serve as an official in charge.

GR4.08 Limits of Authority

GR4.08.01 No official including the meet director shall have the authority to abrogate the prescribed duties of other contest or championship officials, nor may he change the decision of any official made within the limits of such official's specific authority.

GR4.09 Assistant Directors

GR4.09.01 The meet director may delegate to assistant meet directors such duties and authority as the director deems desirable, except that the director's authority to disqualify a skater from events cannot be delegated.

GR4.10 Official in Charge

GR4.10.01 The official in charge of an event of the respective federations shall be the chief referee. The duties of the official in charge and other officials shall be as described in the rules affecting their respective federations. The official in charge shall have the authority to rule on any competitive protest. A competitive protest is a written complaint, which sets forth the basis upon which the complainant reasonably believes that a competitor has violated the competitive or technical requirements of an event. The Board of Directors specifically affirms the authority of an official in charge of an event, whatever the *sport*, to remove or disqualify competitors who violate the rules and regulations immediately before, after, or during the running of the event. Should the reasons for removal or disqualification be sufficiently grave, in the opinion of the official in charge of the event, to possibly require removal or disqualification from other events during the activity, the matter shall be referred to the meet director as a disciplinary protest.

GR5.00 USARS SKATING CLUBS

GR5.01 Club Charter

GR5.01.01 USARS club charters shall cover designated USARS activities at a given address. Separate club registration must be maintained for each skating *sport*. The establishment of more than one skating club per *sport* within any given roller sports facility is prohibited. The only exception would be at the discretion of the Executive Director, to temporarily double up with an already established club from another facility if that facility were closed for any reason after April 1st of a skating season. Said club would not be renewed for the next season without merging with the existing club or moving to another facility. Multiple club charters per *sport* are allowed for public facilities such as school tracks, parks, etc.

GR5.01.01a Multiple clubs per *sport* are allowed for the 2010 season in roller sports facilities. It is understood that this rule is in conflict with and shall supersede GR5.01.01 above for the 2010 membership year.

GR5.01.02 Price of all club charters shall be determined by the USARS Board of Directors and are valid from January 1st through December 31st.

GR5.01.03 A club charter shall be issued for sport, not recreational or social roller skating activities.

GR5.01.04 The club must be located in a facility, which is suitable to pursue the sport aspects of competitive roller-skating.

GR5.01.05 Sufficient time must be available to the club at that location in order for members to develop and participate in the sport of competitive roller-skating.

GR5.01.06 A USARS club charter may not be transferred or otherwise relocated without permission from the USARS Board of Directors.

GR5.01.07 All members and officers of the USARS clubs must maintain individual membership in the USARS. In order for a rink operator or manager to serve as an officer in the club, he/she must hold a USARS non-competitive card. Individuals holding a USARS registered or certified coach's card may use this membership for the purpose of registering as a club officer in any sport, in the same fashion as the non-competitive registration card.

GR5.01.08 USARS club constitutions must conform to the minimum standards as set forth in the USARS By-Laws

GR5.01.09 Application for USARS club charter must designate a minimum of two officers, which cannot be the same person. All club officers must hold a current USARS individual membership card before any competitive cards may be processed in the name of that club. Anyone designated on the club charter, as exercising authority or control of club activities such as sanction applications, membership releases, etc., must be a current USARS member. A non-competitive card or coach's membership may be used for registering as an officer in more than one club. Club officers holding a competitor's card must have one that is appropriate and affiliated to the *sport* and club represented. To be entitled to full club privileges, a USARS club must have a minimum of five (5) registered qualified *USARS* memberships, including officers. Clubs with a membership below this number are to be considered probationary and are not entitled to full voting privileges for leagues, associations or national conventions.

GR5.01.10 New applications for USARS club charters must be approved by the USARS Board of Directors or its designated authority.

GR5.01.11 A club name registered the previous year will stay with that club upon renewal, and not be reissued to the first club calling for that name at the start of a new season. Once a club name is vacated by not being renewed for an entire season, that club name can be picked up by any valid club seeking to revive its usage. In any dispute over the title of a skating club, the State or Regional Association's officers or Executive Committee will have the authority from USARS to decide such controversies.

GR5.01.12 Roller skating clubs, skaters, and coaches located in Canada, which are members in good standing and with the permission of the Canadian Roller Sports Federation, may apply for USARS membership. Regional association membership and regional championship participation will be determined by location, with the club joining the closest region geographically.

GR5.02 Club Representation

GR5.02.01 Club representation for competitive purposes shall be established when a *membership* card is applied for during each membership season (January 1st through December 31st) and terminates December 31st of that same season.

GR5.02.02 When a *membership* card is applied for, the application must designate the club representation of the skater or the skater's status as being unattached.

GR5.02.03 A skater must represent the club named on the *membership* card, or if unattached, a club cannot be represented. *Membership* card applications require the signature of the club president or another designated club officer to verify club affiliation.

GR5.02.04 Registration with one federation does not affect the skater's club affiliation or representation with any other federation. Separate club representation must be maintained for the purpose of competition in all three federations.
(SEE SPECIFIC **SPORT** RULES FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF CLUB REPRESENTATION)

GR5.03 Individual Registrations

GR5.03.01 Every **competitor** intending to enter a USARS sanctioned roller skating competition must apply for and obtain a USARS **membership** competitor's card. This card shall be in the skater's possession at all USARS sanctioned competitions. **Membership** card applications require the signature of the club president or another designated club officer to verify club affiliation.

GR5.03.02 Competitors without USARS club affiliation may obtain a **membership** card through either a cooperating USARS club or from USARS National Headquarters.

GR5.03.03 A non-competitive registration card is required for USARS judges, officials and club officers who are not eligible for competitive registration unless the individual is registered as a USARS coach.

GR5.03.04 Anyone who purchases a USARS competitors card for any purpose, including skating in the Gold Skate Classic, State Games, as a requirement of club membership, or for other reasons, shall not begin their eligibility cycle in the "Novice, B or C" program. Each **sport** has separate limitations on "Novice, B, and C" eligibility. See appropriate ruling in the **Sport** Specific Section.

GR5.03.05 USARS offers a \$20 single event registration, which is good for the indoor or outdoor contest for which it is issued. This contest may be one to three days in length. Full USARS athlete injury insurance is included, covering competitive events within the venue only. Payment for cards used and return of those unused, is required within five days following the end of the event, in conformity with USARS General Rules governing sanction fees and report of the contest.

Administrative Procedures for Use of Single Event Registrations: The primary purpose for the creation of the Single Event Registration is to facilitate the involvement of unregistered skaters into USARS competitions who are new to USA Roller Sports competitions or who have not completed a renewal of their competitor memberships for a new season and cannot produce a current USA Roller Sports competitor's card that is issued for purposes of verified membership. In such instance, a renewing competitor must purchase a Single Event membership, sign the waiver, and this can be used to prove membership until the proper **sport** credential is in his or her possession. At the same time this will offer them medical and liability coverage as registered members under USARS insurance contracts. There is also an opportunity to use this registration format to introduce unregistered hockey clubs into USARS programs. The USARS Board of Directors did not intend to have anyone use Single Event Registrations to by-pass long-standing regulations governing club affiliation. For this reason, the following restrictions apply to the administration of Single Event Registrations:

1. Usage by someone new to USARS Competitions - A person who has never held a full season USARS membership card may enter a sanctioned competition by using a Single Event Registration and indicate on it a club affiliation or unattached status without jeopardizing any future club status should the individual later wish to enroll in USARS as a full season participant. No transfer or transfer fee is required. This freedom of movement is extended to skaters new to USARS competitions so that the skater may initially acquire an understanding of USARS rules and regulations and at the same time maintain flexibility for establishing a lasting club relationship.

2. Usage not limited - There is no limit to the number of Single Event Registrations a new competitor may purchase for non-qualifying USARS sanctioned competition. Single Event Registrations cannot be used to enter qualifying championships.

3. A Single Event Registration cannot be used to circumvent USARS club affiliation rules.

Remember: USARS competitors may skate only in USARS sanctioned meets or those provided Participation Permit status. Such contests will be provided a certificate of authorization. Ask to see the sanction. If skaters enter a contest (sanctioned or not) under an assumed name, they are subject to immediate suspension.

GR5.03.06 Protected competition cards are available for certain individuals who do not wish to join USARS, but who seek to qualify for the World Championships, which are defined as protected competitions. Skaters will be charged a fee which includes an administrative fee for a "protected competition" card, which must be purchased from USARS National Headquarters up to the registration deadline of that official qualifying championships.

GR5.03.07 Applicants for an competitor's card shall agree to the following clause:

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND/OR PARENTAL CONSENT AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the USA ROLLER SPORTS (USARS) sports programs and related events for the current skating season, the undersigned agrees:

1. I, the undersigned, do affirm the registration information above is correct and truthful and hereby make application to USARS for registration with which to identify myself at sanctioned competitions, exhibitions and other appropriate occasions. I further agree to abide by the rules and regulations of USARS during the terms of this registration and agree to observe the Code of Conduct, in spirit as well as in letter, upholding the high ethics of roller sports.

2. I understand dangers may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in these activities. I understand the nature of USARS activities and believe that I (or my minor child) am/are qualified and physically fit to participate in roller skating competitions and practices. I further acknowledge that I am aware that the activity will be conducted in facilities open to the public. As a skater, parent or legal guardian, I further agree and warrant that prior to participating in any event I will inspect the facilities to be used and if believing conditions to be unsafe, I will immediately advise my coach or the meet director of this condition and refuse to participate unless corrected.

3. I fully understand that USARS activities involve risks and dangers of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death, and economic losses which might result not only from a skater's actions, inactions or negligence, but the action, inaction, or negligence of others, the rules of competition, or the condition of the premises or any equipment in use. I fully accept and assume all such risks and responsibilities for losses and costs and damages incurred as a result of my participation in USARS activities or arising out of my traveling to or returning from such activities or practice sessions.
4. I hereby release, discharge, covenant not to sue, and agree to hold harmless USARS, their administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and where applicable, owners and lessors of premises and their employees on which the activity takes place, from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages caused or alleged to be caused in whole or part by their negligence. I further agree that if a claim is made against any of the releases named above, despite this release, I, AND THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNING ON BEHALF OF A MINOR, AGREE TO INDEMNIFY, SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASES FROM ANY LITIGATION EXPENSES, ATTORNEY'S FEES, LOSS, LIABILITY, DAMAGE, OR ANY COSTS INCURRED AS A RESULT OF ANY SUCH CLAIM.

I have read this agreement and fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and have signed it freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature and intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by the law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid that the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect. We acknowledge our responsibility to deliver this membership application to USARS Headquarters before insurance benefits associated with this membership are affected.

GR5.03.08 Code of Conduct

It shall be the responsibility of each USARS member to be thoroughly familiar with the Code of Conduct and all other rules and regulations of USARS that may apply to him or her; to observe them in spirit as well as in letter; and to strive continuously to uphold the high ideals of competitive roller sports. USARS members shall demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethical behavior and shall be courteous in word and demeanor to competitors, officials, and spectators while participating in or attending sanctioned roller skating competitions. When training for, traveling to or from, or attending or participating in USARS sanctioned activities, all persons, whether at the meet site or not, shall conduct themselves with decorum and in accordance with the rules of the host facilities and the laws of the jurisdiction in which they are located.

GR5.03.09 FEES: Individual federation registrations vary. All registrations expire December 31, annually. An administrative fee of \$25 must also accompany the \$45 fee for a "protected competition card" for a total of \$70.00.

GR5.03.10 A permanent USARS membership card must be in the possession of members when that individual arrives for roller skating programs at the Olympic Training Center. Without a permanent USARS membership card in their possession, they must purchase one on site from the clinic leader who is authorized to serve on behalf of the national office as registrar for the purposes of the insurance policy. In the case of minors, the parents are required to fax authorization to the clinic leader for purchase of a **membership** card and acceptance of the waiver of liability prior to participation by the skater in any USARS program at the OTC. This process verifies insurance, age, identity and parental responsibility in the case of minors.

GR5.03.11 All competitors are subject to random drug testing at USARS sanctioned competitions.

GR5.04 Transfer of Club/Unattached Affiliation - Fees are not refundable.

GR5.04.01 Any skater filing for a transfer of club/unattached representation, regardless of the reason, may represent the new club in competition when the reissued card is in his/her possession or appears on the USARS website. The date of notification is established at USARS National Headquarters of intention to transfer by either USPS postmark, fax or transmittal date on any other source of express or priority delivery service. USARS will be obligated to process transfers within two working days after receipt from applicant of all required fees and documents.

GR5.04.02 To transfer club/unattached representation to a new club, once club representation has been established during a membership year within a particular **sport**, a skater must:

- (a) return the plastic identification card to the USARS National Headquarters;
- (b) submit a signed release from the skating club where club affiliation had been previously registered;
- (c) submit a letter of acceptance from the new club to be joined, and;
- (d) remit a transfer of club registration fee of \$20. (UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL A NEW APPLICATION BE MADE FOR A SECOND COMPETITOR CARD REGISTRATION NUMBER IN THE SAME **SPORT**.)

GR5.04.03 The Executive Director shall hear appeals of skaters unable to obtain a club release, and who wish to transfer to another club for any of the following reasons:

- (a) loss of club coach without a Registered or Certified Coach replacement;
- (b) drastic changes in the club's practice hours or fees after the season has started;
- (c) medical considerations;
- (d) other circumstances of similar consequence.

NOTE: There are individuals who join a club in a region other than that of their established place of residence for the purpose of creating a competitive pairs, dance or relay partnership. Should this partnership be dissolved and there exists no further reason to continue competing in a region where they are not a resident, the skater may apply in writing to the USARS Executive Director for permission to return to the region of their residence. Should the Executive Director deny such a transfer, an appeal may be made to the Membership Eligibility Committee. This appeal should be filed in writing with appropriate documentation to the USARS National Headquarters. The standard transfer materials and fees must accompany said appeals.

GR5.04.04 In the event a skater is released from a skating club against his wishes during the skating season and subject to verification of the circumstances of the dismissal by the USARS National Headquarters, he becomes eligible to re-affiliate with a new club by submitting:

- (a) previous identification card to the USARS National Headquarters;
- (b) letter of acceptance from the new club to be joined;
- (c) a statement regarding the dismissal, and;
- (d) the appropriate transfer fee.

Club transfer will become effective immediately upon approval by USARS National Headquarters.

- GR5.04.05 No skater will be permitted to make more than two changes in representation during a membership year within a specific federation, without the written permission of USARS. Unattached status shall be considered as an affiliation.
- GR5.04.06 Ordinary requests for transfer of competitor representation will not be accepted by the USARS, which are received less than 30 days prior to the regional deadline. Applicants who seek a waiver of the deadline, except skaters affected by 5.04.05 above, must:
- (a) submit a valid release from the club of record;
 - (b) detail in writing the reasons why such permission should be granted;
 - (c) submit a letter of acceptance from the intended new club, and;
 - (d) remit a transfer registration fee of \$20.00. In the absence of a release and/or letter of acceptance, a club transfer will not be permitted, and the *competitor* will be required to skate unattached.
- GR5.04.07 Competitor cards issued to represent a particular skating club are void should the holder no longer represent that club in competition. Skaters, whose affiliation with a club is terminated for any reason, must apply for new club affiliation or, for unattached status through normal transfer procedures, in order to remain eligible for USARS competitions.
- GR5.04.08 After purchasing a USARS membership card, a change that moves a competitor to another state or regional championship must involve a bona fide change of residence and not be made solely for the purposes of competitive advantage. This rule also applies to unattached skaters.
- GR5.04.09 Nothing in these rules shall be construed to deprive any competitor the right to skate unattached at any time during the skating season, provided such skater is so registered within the USARS federation affected.
- GR5.04.10 It is advised that all written notices mentioned in the foregoing shall be made in triplicate and the original be sent to USARS Headquarters, the date of the postmark being the determining date for the origination of the notice. A copy of the notice should be filed with the club affected and the skater should retain a copy.
- GR5.04.11 Non-competitive Transfers: In the event a club officer holding a non-competitive USARS registration card desires a transfer to another club, he must obtain, for his and the club's protection, a release from the club. In addition, it is advised that a club treasurer who wishes a transfer should obtain from the club a statement relieving him or her from any future financial obligation. There will be no fee for non-competitive transfers as in the case with competitive transfers. USARS members may hold office simultaneously in more than one USARS club, but may not competitively represent more than one club in a given federation during the same competitive season, without executing a transfer of competitive representation.
- GR5.04.12 Any competitor wishing to transfer club affiliation before a qualifying meet must have the transfer request with the appropriate signatures and fees postmarked NO LATER THAN 30-days prior to the deadline for entry into the qualifying meet. (If an extension of the entry deadline is requested, then the transfer request must be made in accordance with the new deadline.) No transfers will be accepted once the deadline has passed.

GR5.05 Officers' Responsibilities

- GR5.05.01 The term "officers," as used in this rule shall mean the officers of Class IV USARS members, such as clubs, leagues, state and regional associations.
- GR5.05.02 Each officer shall be responsible to properly execute his or her duties according to USARS General Rules. No officer shall intentionally or negligently cause another USARS member to be in violation of USARS General Rules.
- GR5.05.03 Any officer who is found to have violated this rule is subject to discipline.

GR5.06 Organizational Memberships - Class IIIB

Membership is established for individual companies or corporations, whose interest in the sport of roller-skating is sufficient to qualify them for membership. Annual fee is \$100.

GR6.00 USARS SANCTIONS AND PERMITS

GR6.01 Issuance of Sanctions

- GR6.01.01 The USARS reserves to itself the privilege of granting permission in writing for competitions, contests, shows, exhibitions, carnivals, revues, etc., which shall involve any of its members. These written permissions shall be known as sanctions and are obtained by making application in writing to the USARS Headquarters. In the interest of developing participation throughout the United States and being responsible to the persons and sports organizations it represents, the sanctioning policy of USARS for athletic competition in roller sports shall be as set forth below.
- GR6.01.02 USARS is authorized to issue two kinds of sanctions: a member sanction and a non-member sanction.
- (a) A member sanction will be issued to a USARS chartered club, league or association. Only a person holding a USARS membership or single event card may participate as a competitor, meet director, or official in a member-sanctioned event. When available and offered by USARS, accident insurance and participant liability insurance coverage will be available in member-sanctioned events for no additional cost.
 - (b) Non-member sanctions shall be available to any qualified applicant or sponsor, whether or not a USARS chartered club, league or association. Any person meeting the requirement of the applicant or sponsor may participate as a competitor, meet director or official in a non-member sanctioned event. When available and offered by USARS, participant liability insurance coverage will be included only for an additional fee, and only when all competitors have a USARS membership or a single event registration.

- (c) The USARS participant liability coverage is not available when any competitors do not have an annual membership or single event registration. USARS shall have no responsibility for supervising or enforcing sanction rules at a non-member sanctioned event once the applicant has made a satisfactory showing that it qualifies for the sanction in accordance with the General Rules.
- (d) The failure of any applicant or sponsor of a membership or non-membership sanctioned event to fulfill their responsibility under the eligibility rules for issuing sanctions may be grounds for denying or imposing reasonable and appropriate conditions on the issuance of future sanctions.

GR6.01.03 MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER SANCTIONS

- (a) Written application for a member or non-member competition sanction must be filed with the USARS National Headquarters at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of competition. In the case of a USARS state or regional championship, application must be filed so that the USARS Board of Directors may act upon the sanction at its regular meetings. Sanction applications are available upon request from USARS. Members may not apply for or be issued Non-Member Event Sanctions.
- (b) The applicant must provide the following information on the application: date and site of competition; name and address of sponsor, or in the case the sponsor is a USARS club, the club identification number; entry fees; size of skating surface; geographical area covered by sanctioned meet; kinds and values of awards, if any; estimate of potential entry; type of meet; signature of sponsor, or in the case of a member sanction, the signatures of host club officers, site owner/operator and the chairman of the USARS state or regional association.
- (c) Sanction applicants must agree to provide medical supervision, which in the case of a member sanction shall mean the agreement to follow USARS medical supervision guidelines as stated in GR6.02.04.
- (d) The sanction holder must provide USARS with a hold-harmless agreement. Furthermore, member or non-member roller skating contests will be required to carry at least \$1,000,000 in general liability insurance for the protection and safety of the contestants and USARS. This amount must be secured from a reputable insurance company and may be increased accordingly, if in the judgment of the Executive Director, the competition site or conditions appear to warrant additional insurance.

GR6.01.04 Upon the timely request of any sponsor of a USARS-sanctioned competition, USARS will publish notice of the sanctioned meet in the events section of the USARS website (www.usarollersports.org). Sponsors of USARS-sanctioned competitions will be entitled to advertise such competitions as "sanctioned by USARS".

GR6.01.05 There shall be five (5) classes of sanctions:

- (a) show and exhibition sanctions (for promotion of the sport)
- (b) intramural club contest sanctions
- (c) interclub contest sanctions
- (d) USARS championship sanctions
- (e) special event sanctions

GR6.01.06 Where a contest is open to view of spectators or open to unattached skaters; or is in any way a rink, city, county, metropolitan, district, inter-state or regional competition, it must be sanctioned under the provisions specified in these rules.

GR6.01.07 USARS will not sanction any contest-figure, speed or hockey-that bills itself as a "United States," "American," or "National" Championships of any type unless said meet is conducted or assigned by USARS itself.

GR6.01.08 Sport organizations that wish to hold sanctioned, international competitions must comply with the following requirements for a sanction:

- (a) They must pay to USARS a sanction fee set by the USARS Board of Directors.
- (b) They must demonstrate that:
 1. appropriate measures have been taken to protect the status of skaters who will take part in the competition and to protect their eligibility to compete in athletic competition;
 2. appropriate provisions have been made for validation of records, which may be established during the competition;
 3. due regard has been given to any international athletic requirements specifically applicable to the competition;
 4. the competitions will be conducted by qualified officials;
 5. proper medical supervision will be provided for athletes who will participate in the competition; and,
 6. proper safety precautions have been taken to protect the personal welfare of the athletes and spectators at the competition.
- (c) They must submit to USARS an audited or notarized financial record of similar events, if any, conducted by the sports organization or person.
- (d) The event organizers must also comply with the sanction requirements of the appropriate international technical committee.

GR6.01.09 Violation of USARS sanction rules shall be grounds for denial of future sanctions to applicants who violate these sanction rules.

GR6.02 Applications for Competition Sanctions

GR6.02.01 Written application for a competition sanction MUST be filed with USARS Headquarters at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening date of the competition. In the case of qualifying or regional championships, application should be filed so that the Board of Directors may act upon the sanction at its regular meetings. Official sanction applications may be obtained from USARS Headquarters.

GR6.02.02 The following information is required on competition sanction applications: dates and site of competition, sponsoring club (and club identification number), entry fees, kinds and value of awards (if any), size of skating surface, geographical area covered by

sanctioned meet, estimate of potential entry, type of meet, signatures of the host club officers, signature of site owner/operator and the signature of the chairman of the state or regional USARS association.

GR6.02.03 Applications for championship sanction must designate that said competition will include all divisions and classes of competition, and must state whether such meet will be "open" or "closed;" if such championship is to be conducted in more than one rink, this must also be specified in the request for sanction.

(a) CLOSED MEETS are defined as meets wherein eligibility must be established through previous eliminations.

(b) OPEN MEETS are defined as meets wherein eligibility is not required by participation in previous qualifying competition.

GR6.02.04 Sanction applicants must agree to follow USARS medical supervision guidelines as follows:

(a) The sponsor shall plan for prompt access to qualified medical assistance and shall furnish this plan to the meet director. For example, the sponsor shall have and make available to the meet director the telephone number of a nearby emergency room or medical facility in order to alert medical personnel of apparent serious injuries.

(b) The sponsor shall plan for transportation of ill or injured persons to qualified medical assistance and shall furnish this plan to the meet director. For example, the sponsor shall have and make available to the meet director the telephone number of a nearby ambulance service.

(c) Only those who are properly trained and qualified to render first aid should administer first aid to an apparently seriously ill or injured person. This guideline is not intended to prevent the furnishing of customary assistance for minor injuries, which is reasonable under the circumstances, such as providing band-aids for small cuts.

(d) Only those who are properly trained in emergency transportation or under the direction of trained medical personnel should attempt to move or transport a person with apparently serious injuries to the neck, head, back or limbs.

(e) The sponsor shall plan for such other medical supervision as may be reasonable under the circumstances and furnish this plan to the meet director.

(f) The sanction holder is required to provide meet officials with an adequate supply of surgical gloves, swabs, and other medical supplies necessary for treating and isolating bleeding injuries. These supplies are available in kits from the USARS National Headquarters.

GR6.03 Applications for Show and Exhibition Sanctions

GR6.03.01 Written application for an exhibition sanction shall be filed with USARS National Headquarters prior to the show or exhibition.

GR6.03.02 The application for a show or exhibition sanction shall include the date and site of the exhibition, sponsoring or applicant organization's name (if applicable), a brief description of the exhibition to be skated, names and card numbers (and club registration, if applicable) of the skaters, and an assurance that said show or exhibition will be conducted within the rules of *competitive* status of this Confederation.

GR6.04 Applications for Special Event Sanctions

GR6.04.01 Written application for a special event sanction shall be submitted to USARS National Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to the event and shall include the following: if a charity event, the name of the charity or civic group to benefit from the funds raised, name of USARS club which co-sponsors the special event, indication of whether the event will be open only to USARS members or will provide for a one-time special event USARS registration for all participants, suggested chief referee for the event (subject to USARS approval), a statement indemnifying and holding USARS harmless for any and all damages or liability.

GR6.05 Sanction Fees and Requirements

GR6.05.01 The definition of an exhibition is an event, which features a skater or group of skaters performing for an audience. A demonstration differs from an exhibition in that it involves a skater or group of skaters illustrating a skating maneuver or technique. Any person present who is familiar with the technique, figure or dance, may skate a demonstration.

GR6.05.02 No sanction or fee is required for a demonstration. A hockey contest between two clubs only is considered a practice scrimmage and no sanction or fee is required.

GR6.05.03 Exhibitions, which take place outside the rink for promotion of the sport, require a sanction, but no fee is charged.

GR6.05.04 Exhibitions within the club's home rink, performed exclusively by the club's own membership, either amateur or professional, or both, for which no special admission charge is levied, is considered a demonstration to promote club activity, and no sanction or fee is necessary.

GR6.05.05 Exhibitions or skating shows in the club's home rink for which admission is charged, require a sanction and a fee of \$5.00 per day.

GR6.05.06 Intramural club meets (competition between the members of only one club) require a sanction. The fee for intramural club sanctions is \$50.00 per day.

GR6.05.07 Inter-club, invitational, open contests and/or official qualifying and regional championships require a sanction fee. In addition, a per skater assessment fee is to be remitted to USARS National Headquarters within five (5) days after the conclusion of an Interclub, Invitational or a Regional Championship. The following is the assessment fee schedule:

a. No assessment fee for meets with a first entry fee of \$5 or under.

b. No assessment fee when combined first and second events total \$9 or less.

c. Additional event entry fees cannot exceed \$4 per event.

The applications, score sheets, contestant rosters and a copy of the contest program (if one is prepared) must be provided to USARS National Headquarters within five (5) days after the conclusion of the contest. The Board of Directors has determined that no further sanctions or credit be extended to sponsors of a contest that are delinquent in submission of contest data and funds.

GR6.05.08 (a) Official qualifying and regional championships require a sanction, a cash deposit of \$1,000 for regional championships, and a \$5.00 per skater assessment fee payable upon submission of score sheets. When a qualifying or regional championship is divided into two separate contests, but is hosted by the same firm or individual, only one cash deposit is required. Separate

sport championships will require separate sanctions and fees. Bonds are to be returned, if all is in order, no later than September 1, if requested.

- (b) The USARS National Headquarters must receive proper application forms and all bonds and fees for state and regional championships by November 1, or the cost of the sanction will double. If the forms and fees are not received by January 1, a recommendation for reassignment will come from the national office, with input from the affected regional clubs, and submitted for approval by the Board at its February meeting. The USARS Board will not require designation of an alternate meet site for regional championships. Because of past problems concerned with the alternate championships sites not having received appropriate care in selection, the Board will require a new vote of the region's clubs when the approved regional championship site must be changed for any reason.
 - (c) Management infractions of USARS regulations pertaining to qualifying championships must be penalized by a commensurate fine taken from the championship host's performance bond held by USARS.
- GR6.05.09 Multi-national contests (involving roller skaters from the United States and other countries) under the sponsorship of a USARS club will require a sanction fee of \$75.00 per day. Skaters from contiguous nations may participate in USARS-sanctioned competitions without the payment of the extra fee, after receiving permission to participate from the skaters' National Federation. The sanction applicant must also agree to pay any required international sanction fees as set by the other national federations involved and by the Federation Internationale de Roller Sports (FIRS).
- GR6.05.10 Multi-national contests organized by other recognized roller skating organizations in the United States shall make application to USARS as the National Governing Body for permission to conduct such events. The sanction will be issued subject to the following conditions
- (a) that written application is submitted to USARS National Headquarters detailing all pertinent data about the competition;
 - (b) that payment of the appropriate FIRS fees and a \$100 USARS administrative fee, and all other applicable assessments are guaranteed.
- GR6.05.11 Participation Permits shall bear an administrative fee for processing in the amount of \$50 for contest host.
- GR6.05.12 The fee for sanctions will be doubled if they are postmarked less than 30 days prior to the contest.

GR6.06 Official Scoring Forms

- GR6.06.01 USARS National Headquarters will provide a computer program for tabulating figure and speed skating competitions. Regional meet results must be promptly reported to the USARS national office according to sanction requirements, to include electronic listing of national qualifiers and supporting paperwork for applications, score sheets, protests, etc.
- GR6.06.02 A copy of all scoring sheets for a figure, speed, or hockey competition must be posted within two hours of the completion of that event in a conspicuous place, available to the public in the facility in which a USARS competition has taken place.

GR7.00 ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

GR7.01 All USARS competitors must hold a current USARS *competitive membership* card.

USARS Competitors in speed may hold individual club affiliation for Quad and Inline competition. Competitors will represent the club affiliation in division and relays and must purchase a card for both Quad and Inline if competing in both for different clubs.

GR7.02 Documentary Proof of Age

- GR7.02.01 All skaters entering a USARS contest must have filed documentary proof of age with USARS Headquarters. Hospital records, baptismal certificate, copies of drivers license and other evidence of birth date will be accepted under most circumstances. In case of controversy over an individual's true age, a certified copy (not a photocopy) of the birth certificate bearing the seal of the issuing state or municipality, full name and date of birth must be submitted to retain competitive eligibility.
- GR7.02.02 The competitive age of skaters who enter any contest during a skating season (September 1st through August 31st) in which age determines eligibility shall be decided by the age of the contestant on January 1st of that competitive season.

GR7.03 Residence

- GR7.03.01 To enter a qualifying or regional championship, the skater must be:
- (a) A member in good standing of a USARS skating club which is located within that region, or
 - (b) If skating as "unattached," the skater shall participate in that region where he is a bona fide resident, or
 - (c) Where the skater shall have resigned from or shall have been dropped from membership in a skating club, then that skater shall continue to participate within that region where he last skated as a club member for that competitive season only, unless there is a bona fide change of regional residence.
 - (d) After purchasing a USARS membership card, a change that moves a competitor to another regional championship must involve a bona fide change of residence and not be made solely for the purposes of competitive advantage.
 - (e) Residency for Minor Competitors - A transfer to another USARS competitive region during a skating season, alleging the change of residence involving a minor child competitor, must be accompanied by a change of residence by the parent or legal guardian who has custody of that child.
 - (f) An athlete's first individual membership registration in a competitive region during the current season, regardless of *sport*, establishes that region as the one that athlete will represent for the competitive season, not only for the original registration card, but for any others that may follow. Any subsequent change of region, either in that *sport* or others that may follow, must have a bona fide change of residence or otherwise follow prescribed USARS residency rules.
 - (g) There are individuals who join a club in a region other than that of their established place of residence for the purpose of creating a competitive pairs, dance or relay partnership. Should this partnership be dissolved and there exists no further reason to continue competing in a region where they are not a resident, they may apply to the USARS Executive Director

for permission to return to the region of their residence. Should the Executive Director deny such a transfer, an appeal may be made to the Membership Eligibility Committee.

- GR7.03.02 (a) To enter an event qualifying for the United States Championships a skater must be a bona fide resident of the United States or its possessions, having continuously resided in this country for six months or be a citizen of the United States. ("The residence must be the principal permanent dwelling, not a temporary dwelling.")
- (b) Alien Restriction On World Trials - Competitors must have USA citizenship to enter a qualifying figure, speed or hockey championships in an event which leads to the selection of a U.S. Olympic or Pan American Games Team, a U.S. Junior or Senior World Team, or a roller skating team designated as Team USA. Citizenship is a requirement of FIRS for National Team representation. The events thus affected include but are not limited to Junior and Senior Divisions of the National Road and Track Speed Championships; Gold Division of Hockey, both Rink and Inline Puck; Women's Rink Hockey; and all Junior World Class and Senior World Class Figure Events.
- GR7.03.03 A skater may not enter more than one sanctioned qualifying or regional USARS championship during the competitive year. (Exception: art dance and pairs teams.)
- GR7.03.04 FOREIGN ATHLETES – FIGURE ONLY
- (a) Members in good standing within a foreign federation **with or without** "World Class status" who have received written approval from their federation **will be** permitted to skate in USARS Roller Figure Skating **Qualifying Championships**.
- (b) Skaters who participate, or who have participated in the World Championships representing a foreign country must, if they wish to participate in the USARS qualifying championships, skate in an equivalent division within the branch of skating (Figures, Free Skating, Team Dance, Solo Dance, Pairs) in which they participated at the World Championships. If the skater does not, or did not participate in those branches of skating at the World Championships, he or she is eligible to participate in those branches of skating in the USARS championships according to the USARS eligibility rules.
- (c) Foreign athletes **with or without** "World Class status" may not participate in the **National Championships** in Precision and Show events, which are used to select USA representative teams for World Championships.
- (d) Foreign athletes **without** "World Class status" may compete in any USARS "A", "B", or "C" event as per their qualifications in USARS (refer to AR8.02.08).
- (e) "World Class status" for the above rules is interpreted to mean any athlete who has or is currently representing their country in the FIRS World Figure Championships.
- GR7.03.05 Once a skater is registered for a qualifying meet and has paid all fees, he may not be dropped from the roster due to a conflict with coach/trainer, or for any other reason. Neither may the skater transfer club affiliation once registration has been accepted and fees paid.
- GR7.03.06 CHANGE OF RESIDENCE - Bona fide residence shall mean the principal dwelling of the skater and not one that is maintained temporarily or otherwise with the intent of circumventing the USARS residence requirements. Evidence must be submitted and will be considered by USARS Executive Director in determining bona fide residence, such as:
ADULTS: 1. A passport, 2. A driver's license, 3. voter's registration card. 4. notarized copies of residence.
MINORS: 1. same as adults, 2. parents' or guardians' document as above, 3. certification of school enrollment. A minor's "permanent residence" must coincide with a parent or legal guardian.
- (a) Photocopies of documents may be submitted as evidence of compliance; however, a USARS official must make the originals or certified copies available upon request for inspection.
- (b) Any change of bona fide residence within ninety (90) days of the state or regional championships shall require a detailed explanation of the reasons for the change in writing.

GR8.00 COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS

See Sports Specific Section for breakdown.

GR9.00 CLUB CONTEST REGULATIONS

- GR9.01 **Definitions**-A contest is considered to be any competitive skating event in which two or more skaters contend for skating superiority but which does not lead to or qualify for a regional or national championship.
- GR9.01.01 Intramural club contests are considered to be those that are restricted exclusively to the membership of the one club which sponsors the events.
- GR9.01.02 Interclub contests are considered to be those where two or more clubs enter into a mutual agreement to participate in various events which are restricted in participation to only the members of those clubs and which are sponsored by the host club.
- GR9.01.03 Open contests or invitationals are considered to be those that are OPEN to the members of all USARS clubs or to within fixed area limitations.
- GR9.02 **Sanction Authorization**
- GR9.02.01 Intramural club contests-Sanction application is made directly to the USARS Headquarters by the sponsoring club representative.
- GR9.02.02 Interclub contests-When requested by a club in a state or regional area within the jurisdiction of a recognized USARS league, a sanction application must bear the endorsement of the league before being submitted to the USARS Headquarters for issuance.
- GR9.02.03 Open contests or invitationals-State or regional association approval is required as endorsement for those open contest sanctions situated within the boundaries of a recognized USARS association, even though invitations are extended to clubs beyond the association's jurisdiction.

GR9.02.04 Contest sanction hosts will be responsible for the observance of all applicable Confederation rules. See Rule 6.00 on sanctions. Contests may present awards at their option but only certificates of participation or placement, ribbons, medals, plaques or trophies may be awarded. (See Artistic General Rules for exception.)

GR9.02.05 Application for interclub and open contests must be signed by the sponsoring club's representative.

GR9.02.06 The USARS Board of Directors feels justified in regulating dates of contests within a given area so as to avoid possible conflicts. A conflict of contest dates is not desirable as it deprives the competitor of the opportunity to measure his ability against all skaters of his class from that given area. Sanctions will be issued when a conflict does not exist providing the applicants have met all other conditions. If there is a conflict, issuance of sanctions will be at the discretion of the USARS Executive Committee.

GR9.03 Participation

GR9.03.01 Anyone appearing at a sanctioned contest not having their permanent card in their possession will be required to sign a waiver of liability and purchase a single event membership before being processed for entry into the contest.

GR9.03.02 Interclub contests are defined as CLOSED competitions consisting of agreements involving two or more clubs that may be a part of a League, State or Regional Association. These contests shall not exclude individual members of clubs that are invited to participate in the contests except where such exclusions are permitted in the League or Association By-Laws. Justification for the exclusion must be listed in the invitation to the affected club by the meet host or meet director and a copy must be filed with USARS. Unattached skaters may also be excluded from such contests should the League By-Laws so specify.

GR9.03.03 Open contests shall not exclude USARS clubs, individual USARS club members or USARS competitors in unattached status, except where an excluded party is notified in writing at the time the initial contest announcements are distributed. Justification of the exclusion must be listed in the notice by the meet host or meet director and a copy must be filed with USARS.

GR9.04 Schedule of Events

GR9.04.01 NO EVENT OF ANY SANCTIONED INTERCLUB OR OPEN CONTEST MAY COMMENCE PRIOR TO 6:00 A.M. NO EVENT SHALL FINISH LATER THAN 1:00 A.M.

GR9.04.02 Applicants for contest sanctions have the right to structure special divisions of entry and rules of performance provided they are in conformity with the status rules and regulations contained in this manual. These special divisions must be specified with the sanction application for the contest and be approved by USARS.

GR9.05 Officials-National and International Competitions

GR9.05.01 An official is defined as a coach, trainer, manager or administrator including a judge, referee, timekeeper, scorekeeper or other person with necessary responsibilities.

GR9.05.02 Any member of USARS who is properly credentialed is eligible to participate as an official in the national championships or in connection with any national team or international team under control of USARS.

GR9.05.03 Any person who is eligible to serve as an official shall submit a written application to the USARS National Headquarters no later than sixty (60) days after the first written announcement of the scheduled competition. The application shall be made on the USARS forms and shall state the applicant's qualifications for the position sought and the applicant's agreement to abide by the by-laws, General Rules and other regulations of USARS, and where applicable the United States Olympic Committee and the international bodies which are conducting, sponsoring or sanctioning the competition or team. The USARS National Headquarters will supply application forms.

GR9.05.04 Officials shall be selected by the USARS Board of Directors or its designated representatives based upon experience, knowledge demonstrated, proficiency to the position applied for, as well as ability to cooperate with other officials and to get along with the athletes.

GR9.06 Fees

If "Novice, B or C" events or non-standard events are held along with Standard events in interclub or invitational contests under a single sanction and within the same facility, a primary entry fee may only be collected once, with extra events priced at the secondary rate.

GR9.06.01 Interclub, Open Contests and Invitational Regulations

Entry fees for all non-qualifying contests are not restricted. Leagues, state and regional associations have the authority to limit these fees if member clubs so vote, since such contests constitute a closed circuit or round-robin exchange. The amount of entry fees charged by hosts of invitational or open contests will have their entry fees restrained by the market value of their offering in terms of the facility, the quality of judging, the standard of entry and other attractions that may be offered to contestants. Contestants will decide for themselves whether or not to patronize such events, based on perceived value.

In the case of qualifying championships, the fee structure is fixed as currently published, because participation in these events is a requirement for an individual to qualify for the national championships.

GR9.06.02 No late entry fee may be charged. Announced entry as published for that meet is absolute.

GR9.06.03 Warm-ups held prior to the skating of an event are considered part of that contest and no additional fee may be assessed to the skater for participation in the event warm-up.

GR9.06.04 Maximum admission fees for parents and guests during said contest are optional under these rules, provided such fees are published in advance with the announcement of the contest.

GR9.06.05 All additional charges, such as spectator and practice fees, which are levied in connection with the sanctioned event must be published in all advance announcements of the contest, however, none of these shall be made compulsory for contestant entry nor can they be collected with the advance registration fees.

GR9.06.06 Any current RSA owner/operator or any other individual with appropriate documentation of his or her rink ownership will be admitted without charge to all USARS sanctioned competitive events and official championships.

- GR9.06.07 USARS' only admission responsibility toward a member attending a sanctioned competition is to allow that member to compete in the event in which he/she is lawfully entered for a qualifying meet.
- GR9.07 Seating Requirements** - Seating requirements for spectators and contestants may be regulated by the state or regional USARS association for open and interclub contests.
- GR9.08 Skating Surface** - Size and surface of the skating floor is optional but can be regulated for open and interclub contests by state or regional association rules.
- GR9.09 Skating Sessions** - If conducted in conjunction with an open or interclub contest, no increase in regular session prices may be charged, nor can attendance be made mandatory for contestants.
- GR9.10 Awards** - All contest awards are optional, but the type of award (if any) must be designated in the notice of the contests.
- GR9.11 Concession Prices** - There shall be no increase in the concession prices at open or interclub contests over those, which are normal for the host rink during the regular session operation.
- GR9.12 Programs** - Contest programs may be priced at the discretion of the host club. The host may use his own discretion on rates for non-skating industry advertisers. For roller skating industry manufacturers and suppliers, the advertising rates shall not be in excess of the following schedule:

Local, league, etc.	Commercially printed	Copied
Full page, 2 color	\$175	\$100
Full page, BW	\$125	\$75
Half page	\$75	\$50
Quarter page	\$40	\$25
Eighth page	\$25	\$15
Regional Championships-Rink	Commercially printed	Copied
Full page, 2 color, cover	\$250	\$200
Full page, inside or BW cover	\$225	\$125
Half page	\$150	\$75
Quarter page	\$100	\$40
Eighth page	\$50	\$25
Regional Championships-Auditorium	Commercially printed	Copied
Full page, 2 color, cover	\$325	\$225
Full page, inside or BW cover	\$250	\$150
Half page	\$175	\$90
Quarter page	\$125	\$50
Eighth page	\$75	\$30
National Championships	Single	Dual
Full page	\$400	\$605
Half page	\$300	\$485
Quarter page	\$200	\$305

- GR9.12.01 The maximum fee, which can be charged for a qualifying or regional championship program is \$10.00.
- GR9.13 Filing of Fees, etc.** - No member, associate member, agent, employee, official or designated person may collect or accept dues, fees or other monies or considerations which may be due to or payable to or offered to USA Roller Sports for the purpose or intent either implied or expressed, of using such funds or credits for any personal use whatever and all such funds which may be so collected or accepted must be remitted intact to the USARS Treasurer within ten days from time of their collection or acceptance without exception. Failure to do so will be reported to the Board of Directors for action.
- GR9.14 Wheels and Coatings** - Wheel coatings or traction substances may not be painted on or otherwise applied to the wheels used at USARS sanctioned contests. Roller skating wheels of solid or laminated wooden construction are prohibited in all events. Wooden construction is not permitted in either hub or treads design.
- GR9.15 Electronic Devices**
- No competitor may wear an electronic communication device during the skating of an event.
 - Use of FM radio headsets is optional for all running referees and corner judges at official championship meets. When headsets are used, the officials themselves must furnish them.
 - The use of headsets by all officials is permitted at league, interclub and invitational contests.
- GR9.16 Challenge Up**
If a contest permits challenge up, the skater will be allowed to challenge up one division above that which he/she would normally skate.
- GR10.00 CONDUCTING CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- GR10.01 Championship Competition**
- GR10.01.01 Only official events may be conducted in a qualifying championship.

GR10.01.02 A qualifying championship is any contest or group of contests, which qualify skaters for or toward a United States Championship.

GR10.02 Regional Qualifying Championship

GR10.02.01 Annual competitions are to be conducted for registered athletes in the various regions to determine qualified entrants in the national championships which are held annually by USA Roller Sports, except in the case of open national championships, i.e., Rink hockey, quad speed skating, outdoor road and track speed skating.

GR10.03 Site Selection and Conduct of a Qualifying or Regional Championship

GR10.03.02 It is mandatory that state or regional associations implement the following requirements for qualifying championships.

GR10.03.03 **Seating Capacity** - Adequate seating must be provided for all qualifying championships. These are to be provided for the use of general admission spectators and skaters at no additional cost to the skaters or spectators.

GR10.03.04 **Schedule of Events** - No event may begin prior to 6:00 a.m., and no event shall finish later than 1:00 a.m. Exceptions under special circumstances must be applied for and received in writing from USARS national headquarters.

GR10.03.06 A no smoking policy shall be in effect for the entire building in which a regional or national roller skating championships is conducted.

GR10.04 Management of Championship

GR10.04.01 For all official USARS qualifying meets leading to the national championships, a certified meet director will be approved by USARS. The meet director shall be charged with the responsibility of applying all USARS rules and regulations pertinent to all championships leading up to the national meet. The certification of meet directors will occur annually to facilitate those wishing to acquire such designation and to help make certified meet directors available for all competitions requiring their presence. Decertification of meet directors will be based upon written complaints about the conduct of the meet. The meet director shall be charged with the responsibility of applying all USARS rules and regulations pertinent to all championships leading up to the national meet.

The meet director shall have under his supervision one or more assistant directors, one or more chief referees, event referees, stewards, chief clerk, tabulating crew, etc., to carry out the day-to-day functions of the operation. The above may be appointed either by the meet director, the meet host or USARS state or regional association. The championships host rink operator, host professional or coach must not be designated as the meet director.

The meet director shall appoint a committee of three or five people who will handle interpretations of rules, protests, etc. (see GR4.06, Rules Committee). At qualifying championships only, the chief referee may grant temporary "C" referee credentials for stewards and referees when a sufficient number of commissioned officials are not available.

GR10.04.02 The USARS Board of Directors reinforces the authority of the REFEREE-IN-CHIEF for absolute control over the event being skated, as well as the right to remove or disqualify skaters who are in violation of rules and regulations. Should, in the opinion of the referee, the reasons for disqualification be of such grave nature that the removal from the remainder of the meet be required, this matter will then be referred to that person in charge of the speed, art or hockey skating portion of the contest. If, in that person's opinion, the disqualification is merited, and would apply to another Federation's activities, this would be referred either to the certified meet director, or the person in charge of conducting those contests. Recommended discipline beyond the scope of the affected contest or championship, is to be referred to the Membership Eligibility Committee and follow due process as indicated in the disciplinary proceedings.

GR10.04.03 Such officials shall not have the authority to abrogate the prescribed duties of other championship officials, nor may they change the decision of any official made within the limits of such official's specific authority.

GR10.04.04 Judges officiating at official qualifying meets must be brought in from outside the area covered by the championships; i.e., for regional meets, out of region judges.

GR10.04.05 Skaters Ready Area - No person shall have access to the ready area or competitive skating area, except as follows:

- (a) The Meet Director or persons specifically authorized by the Meet Director may have access to the ready area or competitive skating area.
- (b) Other administrators, judges, referees and tabulators may have access to the ready area or competitive skating area when necessary and proper for the discharge of their official responsibilities, and subject to the directions of the Meet Director.
- (c) USARS Certified Coaches having an entrant in an event shall have access to the ready area and the skating area at times which are necessary and proper to assist the entrant. USARS Registered Coaches in their first year of membership prior to becoming certified may also have such access. The determination of what times are necessary and proper shall be in the sole discretion of the Meet Director. Further, the Meet Director shall have authority to exclude from the ready area or skating area any coach whose presence, in the sole discretion of the Meet Director, is disruptive to others.
- (d) A coach who is not registered or certified who seeks ready area access for a specific Regional or National Championship may request a temporary license from the Championship Meet Director. Unregistered coaches will have only one year to complete the USARS Coaches Certification Program after the first date of application for a temporary ready area license at the Qualifying or National Championship. After that date no further temporary licenses may be granted. The charge for a temporary ready area license is the cost of a season pass, plus \$25, payable to the host of the applicable Championships. Regulation of access to the ready area is in the overall best interest of coaching development and for the safety and welfare of the athletes involved.
- (e) When a competitor/coach who is registered to compete in a Qualifying Championships and at the same time is also coaching another skater, he/she is able to purchase a temporary coaching license as described in (d) above for that Championships, subject to the same time restrictions applicable to uncertified coaches. The entry fee as a competitor would serve under USARS GR10.04.05 (d) to satisfy the cost of a season pass, with the addition of \$25 required for entry to the competitor ready area as a temporary coach.

- (f) USARS' only admission responsibility toward a member attending a sanctioned competition is to allow that member to compete in the event in which he/she is lawfully entered for a Qualifying Championships.

GR10.04.06 Submission Deadlines - regional championship hosts must strictly adhere to the following deadlines for submission of forms and fees:

- (a) Within twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the regional championship, special placement forms must be mailed to USARS National Headquarters. Overnight or express mail must be used to send results prior to the printing deadline of the nationals program.
- (b) Within five days after the conclusion of the regional championship, the host must submit all score sheets; entry forms, two copies of the program, and required reports on divisional and state entries.
- (c) Within five days after the conclusion of the regional championships, the \$5.00 assessment fee for each skater must be submitted to USARS National Headquarters by the championship host.

GR10.04.07 Video Cameras-A charge of up to \$25 may be imposed for use of video cameras at any qualifying championship, other than the indoor nationals, which has been established by USARS. This policy, within these limits, shall be at the option of the meet hosts, and they will retain the funds.

GR10.05 Notification of Championship

GR10.05.01 When a sanction for a championship has been awarded to a club, public notice of the forthcoming contests must be made promptly and all member clubs registered by USA Roller Sports in the area covered by the sanction must be notified in writing sixty (60) days before the opening date of such championships to the effect of the following:

- (a) What the sanction covers (regional championships).
- (b) To whom the sanction has been issued (member's name).
- (c) Where the championships will be held (name/address of the rink or auditorium).
- (d) The dates that the championships will be held. An official schedule must be sent out 14 days prior to the start of the championships to all participating clubs, after receipt of entry applications and the passage of the entry deadline.
- (e) Events and classes in which competition will be conducted.
- (f) Entry fees to be charged (if any).
- (g) Deadline date for the acceptance of entries.
- (h) To whom application blanks for entry must be sent.

GR10.05.02 A 30-day deadline must be required from all applicants except as defined in paragraph GR10.05.03. No shorter period shall be permitted. However, this short deadline may result in names being omitted from a program. The postmark deadline for entry into any national championships shall be at a minimum of 14 days prior to the first day of competition.

GR10.05.03 In case of men and women in the Armed Services, deadline for acceptance of applications of entry will be left to the discretion of those conducting the meet.

GR10.05.04 The above rules are not to be misconstrued to mean that whoever conducts a meet cannot request a deadline longer than the 30-day requirement of application to facilitate handling affairs of the meet. Such request must be sought in writing by the championship host from USARS Headquarters.

GR10.06 Awards, Medals and Trophies

GR10.06.01 Official awards will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd places at all regional and national championships.

GR10.06.02 The official medals and certificates designated by USA Roller Sports must be awarded at qualifying championships. First place winners shall be awarded a gold medallion, second place a silver medallion and third place a bronze medallion.

GR10.06.03 At qualifying championships, certificates shall be awarded to all skaters participating. Certificates of participation will be presented to all contestants at the national artistic and speed championships.

GR10.06.04 In addition to the "personal awards" of the official medals, the presentation of individual awards of plaques or trophies is permitted.

GR10.06.05 "Challenge Trophies" and/or plaques, symbolic of the qualifying or national championships, are permitted. All trophies and plaques so donated shall remain the property of USA Roller Sports unless in the cases of regional awards the donor specifically makes provisions for eventual permanent award to a winner, the challenge trophies or plaques shall continue to be competed for annually.

- (a) In the event of the cancellation or abandonment of a championship, all challenge trophies and plaques shall be surrendered to the USARS National Headquarters for safekeeping.
- (b) The responsibility for procurement, care and maintenance for regional awards shall rest with those associations.
- (c) The responsibility for procurement, care and maintenance of the national challenge awards shall rest with the Board of Directors.

GR10.06.06 All challenge trophies and plaques of USA Roller Sports shall remain only in the possession of and as the responsibility of the home club at which the champion or champions are located.

GR10.06.07 All challenge trophies and plaques of USA Roller Sports shall be awarded only with the understanding that they will be surrendered promptly to the officials at the location of the following year's championships and in sufficient time for advance display; in good condition and repair; having been properly engraved with the previous year's winners names and city.

GR10.06.08 Unattached skaters (those, in this case, not currently located at member clubs) shall not be accorded possession of challenge trophies. The name(s) of unattached winners shall, however, be engraved upon the plates of the challenge trophies at the expense of the holder of the championships.

GR10.06.09 Trophies not awarded because of unattached standing of competitors shall remain in the possession of the senior officer of that association (for regional meets) and in the possession of the USARS National Headquarters in the case of the national champions.

In cases of dispute concerning regional challenge trophies, they may be deposited for safe keeping at USARS National Headquarters.

GR10.07 Championships Rules of Entry

- GR10.07.01 The Board of Directors may assess entry fees to help defray expenses of conducting a qualifying or regional championship, subject to a special schedule published by the USARS annually, as set.
- GR10.07.02 Acceptance of Rules - All contestants upon filing an entry application must accept without reservation, the Rules of Status and Rules of Competition. In submitting an application, the contestant agrees to accept all decisions of the officials of such competition and the officials of this Confederation.
- GR10.07.03 Unaffiliated *Memberships* - Skaters who are not members of a registered roller skating club may enter a championship competition, provided they can comply with the competitive rules and pay the registration fee which may be assessed upon club affiliated entries, within limits of these rules. Unattached skaters must file an entry blank in the same manner as all other competitors. The entry blank filed by such a skater must bear the word "UNATTACHED" in the section showing club affiliation. They must also be listed as "UNATTACHED" in any program or list of winners.
- GR10.07.04 "Protected Competition" cards - Skaters not wishing to join USARS, but who wish to attempt to qualify for world championships, may purchase a USARS "protected competition" card and enter through filing of appropriate applications and fees at the qualifying championship. (See GR5.03.)
- GR10.07.05 No one will be permitted to skate a qualifying, regional or national championships who does not have a permanent card in their possession or in the case of those who may have lost their permanent card, their name must be on the championship's membership roster provided to the meet director by the USARS National Headquarters. Championships entry deadlines provide sufficient lead-time for all contestants to have validly processed registrations.

GR10.08 Filing of Entry Applications

- GR10.08.01 Official entry blanks shall be furnished each club by the club holding the championship. Each club must file a properly filled out entry application plus correct entry fee if required before deadline date in order to be eligible to enter a meet. Prior to the deadline for entry into the regional or qualifying championship, clubs shall submit the number and type of relays that will represent that club on the forms provided.
- GR10.08.02 Entry must be made in the full true name of the contestant. No pseudonyms (nick-names) shall be permitted.
- GR10.08.03 Entry applications must bear the signature of the contestant, name of club, rink, city, state, card number, date of birth and in the case of minors, the approval signature of a parent or guardian.
- GR10.08.04 Minors who are members of the armed forces are not required to have either parent's or commanding officer's approvals.
- GR10.08.05 Entry applications of skaters who are married yet under the age of legal majority do require approval of parent or guardian.
- GR10.08.06 Entrants are responsible for all statements and/or omissions thereon.
- GR10.08.07 A contestant who shall enter a competition under false pretense of status or identity shall not only be disqualified, but all medals, trophies and/or other awards won shall be either withheld or forfeited to the USARS National Headquarters where they will be held pending a review of the case by the Membership Eligibility Committee.
- GR10.09 National Championship Trade Show Policy** - USARS has a trade show policy, which restricts roller skating industry products to representation by manufacturers only, or their designated representatives. Non-skate equipment exhibitors will be subject to a test of appropriateness by the USARS Executive Director. No exhibitor will be permitted to show products not specifically related to equipment they manufacture in the case of roller skating equipment, or products, which were not itemized on their booth application and approved by the USARS National Headquarters.
- GR10.10 Banners/Posters** - Regional banners displayed at the National Championships must be a standard 3' x 8' size. Each Region shall submit a banner design to USARS Headquarters for approval, which shall include the USARS logo, and be purchased at their expense. For convenience, these banners may be shipped with the National Championships scoreboard from site to site. Club or league banners will no longer be permitted to hang in any area of the auditorium. Only Regional and sponsor banners approved by USARS may be displayed on the Arena railing. Sponsors and vendors will be permitted to supply banners with a maximum size of 3' x 8' in quantity according to their sponsorship contracts.

GR11.00 CHAMPIONSHIP RULES OF COMPETITION

See Sports Specific Sections for breakdown.

GR12.00 DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

GR12.01 General

- GR12.01.01 A disciplinary protest is a complaint by a member of USARS or by a member of the USOC or FIRS against another member of USARS or a person holding a protected competition card, alleging that such person has violated a rule, regulation or bylaw of USARS or of the USOC or FIRS, except for alleged violations of the Anti-Doping Program against persons who are under the direct jurisdiction of the Executive Committee pursuant to GR16.00.
- GR12.01.02 Discipline may be imposed upon a member or the holder of a protected competition card only after a hearing has been conducted before the Membership Eligibility Committee and it has been determined, in accordance with procedures set forth in GR12.00 and GR14.00 that such member or person has violated a policy rule or regulation of USARS, including, but not limited to, the *Competitive* Status Rules, Code of Conduct, rule of Competitive Officials, rule of Officer's Responsibilities, or USARS bylaws, or an applicable rule, regulation or bylaw of the USOC or FIRS.
- GR12.01.03 Discipline as used in General Rules, unless the context otherwise requires, shall mean: verbal or written reprimand, probation (with or without conditions); suspension (with or without conditions) for a definite period of time, not to exceed two (2) years;

or expulsion from membership. Suspension shall be presumed to mean ineligibility to participate in any organizational or competitive activities unless otherwise specified, except that ineligibility to participate in protected competitions (GR1.03.02) must be specified in the disciplinary decision. Any protected competitions, including training trips, camps, or trials for which a person is ineligible as a result of a suspension or expulsion must be specified in the decision of the Committee. Discipline of a Class I member as a result of the violation of the Rules of *Competitive* Status (GR3.00) may include the loss of status and eligibility to participate in USARS sanctioned competition, including protected competitions. Discipline of the holder of a protected competition card may include suspension of his or her eligibility to participate in protected competitions.

GR12.01.04 Notification to a USARS member or a protected competitions cardholder regarding protests and hearings under GR12.00 and grievances and hearings under GR13.00, including appeal hearings, shall be deemed received by the person and, therefore, effective notice upon the earlier of the (a) actual receipt, (b) three business days after the date deposited in the U.S. Mail, by certified mail, return-receipt requested, or (c) three business days after it is sent by overnight delivery service. Any notification sent by U.S. mail or overnight delivery service shall be sent to the person's last known address, or if he or she is represented by legal counsel, to legal counsel's last known address.

GR12.02 Procedure of Filing

GR12.02.01 A disciplinary protest shall be filed reasonably soon after the facts upon which it is based are known to the complainant. The protest may be filed with the meet director if it arises out of an occurrence during traveling to, attending or participating in a USARS sanctioned activity under the meet director's jurisdiction. A disciplinary protest may be filed with the national team manager if it arises out of an occurrence during traveling to, attending or participating in a USARS National Team Training Camp or any event under that National Team Manager's jurisdiction. In all other cases, they shall be filed on the appropriate form supplied by National Headquarters and mailed to the Membership Eligibility Committee, c/o USARS National Headquarters, *4730 South Street*, Lincoln, NE 68506.

GR12.02.02 The disciplinary protest shall be in writing on the appropriate form and shall be signed by the complainant. It shall, at a minimum, contain the name of the protested person and a brief statement of the facts upon which the protest is based. It must be clear from a reading of the protest what USARS rule or rules are alleged to have been violated.

GR12.03 Authority of Meet Director or National Team Manager

GR12.03.01 Upon receipt of a disciplinary protest by a meet director or national team manager within his or her jurisdiction, the meet director or national team manager shall conduct an investigation to determine whether the protest is well founded. A person protested shall be given the opportunity to be heard in defense or litigation as may be reasonable under the circumstances, without interfering with the running of the scheduled events or activities. At a minimum, the meet director or national team manager shall confer with the complainant and with the protested person. The meet director or national team manager may also confer with such other persons, as he or she deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the rules committee for the competition, if any, and officials and other witnesses. The meet director or national team manager shall summarize this information and forward it to the Membership Eligibility Committee as soon as possible, but in no event more than seven (7) days after the conclusion of the competition or activity over which they have jurisdiction.

(a) Should the meet director or national team manager 1) determine, after the informal hearing process described above, that the subject matter described in the protest threatens the safe or orderly conduct of the competition or activity, and also 2) determine, based upon clear and convincing evidence, that the protest is well-founded, the meet director or national team manager may administratively suspend the protested person from all or a portion of the remaining competition or activity. If any person is suspended under this rule, the meet director or national team manager shall immediately notify the USARS Executive Director and the chairperson of the Membership Eligibility Committee by the most expedient means and shall submit a written report as soon as possible to the Membership Eligibility Committee which includes a detailed statement of the reasons why the suspension was necessary and the facts on which the protest was determined to be well-founded.

(b) TEAM DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE - An International Team Discipline Committee will be established at a team meeting before the USA Team leaves for an international championships, or if this is not timely accomplished at the first available team meeting when reaching the meet site. The Committee will consist of the highest-ranking USA delegate to the FIRS Assembly (preference for CIPA, CIC, CIRH, CIRILH member), the World Team Leader and an athlete member selected by the athletes who are participating in the World Championships. Their function will be to conduct an investigation of complaints against any member of the team to determine if they should be reprimanded, suspended from the competition, and/or sent home. Individual Committee Members will refrain from voting on matters when they are directly affected by the situation under consideration.

GR12.04 Participation by and Awards to Participants Under Protest

GR12.04.01 When a disciplinary complaint is received against any member or the holder of a protected competitions card that person shall be entitled to participate under protest in any subsequent USARS sanctioned competition, including protected competitions, until a final determination is reached on the disciplinary complaint. The only exception to this rule is the authority of the Meet Director or National Team Manager.

GR12.04.02 The protested person shall be notified of the protest. If the protest is filed first with the Membership Eligibility Committee, the notice shall be given in writing. If the protest is filed first with the Meet Director or National Team Manager, the notice shall be given verbally to the protested person as soon as reasonably possible without interfering with the running of scheduled events or activities. The notice shall be given to the protested person privately. If the protested person is a minor, every reasonable effort shall be made to give the notice to the protested person when the person under whose supervision they are traveling is present and/or when their coach is present. No public announcement will be made by USARS that the person is participating under protest.

GR12.04.03 No placement, award, qualification, official time, or other achievement will be withheld from a protested person before final action has been taken on the disciplinary complaint. At the time the protested person is notified of the protest, he or she also will be notified that any subsequent placements, awards, qualifications, official times, or other achievements will be given or recognized without interference or interruption, but that, if the protest is upheld after hearing, the sanctions may include return of the award or withdrawal or cancellation of the placement, qualification, or other achievement, as appropriate.

GR12.05 Formal Hearing Procedures Involving Protected Competitions

GR12.05.01 The following procedures shall apply to protests of persons who are eligible for protected competitions.

GR12.05.02 Within ten (10) working days after the receipt of a disciplinary protest at the National Headquarters, the Executive Director shall notify the protested person and the Chairman of the Membership Eligibility Committee that a protest has been received and shall forward to them copies of all materials received with the protest. The notification to the protested person shall be sent by effective notice to that person's last known address. The protested person shall have seven (7) working days from the date of the effective notice of protest to contest the protest. If the protested person fails to notify the Executive Director of the intent to contest the protest within this time limit, the protested person's right to a formal hearing shall be waived and the allegations of the protest shall be deemed admitted.

GR12.05.03 The protested person shall notify the Executive Director, in writing, of his or her intent to contest and shall admit or deny all factual matters contained in the protest and in the accompanying materials. The protested person's notice of intent and written admissions and/or denials must be received at the USARS national headquarters not more than seven (7) working days after the notice of protest is sent to the protested person by certified mail. The notice of intent shall also include a request for a personal hearing if the protested person wishes to exercise that right.

GR12.05.04 Upon receipt of the intent to contest, the Executive Director shall cause an investigation to be conducted promptly. At a minimum, the investigator shall use reasonable efforts to contact the complainant, the protested person, and any other material witnesses who can be located. If a meet director or national team manager forwarded the protest, that person shall also be contacted. The investigator shall attempt to obtain a signed statement from each material witness and, if a witness refuses to sign his/her statement, shall prepare an unsigned statement from any relevant information, which was obtained from the witness. All statements or documents gathered from witnesses by the investigator shall be furnished to the protested person in advance of the hearing. No other discovery from USARS shall be permitted.

GR12.05.05 Within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the notice of intent to contest, the Executive Director shall notify the protested person of the date and time of the hearing. If the protested person has requested a personal hearing, the notice shall also contain the place of the hearing.

The hearing shall normally be held at the next regularly scheduled Committee meeting. If the protest may affect participation in a protected competition, which will be, held before such regularly scheduled Committee meeting, an expedited meeting date shall be set and included in the notice.

GR12.05.06 (a) Whenever there are two or more protests arising out of the same occurrence and involving one or more common witnesses, the Chairperson of the Membership Eligibility Committee may consolidate the hearings on the protests into one hearing. The Executive Director shall send written notice of the consolidated hearing to all protested persons.

(b) The protested person shall have the right to a hearing by telephone conference call. In all disciplinary protests except those described in GR12.05.05, the protested person shall have the right to a hearing by telephone conference call. The protested person and Committee members shall participate in the entire hearing by conference call and the complainant may also participate in the entire hearing. Other witnesses shall participate for purposes of direct examination and cross-examination. Alternatively, and with the agreement of the protested person, the hearing may be conducted by the Committee without any oral testimony and based solely upon the written evidence and arguments submitted.

GR12.05.07 Any protested person shall have a right to request a personal hearing. The hearing will be held at a place designated by the Executive Director. The protested person shall be responsible for his/her own expenses incurred in attending the hearing and the expenses of any witnesses he/she wishes to present. The request for a personal hearing shall be included in the notice of intent or the right shall be waived.

GR12.05.08 At any hearing held under GR12.05.06 and .07, the protested person shall have the right to be represented by counsel to present witnesses and to offer oral and written evidence. The protested person shall also have the right to cross-examine all witnesses who participated in the hearing. The hearing proceedings shall be recorded verbatim and a transcript of the proceedings shall be made available to any interested party upon payment of reasonable cost of the transcript. The transcript of the hearing, the exhibits received, and the decision of the Committee shall constitute the record of the hearing.

GR12.05.09 The rules of evidence shall not be strictly enforced. Those rules of evidence generally accepted in administrative proceedings shall be applied, including the right of the Committee, in its discretion, to accept hearsay evidence.

GR12.05.10 The decision of the Committee shall be put in writing and shall state the findings of the Committee and the evidence upon which the findings were based. If any discipline is imposed, the effective date of the discipline shall be stated in the decision. The complainant and protested person shall be notified of the Committee's decision by mailing a copy no later than ten (10) working days after the close of the hearing.

GR12.05.11 The protested person or the complainant can appeal the decision of the Membership Eligibility Committee to the USARS Executive Committee. The notice of appeal shall be filed within seven (7) working days after the effective notice of the decision of the Membership Eligibility Committee has been mailed. See GR5.00 for complete procedures.

GR12.06 Informal Hearing Procedures Involving Other Non-Protected Competitions

GR12.06.01 The following procedures shall apply to all protests other than protests of persons whose eligibility for protected competitions (GR1.03.02) may be affected.

- GR12.06.02 Within *fourteen (14)* working days after the receipt of a disciplinary protest at the National Headquarters, the Executive Director shall notify the protested person and the chairman of the Membership Eligibility Committee that a protest has been received and shall forward to them copies of all materials received with the protest. The protested person shall have fourteen (14) days from the date of the effective notice of protest to exercise his or her right to contest the protest. If the protested person fails to notify the Executive Director of the intent to contest the protest within this time limit, the protested person's right to an informal hearing shall be waived and the allegations of the protest shall be deemed admitted.
- GR12.06.03 The protested person shall notify the Executive Director, in writing, of his or her intent to contest and shall admit or deny the factual matters contained in the protest and in the accompanying materials. The protested person's written admissions and/or denials must be received at the USARS National Headquarters not more than *fourteen (14)* working days after the effective notice of protest is sent to the protested person by certified mail.
- GR12.06.04 Upon receipt of the intent to contest, the Executive Director shall cause an investigation to be conducted promptly. At a minimum, the investigator shall make reasonable efforts to contact the complainant, the protested person, and any other material witnesses who can be located. If a meet director or the national team manager forwarded the protest, that person shall also be contacted. The investigator shall attempt to obtain a signed statement from all material witnesses and, if a witness refuses to sign his/her statement, shall prepare an unsigned statement from any relevant information, which was obtained from the witness.
- GR12.06.05 Within *fourteen (14)* working days of the receipt of the notice of intent to contest, the Executive Director shall notify the protested person of the date and time of the informal hearing.
- GR12.06.06 The informal hearing shall be conducted by the Membership Eligibility Committee based upon a review of the statements and documents submitted by the protested person, and the complainant, and those collected and submitted by the investigator. These documents may include written statements of the protested person or any witnesses and documentary evidence. The protested person, the complainant, or their representatives, and the investigator, also may provide a written argument or explanation of the evidence. The Membership Eligibility Committee may convene in person, by telephone conference call *or email* to examine the evidence, make its findings and render its decision. Neither the complainant, the protested person nor their representatives shall have the right to participate in person or by telephone during the informal hearing. The minutes of the meeting, the statements, documents, arguments and explanations reviewed, and the written decision of the Committee shall constitute the record of the hearing.
- GR12.06.07 The decision of the Committee shall be put in writing and shall state the findings of the Committee and the evidence upon which the findings were based. If any discipline is imposed, the effective date of the discipline shall be stated in the decision. The complainant and protested person shall be notified of the Committee's decision by mailing a copy no later than ten (10) working days after the close of the hearing.
- GR12.06.08 The protested person or the complainant may ask the USARS Executive Committee to review the decision of the Membership Eligibility Committee. The request for a review shall be filed within seven (7) working days after effective notice of the decision of the Membership Committee. The granting of a review shall be discretionary with the USARS Executive Committee. See Rule 15.00 for complete procedures.
- GR12.07** The procedures set forth in Rules GR12.04, GR12.05 or GR12.06 may be waived and expedited procedures substituted by mutual agreement of the protested person and the Membership Eligibility Committee to allow a final decision on the protest in advance of a protected competition or a state, regional or national championship competition.
- GR12.08 Local Area Disciplinary Action**
A league president, one who is duly constituted and chartered by the state association, and/or the regional association and USARS National Headquarters, shall be allowed to suspend an official or an athlete for misconduct from further league participation, up to a maximum of three months. The league president may assign this responsibility to a special committee, consisting of bona fide USARS and league members. However, the league president shall retain the ultimate responsibility for any action taken, even on more serious violations that are sent to the USARS Membership Eligibility Committee with a recommendation for further action. All such league penalties must be reported immediately to USARS Headquarters. The league must include the possible penalties into their constitution and by-laws and provide this notification to their clubs in writing.

GR13.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEEDINGS

GR13.01 Grievances

- GR13.01.01 A grievance is a complaint against an action or inaction by an officer, director, employee, or agent of USARS taken contrary to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, General or Sports Specific Rules that is alleged to have 1) improperly allowed or prevented membership in USARS Classes I, II, IV, or V; or 2) infringed upon an equal opportunity to participate of a Class I or II member, otherwise qualified, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin. A grievance does not include any disciplinary protest. A grievance does not include a challenge to one or more provisions of the USARS Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws or General Rules.
- GR13.01.02 any member or prospective member of USARS regarding a grievance affecting membership or an equal opportunity to participate may file a grievance. The holder of or an applicant for a protected competition card with respect to a grievance regarding equal opportunity to participate may also file a grievance.

GR13.02 Procedure for Filing

- The complainant knows GR13.02.01 a grievance shall be filed reasonably soon after the facts upon which it is based. The grievance shall be filed with the Membership Eligibility Committee, c/o USARS National Headquarters, *4730 South Street*, Lincoln, NE 68506.
- GR13.02.02 The grievance shall be in writing and shall be signed by the complainant. It need be in no particular form but it shall, at a minimum, state the action or inaction complained of and a brief statement of the facts upon which the protest is based.

GR13.03 Formal Hearing Procedures

- GR13.03.01 Within ten (10) working days of the receipt of a grievance at the National Headquarters, the Chairman of the Membership Eligibility Committee shall acknowledge receipt of the grievance and shall notify the complainant of the name of the person appointed as an investigator of the grievance and of the date, time, and place of a formal hearing on the grievance. Notification to the complainant shall be sent by certified mail to that person's last known address. This notice shall contain the date, time and place of the formal hearing. The formal hearing shall be held at the next regularly scheduled Committee meeting. If the protest may affect participation in a protected competition, which will be held before such regularly scheduled meeting, an expedited meeting date shall be set and contained in the notice. The complainant has seven (7) working days from the effective notice of hearing to request a personal hearing, if the complainant wishes to exercise that right.
- GR13.03.02 The Chairman of the Membership Eligibility Committee shall appoint as the investigator any officer, director, member, employee, or agent of USARS who has not been personally involved in any matters leading to the grievance.
- GR13.03.03 The investigator shall promptly conduct an investigation. At a minimum, the investigator shall contact the complainant, the person or persons complained of and any other material witnesses who can be located. The investigator shall attempt to obtain a signed statement from all material witnesses and, if a witness refuses to sign their statement, shall prepare, in unsigned statement form, any relevant information, which was obtained from the witness.
- GR13.03.04 At least ten (10) days before the date set for the hearing, the complainant shall furnish to the investigator all documents, including signed or unsigned statements from witnesses, and a list of all witnesses on which the complainant intends to rely at the hearing.
- GR13.03.05 Not less than ten (10) days before the date of the hearing, the investigator shall mail to the complainant and to the Chairman of the Membership Eligibility Committee a copy of all statements and documents relevant to the matter which have been obtained. If a statement is unsigned, the investigator shall explain the reason why it is unsigned. The investigator shall also notify the complainant and the Chairman of the names and addresses of those witnesses who will participate in the hearing in person or by telephone. If a material witness will not participate, the investigator shall state the reasons for their absence and state whether any signed or unsigned statement will be offered.
- GR13.03.06 Any complainant, who's right to participate in a protected competition may be affected by the grievance, shall have the right to be present at the hearing. With the agreement of the complainant, the hearing may be held in accordance with the procedure in GR13.03.07.
- GR13.03.07 In all grievance proceedings except those described in Rule GR13.03.06, the complainant shall have the right to a hearing by telephone conference call. The complainant and Committee members shall participate in the entire hearing. Other witnesses shall participate for purposes of direct examination and cross-examination. Alternatively, with the agreement of the complainant, the hearing may be conducted by the Committee without any oral testimony and based solely upon the written evidence and arguments submitted.
- GR13.03.08 At any hearing held under Rule GR13.03.06 or GR13.03.07, the complainant shall have the right to be represented by counsel, and to offer oral and written evidence. The complainant shall also have the right to cross-examine all witnesses who participate in the hearing. The hearing proceedings shall be recorded verbatim and a transcript of the proceedings shall be made available to any interested person upon the payment of the reasonable cost of the transcript.
- GR13.03.09 The rules of evidence shall not be strictly enforced. Those rules of evidence generally accepted in administrative proceedings shall be applied, including the right of the Committee, in its discretion, to accept hearsay evidence. In weighing the evidence, the Committee shall take into consideration whether the witness was subject to cross-examination, and whether written statements were signed or unsigned.
- GR13.03.10 The decision of the Committee shall be put in writing and shall state the findings of the Committee and the evidence upon which the findings were based. The complainant and the protested person shall be notified of the Committee's decision by mailing them a copy no later than seven (7) working days after the close of the hearing. The Committee's decision will be effective upon mailing.
- GR13.03.11 The complainant or a duly authorized representative of USARS can appeal the decision of the Membership Eligibility Committee to the USARS Executive Committee. The notice of appeal shall be filed in writing within seven (7) working days after effective notice of the decision of the Committee. See Rule GR15.00 for complete procedures.

GR14.00 MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE

GR14.01 Jurisdiction

GR14.01.01 The Membership Eligibility Committee shall have jurisdiction over all disciplinary protests and all grievances.

GR14.02 Meetings

GR14.02.01 The Membership Eligibility Committee shall hold regularly scheduled meetings as follows if needed:

- (a) once during the month of October;
- (b) once during the month of January;
- (c) once during the month of April or May, before the commencement of state and regional Championships;
- (d) once during the month of July or August before the commencement of the national championships.

If no matters are on the agenda ten (10) days before the regularly scheduled meeting, the meeting may be cancelled by the decision of the Chairman. The Committee may also hold special meetings upon ten (10) days notice by the Chairman. Meetings of the Membership Eligibility Committee may be held in person or by telephone conference call. The chairman of the Membership Eligibility Committee shall require that the meeting be held in person in the event that a personal hearing has been properly requested.

GR14.03 Disposition

- GR14.03.01 In ruling on a disciplinary protest, the Membership Eligibility Committee shall have authority to dismiss the protest or sustain the protest. If the disciplinary protest is sustained, the Committee shall have the authority to discipline the member or person.
- GR14.03.02 In ruling on a grievance, the Membership Eligibility Committee shall have the authority to sustain the grievance or dismiss the grievance. If the grievance is sustained, the Committee shall have the authority to direct that the complainant be admitted to the appropriate membership category, and to receive all rights and benefits thereof, or to void the membership if proven ineligible or direct the person or persons in charge of any USARS competition or national team to permit the protested person an equal opportunity to participate.
- GR14.03.03 The discipline to be applied in case a disciplinary protest is sustained shall be determined solely in the discretion of the Membership Eligibility Committee or, in the case of appeal, the USARS Executive Committee, each of which shall consider the age and intentions of the protested person, the seriousness of the infraction, the protested person's previous record of conduct and other relevant circumstances.

GR14.04 Consultation

- GR14.04.01 In preparation for and during formal and informal hearings, the Membership Eligibility Committee shall be entitled to consult with USARS legal counsel, who shall take such role in the hearing, as the chairman shall direct.
- GR14.04.02 In preparation for and during formal and informal hearings, the Membership Eligibility Committee shall be entitled to consult with the USARS Executive Director, who shall take such role in the hearing as the Chairman shall direct, unless the Executive Director is the complainant, in which case his role shall be limited to that of a witness.

GR15.00 APPEAL

GR15.01 Non-Appealable Decisions

- GR15.01.01 The following decisions shall not be appealable:
- The decision of the official in charge of an event regarding the performance, placement, conduct or misconduct, qualification or disqualification of a competitor, for any reason, arising out of the conduct of the event.
 - The decision of any judge, referee or timekeeper within his or her jurisdiction.

GR15.02 Right of Appeal

- GR15.02.01 The persons authorized by each of the respective rules may appeal any decision of the Membership Eligibility Committee affecting participation in a protected competition to the USARS Executive Committee. The notice of appeal shall be filed in writing with the Executive Committee in care of the USARS National Headquarters, 4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, within *fourteen (14)* working days after effective notice of the decision of the Committee. A \$100.00 cash bond (cashier's or certified check or money order) shall accompany the notice of appeal. If the person appealing is successful in obtaining a reversal or modification sought of the Committee's decision, the cash bond shall be refunded. Otherwise, it shall be forfeited.
- GR15.02.02 Any decision of the Membership Eligibility Committee affecting participation in a non-protected competition may, within the discretion of the USARS Executive Committee, be accepted for review. The request for review shall be filed in writing with the Executive Committee in care of the USARS National Headquarters, 4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, within *fourteen (14)* shall accompany the request for review. If the request for a review is not granted or if the person appealing is successful in obtaining a reversal or modification sought of the Committee's decision, the cash bond shall be refunded. Otherwise, it shall be forfeited. The decision on whether to grant the request for review shall be made in the sole discretion of the Chairman of the USARS Executive Committee based upon the information contained in the request for review and the findings of the Membership Eligibility Committee.
- GR15.02.03 The notice of appeal need be in no particular form. However, it shall state in detail the basis for the appeal and the relief sought. Any factual finding of the Membership Eligibility Committee, which is disputed, must be identified, together with the reasons for the dispute. Any factual finding not disputed in the notice of appeal shall be deemed admitted. If any penalty imposed by the Membership Eligibility Committee is disputed, the penalty must be specifically identified and any mitigating or other relevant matters shall be described. If the person appealing wishes to present new evidence, the notice of appeal shall describe the additional evidence, the reason it could not be reasonably discovered or obtained before the initial hearing and a statement as to why the additional evidence is justified and necessary under all the circumstances.
- GR15.02.04 The appeal shall be considered by the Executive Committee on the basis of the record of the hearing and upon any written arguments submitted by the protested person and the complainant. No new evidence shall be received unless 1) it could not be reasonably discovered or obtained before the initial hearing; 2) the request to receive the additional evidence is contained in the notice of the appeal; and 3) the chairman of the Executive Committee determines in his or her sole discretion that the receipt of the additional evidence is justified and necessary under all the circumstances. Neither the complainant, the protested person nor their representatives shall have the right to participate in person in the appeal of the decision made at an informal hearing. The complainant, protested person, or their representatives shall have a right to argue their position in person or by telephone conference call in the appeal of a decision made at a formal hearing.
- GR15.02.05 The appeal shall be heard by the Executive Committee as soon as possible, but in no event more than sixty (60) days after the receipt by the Executive Committee of the notice of appeal or the granting of the request for review, respectively. The appeal may be heard by the Executive Committee in person or by telephone conference call as the chairman shall decide. Counsel may represent the protested person and the complainant.
- GR15.02.06 The decision of the Executive Committee shall be put in writing and shall state the findings of the Committee and the evidence upon which the findings were based. The Executive Committee may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Membership Eligibility Committee. The complainant and protested person shall be notified of the Committee's decision by mailing them a copy no later than *fourteen (14)* working days after the close of the hearing.

GR15.02.07 The Executive Committee shall be entitled to consult with USARS legal counsel regarding any matters raised by the appeal, and shall be entitled to consult with the Executive Director unless the Executive Director is the complainant.

GR15.02.08 The decision of the Executive Committee is final and may be reconsidered or modified only upon a Motion to Reconsider made by a Committee member pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.

GR15.03 Stay of Suspension or Ineligibility

GR15.03.01 The decision of the Membership Eligibility Committee to impose discipline shall be effective on the date stated in the decision and any decision regarding a grievance shall be effective upon mailing.

GR15.03.02 Should the affected member file an appeal of that decision to the USARS Executive Committee, the suspension continues in effect throughout the appeal process. A request for a stay of the decision must be filed in writing with the Chairman of the USARS Executive Committee, stating the extenuating circumstances that justify the stay of the decision in keeping with the timely resolution of this matter. The request to the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be sent in care of the USARS National Headquarters, 4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, and shall state specifically the events or contests intended to be skated. The decision of the Chairman regarding the stay shall be final and shall be communicated to the affected member and the appropriate meet directors or national team coaches.

GR15.04 In the case of a decision affecting participation in a protected competition, USARS agrees to submit, upon proper demand (USOC Article VIII - "Complaint and Challenge Procedures"), to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association in any controversy involving USARS' recognition as a national governing body, or involving the opportunity of any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in athletic competition, as provided for in the constitution of the United States Olympic Committee (Article IX - "Right of Opportunity to Participate in Certain International Athletic Competitions").

GR16.00 ANTI-DOPING PROCEDURES

NGBs are no longer called upon to prosecute doping-related infractions within their respective sports. The USOC has created a Select Task Force on Drug Externalization that will be responsible for conducting comprehensive anti-doping programs in the United States on behalf of the USOC and will conduct an effective adjudication system for hearings and prosecuting athletes for doping-related incidents.

GR17.00 COMPETITIVE JUDGES/REFEREES PROCEDURES

See Sport Specific Section for details.

GR18.00 SCORERS COMMISSIONS

See Sport Specific Section for details.

GR19.00 GENERAL RULES APPLYING TO THE JUDGING OF CONTESTS

GR19.01 No USARS competitive judge shall officiate at any event of any person who is related to him or her or who is or was a skating partner.

GR19.02 No USARS judge who is also a professional, may officiate at an event of any person who is or has been a pupil (private lesson or class) of his or hers without specific written approval from the USARS National Headquarters.

GR19.03 USARS judges' credentials must be renewed annually on or before December 31 of the competitive season. Commissioned judges who have not held an active judges commission card for a period in excess of three years are considered to be out of date with current judging procedures, and shall be required to re-apply at the "C" commission level.

GR19.04 USARS commissioned judges who officiate at roller skating contests other than sanctioned events are subject to the loss of their USARS commissions. Any USARS commissioned judge or referee who officiates at a USARS sanctioned meet without current registration is subject to suspension of their USARS commission.

GR19.05 Competitive Officials

GR19.05.01 The term "Officials" as used in this rule shall mean Meet Directors, Commissioned Judges, Commissioned Referees, or other Commissioned Officials, and other Class II members of USARS who have been designated or who have applied for designation as an official of a USARS sanctioned activity. It shall also mean Coaches and other Officials of USARS National Teams and USARS-sponsored training events.

GR19.05.02 Every USARS official shall be responsible for properly executing his or her duties according to USARS General Rules and executing them in a fair and impartial manner. No official has the authority or prerogative to waive the safety rules as published, particularly as this relates to equipment or conditions of competition.

GR20.00 REGIONAL COACHES REPRESENTATIVES (FIGURE & SPEED)

GR20.01 Job Description: Each of the USARS nine (9) regions, at their regional championships contest, is required to elect a USARS Certified Coach for each *sport* to represent their region. This individual is to act as a conduit for sport and specific information, i.e. rule changes, proposals for new events, sports science innovations that can enhance the sport of skating, going to and coming from the USARS *Sport* Committee and the other eight (8) USARS Regional Coach Representatives.

GR20.02 Requirements: The USARS coaches in each USARS region, at every USARS regional championship contest, shall elect a USARS Regional Coaches Representative by a "record vote".

The "record vote" must include the following information:

(a) The date, time and place of the meeting conducting the election.

- (b) The name, signature and USARS club ID number of each current certified USARS voting coach and their “yes”, “no” or “abstain” vote.
- GR20.03 Each USARS Chartered Club (club ID#) in the region shall have one vote when electing a USARS Regional Coaches Representative. If a USARS club has more than one coach, these coaches must decide by whatever method they choose to apply their single vote. If clubs have multiple USARS club IDs (additional practice rinks or satellite clubs), the voting club ID shall be awarded to the club ID with the majority of USARS membership.
- GR20.04 Upon election, the USARS Regional Coach Representative must submit the record vote by which they were elected, along with their personal acceptance and contact information to USARS headquarters for inclusion on the USARS Regional Coaches Representatives contact list. USARS Regional Coach Representatives may also submit their record vote and contact information at the National Championships meeting. Contact information shall include name, address, phone numbers and e-mail.
- GR20.05 Duties and Responsibilities: The USARS Regional Coach Representative must conduct USARS Regional Coaches meetings to facilitate discussion of the current season’s posted proposals up for nation-wide review by the December 31 deadline for submittal to the USARS National Office, and encourage the formulation of new proposals to be brought forward from the region the following years. The USARS *Sport* Committee will review and forward proposals per the rule change process to the Spring Board of Directors Meeting for action by the board.
- GR21.00 SPORT PROGRAM CHANGE PROCESS**
- GR21.01 Objective: To describe in detail the process by which the sport can be changed by proposals from the grass-roots level. All program changes must be approved by a majority of the current USARS certified coaches in the nine (9) regions, approved by the USARS *Sport* Committee and approved by the USARS Board of Directors.
- (a) A program change is defined as: Any change in events, divisions, requirements (except international CIPA or CIC events) or age groups to be skated in USARS Regional and National Championship competition.
- (b) Administrative changes are the responsibility of the USARS *Sport* Committee and must be approved by the USARS Board of Directors. Administrative changes are defined as: Rulebook corrections/clarification, officiating standards/requirements and changes pertaining to the conduct of championships.
- GR21.02 Procedure – USARS Regional Coaches Representative: one current certified USARS coach elected by record vote from each region, designated as their USARS regional coach representative who is capable of acting as a conduit for information between their regions and the USARS *Sport* Committee. The USARS regional coaching representative must attend regional meetings to facilitate discussions of current proposals, solicit new proposals and act as a proctor for the required record votes (refer to USARS Regional Coaches Representative Requirements).
- GR21.03 Each USARS Regional Coaches Representative shall arrange a USARS regional coaches meeting during their regional championships, encourage discussion of new ideas, formulate these ideas into written proposals and conduct a record vote on these proposals by the coaches. The USARS regional coaching representative shall then submit their regions proposals, with the record vote, at the USARS Regional Coaches Representative meeting conducted during the USARS National Championships.
- GR21.04 At the USARS National Regional Coaches Representatives’ meeting all proposals from all regions will be presented and discussed. Similar proposals from multiple regions will be consolidated in consensus proposals by the group. The USARS Regional Coaches Representatives will then vote on which proposals to present to the USARS *Sport* Committees.
- GR21.05 The USARS *Sport* Committees will convene at the National Championship meet following the USARS Regional Coaching Representative meeting, or have a conference call shortly after the National Championships to review proposals from the regions. The *Sport* Committees shall provide the USARS Regional Coaches Representatives with a copy of their meeting minutes indicating the disposition of all proposals submitted. This information will be emailed to all USARS Regional Coaching Representatives by August 31.
- GR21.06 Proposals approved by the USARS *Sport* Committees will be posted on the USARS website no later than September 15 for review by all coaches and general membership.
- GR21.07 Each USARS Regional Coaches Representative shall arrange a second USARS regional coaches meeting to discuss and conduct a record vote on the nation-wide proposals posted on the USARS website. The meeting will require a 30 day advance notice to all of the eligible USARS club ID’s, with a copy of the meeting notice forwarded to the USARS National office. This meeting must have a majority of the club ID’s eligible to vote in order for their present USARS regional coaching representative to be able to vote. Using the eligible club ID list provided to elect a USARS Regional Coaches Representative, each eligible club ID shall select a maximum of three (3) current USARS certified coaches to participate in the record vote on the nation-wide proposals. This meeting must be completed and the record vote on the nation-wide proposals faxed to the National Office by December 31.
- GR21.08 The USARS *Sport* Committees will audit the nation-wide proposal record votes from the nine (9) USARS regions, and forward with committee recommendations all proposals receiving majority approval for action to the USARS National Board of Directors at the spring board meeting.
- GR21.09 Proposals approved by the USARS Board of Directors at the spring meeting will be effective in subsequent skating seasons.
- GR21.10 Majority approval is defined as the approval of a majority of coaches from six (6) or more of the nine (9) USARS regions documented by record vote.
- GR21.11 In the event that nation-wide proposals posted on the USARS website do not get a majority of regions submitting record votes by the December 31 deadline, the USARS *Sport* Committees will then be responsible for the disposition of all proposals.
- GR21.12 The USARS *Sport* Committees shall for each proposal:

- (a) Approve the proposal and forward it to the USARS National Board for action, or
- (b) Reject the proposal, or
- (c) Table the proposal and send it back to the USARS Regional Coaching Representatives.

GR22.00 TRAVEL, HOUSING AND PER DIEM POLICY

- (a) Airline Travel - Whenever possible, USA Roller Skating (USARS) will book travel approximately 30 days prior to departure. Super saver air coach transportation will be booked and paid for by USARS. All individuals who are traveling at the expense of USARS must book their travel through the National Office, use the USARS Official Travel Agency or book their own if the cost is less than \$325. If booking own ticket, reimbursement shall be included with the per diem check that is given to individuals upon arriving at their destination. If not booking own, preferred departure times and airport usage should be provided by the traveler. USARS will attempt to book airline tickets based upon this information, but may be required to book alternate transportation due to flight availability or lower ticket cost. In the event individuals wish to travel on a more expensive airline ticket than the one USARS can provide, the difference in cost must be paid to USARS by the traveler at the time of booking. A credit card is required to charge this extra cost.
- (b) Airline Ticket Changes - Any additional costs incurred by altering an itinerary or changing the departure or return dates once after an airline ticket has been booked, must be borne by the individual who requested the change.
- (c) Airline Ticket Cancellations - By agreeing to participate in any event at the expense of USARS, the traveler is responsible for any additional costs if he/she cancels an airline ticket. If after a ticket is purchased by USARS, the airline ticket is not used and sufficient reason is not given to justify the traveler's withdrawal, in the opinion of the USARS Executive Director, the traveler is personally responsible for full reimbursement to USARS of the entire cost of the airline ticket. The traveler will then own the ticket for his/her own personal use. Non-refundable tickets can be used again by the person named on the ticket after paying an airline-imposed reissue penalty.
- (d) Driving - Should the traveler wish to drive to the event, mileage is reimbursed at a rate of 42 cents per mile for round trip mileage or for the lowest cost of a round trip airline ticket, whichever is the least expensive. Transportation in the same automobile by two or more invited expense-compensated individuals will cause USARS to reimburse round trip mileage for only one person or the cost of round trip airfare, whichever is the least expensive. No additional funds will be provided for motels, gas, parking fees, meals, etc. when driving to the event.
- (e) Housing: Housing will be provided on a double-occupancy basis for an official traveling at the expense of USARS (unless otherwise noted.) All individuals must stay at the established hotel. Any special housing requests (roommates, room location, smoking, non-smoking, etc.) should be made at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Individuals who request a single room will be responsible for half of the room cost. Those who request hotel accommodations for an early arrival or to extend beyond the designated days of the event, will be financially responsible for the cost of the room, and must provide USARS with a credit card to cover the additional cost.
- (f) Per Diem: Individuals who travel at the expense of USA Roller Sports will receive \$40.00 per diem for each full day at an event, and \$20.00 for each travel day to the event, broken down as follows: \$10 for breakfast, \$10 for lunch and \$20 for dinner and \$20 for travel days. If any of those meals are provided, the amount should be reduced accordingly. The per diem is to cover costs such as meals, airport parking, shuttle and taxi services. When travel to or from an event occurs on the same day as the traveler's participation in the event itself, the individual will receive per diem for the full day, but not an additional per diem for half-day travel. No expense itemization is required by USARS for this per diem.
Note: Individuals may submit a receipt for reimbursement of the cost of their shuttle service between the airport and the hotel in the city where the meeting will take place.
- (g) Honorariums are \$100 per day, up to a maximum of \$360 per week. Per diem and honorarium checks will be provided when the volunteer arrives at the event.
- (d) USA Roller Sports accounting department has prepared an expense report that all team leaders are asked to use when reporting personal expenses or funds advanced on behalf of USA Teams or for others who travel at the expense of USA Roller Sports on behalf of our sport. The current form should include a list on the back of what documentation is required and items that will be considered reimbursable.