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**Key**

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| Ministry of Sport (MS).  Gibraltar Sports & Leisure Authority (GSLA).  Sports Development, Training and Inclusion Unit (SDU). | Gibraltar Sports Advisory Council (GSAC).  International Olympic Committee (IOC).  Governing Body of Sport (GB) |

**1. Criteria for recognition as a sport.**

When assessing whether to recognise a sport or not, His Majesty’s GOG assesses if that sport is recognised by the International Olympic Committee, meets the Council of Europe's European Sports Charter 1993 (revised 2001) definition of sport and if the sport is feasible and with the potential to flourish in Gibraltar. In the case of sports listed by both the latter and also by the IOC (particularly when more than one discipline of a sport is listed) then the IOC recognised sport prevails. (i.e. Aquatics are recognised by the IOC as an official sport whilst the European Core List includes the different aquatics disciplines separately).

**2. Criteria for recognition as a Governing Body of Sport in Gibraltar.**

A Governing Body of Sport will be recognised once it meets the recognition criteria above (1) and below (2.1. to 2.9.) and registers with the GSLA annually as the Governing Body of Sport responsible for the development of their sport locally.

2.1. Essential **Purpose and Governance.**

It is not the role of GSAC to establish or appoint National Governing Bodies of Sport. National Governing Bodies are typically independent, self-appointed organisations that govern their sports through the common consent of their sport/members.

The aim of the recognition process is to identify a single lead Governing Body structure that governs their sport and its disciplines in the jurisdiction of Gibraltar. The recognition criteria focus is on establishing if a Governing Body has committed to the development of that sport in an equitable and inclusive manor and if it has a reasonable level of organisation and governance. In the first instance a new Governing Body will be recognised as a Developing Sport. Casual sport will be considered under the auspices of a leisure association.

Recognised Governing Bodies of Sport (GB) are required to be open to developing opportunities for all irrelevant of age, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, political affiliation, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status to develop their sport and its disciplines in a non-profit making capacity.

Their constitution and policies need to be relevant to the jurisdiction of Gibraltar, demonstrating that the GB will operate across the jurisdiction that it is applying to represent, and is independent of undue influence from other bodies. The constitution has to include policies on development strategies, equality, inclusion, diversity, safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults, anti-doping and to be supported by rules and regulations accepted by an International Governing Body/Federation of their sport*. (****On occasion the rules and regulations implemented by International Federations may need to be addressed allowing for the local context).***

2.2. History.

The association applying for recognition must normally have been in operation for a minimum of one year as evidenced by certified or appropriately signed off minutes and records of accounts of the most recent Annual General Meeting. (HMGOG may waive this requirement in exceptional circumstances).

2.3. Affiliation.

The association applying for recognition as a Governing Body of Sport in Gibraltar must either demonstrate its affiliation to their sport’s International Federation or Governing Body or reference its intention to prioritise future affiliation. GB’s are required to keep GSLA updated on membership status, at least annually in their registration process.

2.4. Membership.

The association applying must be able to evidence current membership levels who in the majority can provide pr. of residency or proof that they are in active employment in Gibraltar evidenced by a Gibraltar Identification Card. It is recommended that a minimum of 40 individual members are recorded, although this will be considered on a case-by-case basis for niche sports. If membership does not reach recommended level within a four-year period, recognition as a casual sport and registration under the auspices of a leisure association will be considered. Suggested ways of evidencing membership are from attendance at public meetings, a membership database, clubs affiliated to association or membership revenues. (HMGOG may waive this requirement in exceptional circumstances).

2.5. Competitive Structure.

An association applying must present aims as part of its constitution relating to the development of a local competitive infrastructure leading to support an equitable national squad selection process. (Athletes representing Gibraltar must meet above ID card membership criteria in addition to their GB eligibility to represent, to qualify for financial assistance)

2.6. Exclusions.

2.6.1. An association cannot be recognised as a Governing Body of Sport if it is recognised as a cultural activity.

2.6.2. An association cannot be recognised as a Governing Body of Sport if the GSLA on advice from GSAC deems that the said Governing Body is prohibiting the development of a club structure.

2.7. Gibraltar National Anti-Doping Policy.

Recognised Governing Bodies of Sport must accept WADA anti-doping rules and regulations (See [www.gsla.gi](http://www.gsla.gi) – Links/Downloads).

2.8. GSLA Safeguarding Vulnerable Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

Recognised Governing Bodies of Sport must accept and meet above policy requirements. i.e. produce an organisational safeguarding policy applicable to the local infrastructure, have a nominated and trained Welfare Officer/Team and meet GSLA Safeguarding Criteria for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. (See [www.gsla.gi](http://www.gsla.gi) - Downloads).

***2*.9. Commitment to Equality, Inclusion and Diversity.**

Recognised Governing Bodies of Sport are to ensure they are committed to providing opportunities that embrace inclusivity, diversity and promote equality. ***(Support available from International Federations and SDU on the development of policies/statements).***

**3. Provisional recognition as a Developing Sport.**

In certain circumstances GSAC may recommend the provisional recognition of a sports association aspiring to become the Governing Body of Sport in Gibraltar, but who does not have the initial active membership, competitive infrastructure or qualified coaches to meet the full criteria for recognition. In these circumstances an association who has received provisional recognition as a developing sport will be reviewed annually and given up to four years to meet all recognition criteria. In the interim, applications for financial assistance towards developing infrastructure to meet recognition criteria and allocations will be considered by GSLA and MS alongside recognised sports associations.

HMGOG on advice from GSAC has the final decision on recognising a Governing Body of Sport in Gibraltar and is not bound by criteria set by the IOC, the Council of Europe or the respective International Federation.

4. The application process for recognition as a Governing Body of Sport in Gibraltar.

Application Form 1. for initial recognition as Governing Body of a Sport in Gibraltar can be downloaded from GSLA Website: [www.gsla.gi](http://www.gsla.gi) For further information email [sportsdevelopment@gsla.gi](mailto:sportsdevelopment@gsla.gi) / [info@gsla.gi](mailto:info@gsla.gi)

**Only one Governing Body of Sport will be recognised at any given time in Gibraltar.**

Sports associations applying for recognition must support their official applications with:

* 1. Evidence of a publicly advertised and democratic public meeting with all stakeholders invited.
  2. Certified copy of the minutes of the public meeting.
  3. A constitution checked and approved for its legality. (Advice on preparing a constitution available from SDU)
  4. A commitment to setting up a Governing Body of Sport bank account as financial assistance cannot be paid into a personal bank account. Letter of support to bank available after initial recognition as a developing sport from SDU.
  5. Rules and regulations for the sport.
  6. List of caretaker committee members with contact details.
  7. List of clubs (if applicable) affiliated to the Governing Body of Sport with contact details.
  8. Statement/policy on public liability insurance for members, clubs and individuals.
  9. Commitment to equality, inclusion and diversity within their sport - Policy or Constitution.
  10. Safeguarding policy - Welfare Officer and all working with children and young people under the age of 18 years are required to meet GSLA criteria.

***(Support available from International Federations and SDU on the development of policies).***

It is expected that all registered Governing Bodies conduct their affairs, at all times, in full compliance with their Constitution (as may from time to time be amended and subsequently submitted to GSAC)

Constitutions to follow the requirements of their sport’s International Federation, even if at the time of application, they are not members. This is particularly important with regards to rules and regulations.

1. **Annual registration of the Governing Body of Sport -** Once recognised by the GSLA on behalf of HMGoG all Governing Bodies of Sport in Gibraltar are required to register annually with the GSLA to maintain their official recognition.
   1. Failure to register or meet registration criteria on an annual basis, will result in the suspension of the Governing Bodies recognition by HMGOG and the loss of rights inherent in such recognition.
   2. Governing Body Annual Registration Application Form (A) can be downloaded from [**www.gsla.gi**](http://www.gsla.gi) .
   3. Governing Bodies of Sport must complete their annual registration form in full and provide the following information in support of their annual registrations:

* Evidence of having held their last Annual General Meeting (AGM) together with a certified copy of the last AGM Minutes. Minutes to acknowledge all financial assistance and support received from HMGOG through GSLA.
* Details of any amendments to the constitution of Governing Body of Sport since the last registration or a copy of said constitution.
* Details of committee members, including contact email, telephone and address. Central email, contact telephone numbers social media sites that will be published on the GSLA Website.
* Safeguarding Policy, contact details of Welfare Officer(s) with proof of meeting GSLA Safeguarding criteria.
* A list of qualified and active coaches, including levels of the awards and expiry dates.
* A list of qualified and active officials, including levels of awards and expiry dates.
* List of junior coaches with details of meeting GSLA Safeguarding criteria.
* Completion of all relevant sections of the official annual registration Form A.
* A copy of the last annual accounts. If accounts are over one year out of date, then a statement must be included giving reasons, with a minimum of a balance sheet outlining financial position of the Governing Body of Sport.
* Evidence of current membership to the International Federation. Membership of International Federations must be prioritised by Governing Bodies of Sports. (***If any Governing Body of Sport is considering relinquishing membership they are required to inform and take advice from HMGOG/MFS before membership ceases).***
* Outline bids for financial assistance including evidence of events or initiatives planned and approximated costs, including quotes, which will be sought by the Governing Body and its affiliated clubs or associations for the following financial year. ***(Duplications from previous years will not be accepted for consideration)***

To support the budgeting process, it is imperative that competitive and development needs of the Governing Body of Sport are identified at annual registration.

**Information on recognised and registered Governing Bodies of Sport will be published annually and can be obtained from the GSLA website** [**www.gsla.gi**](http://www.gsla.gi) **or from the Bayside Sports Complex.**