

University Sport South Africa (USSA)

Membership Regulation: Criteria for New Membership

4 October 2025

Approved by Council in accordance with Article 9 and Schedule B of the USSA Constitution

1. Purpose

The evolving landscape of South Africa's higher education sector, marked by the growth of private institutions and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, requires a more inclusive, development-oriented membership framework for University Sport South Africa (USSA). As the system diversifies, ensuring that access to student sport and participation in national structures are not limited to traditionally dominant institutions is imperative. This Regulation establishes an adaptive membership model to foster equitable development, strengthen transformation, and promote the integration of emerging institutions into the broader university sport ecosystem, in alignment with national policy objectives and USSA's constitutional mandate.

2. Constitutional Basis

This Regulation is issued under the authority of clause 9.3 of the USSA Constitution, which provides as follows:

"Applications for new membership of USSA shall be submitted to the USSA Secretariat and must comply with the criteria stipulated in Schedule B of the USSA Constitution. The USSA Statutory Supervision Committee shall review all applications and submit its recommendations to the USSA Council for final approval."

3. Criteria for New Membership

Institutions meeting the requirement set out in clause 9.2 of the USSA Constitution must comply with the following conditions in order to apply for membership to USSA.

3.1 Legal and Academic Standing

- Certificate of Registration with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) as a higher education institution in terms of the Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997.
- Proof of accredited academic programmes at a minimum of 120 SAQA credits on NQF Level 5, endorsed by the Senate and confirmed by the Registrar.

3.2 Sport Participation and Campus-Based Activity

- Evidence of sport participation on campus over the past three years (e.g., internal leagues, intramural competitions, club-based sport).
- Proof of participation in external/local sport competitions (e.g., regional, provincial) supported by letters from recognised sport federations.
- Confirmation of campus-specific participation per sporting code

3.3 Institutional Sport Governance

- List of sport staff members, including positions, contact details, and sport responsibilities.
- Proof of an elected Student Sports Council or SRC Sports Portfolio, accompanied by a commitment letter.
- Gender inclusion and equity report outlining sport opportunities for both male and female students.

3.4 Compliance and Commitment

- Confirmation of total registered student population as verified through DHET or institutional registrar.
- Written undertaking to abide by the USSA Constitution and Regulations, pay affiliation fees, proportional contribution to staffing fees and support national transformation objectives.
- Commitment to USSA's governance requirements such as the constitution, policies, regulations and by-laws.

4. Implementation

This Regulation has been ratified at the Council Meeting on 4 October 2025 and in accordance with Article 21 of the USSA Constitution it takes effect from the date of ratification.

To give effect to this Regulation, Council has resolved as follows:

- a. The "Criteria for New Membership" is adopted as an official Membership Regulation under Article 9 of the USSA Constitution.
- b. Applications for new membership of USSA shall be submitted to the USSA Secretariat and must comply with the criteria stipulated below. All applicants must complete the checklist and submit the supporting evidence to demonstrate institutional readiness and commitment to student sport.
- c. The USSA Statutory Supervision Committee shall review all applications and submit its recommendations to the USSA NEC and to the USSA Council for final approval.

The USSA National Executive Committee (NEC) shall:

- a. Conduct due diligence in accordance with this Membership Regulation and process applications for submission to Council.

- b. Administer and maintain the new membership criteria as part of the official USSA Membership Regulations.
- c. Monitor and assess the progress of members on an annual basis.
- d. Provide a status report to the Council at each AGM.

5. Membership Application Checklist

This checklist supports institutions applying to join University Sport South Africa (USSA). The checklist outlines the required documentation and compliance areas aligned with USSA's constitutional and regulatory expectations.

Applications must be submitted to USSA Secretariat via email: ussa@ussa.org.za

Legal and Academic Standing	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certificate of Registration with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmation from Registrar on programmes (120 SAQA credits at NQF Level 5 or above)
Sport Participation and Campus-Based Activity	
<input type="checkbox"/>	List of sport clubs and evidence of campus-based sport activity for the past 3 years (annual reports, to include evidence such as membership data, photos, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirmation letters from local, regional, or provincial sport federations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Campus-specific list of sport codes
Institutional Sport Governance	
<input type="checkbox"/>	List of sport staff/employees with contact details and responsibilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentation of elected Student Sports Council/SRC Sport Portfolio
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender inclusion and equity report on student sport participation
Compliance and Commitment	
<input type="checkbox"/>	DHET-confirmed number of registered students
<input type="checkbox"/>	Institutional undertaking to comply with USSA Constitution and policies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Undertaking to pay affiliation fees upon invoice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commitment to USSA's governance requirements, with specific reference to the constitution, regulations, by-laws and transformation