



USA Diving, Inc. Athlete Representation Policy

This policy contains the guidelines, procedures, and requirements for athlete representation in USA Diving sanctioned events.

1. General.

- (a) Athletes who compete in USA Diving sanctioned events must be members of USA Diving.
- (b) To compete as a representative of a club member or allied organization in a USA Diving sanctioned event, an athlete must be a member of that club member or allied organization.

2. Students.

- (a) A student-athlete registered with a club member or allied organization who wishes to compete for an educational institution will be deemed released by the club member or allied organization upon commencement of the student-athlete's scholastic diving season to compete for that educational institution in open competition. The student-athlete will similarly be deemed released by such educational institution immediately on expiration of the scholastic season and can represent the club member or allied organization of the student-athlete's immediate previous registration.
- (b) Any student-athlete of an educational institution that is a member of USA Diving, may alternately represent both the athlete's educational institution and another club member to which the athlete belongs:
 - (i) If the open competition is conducted during the course of the scholastic year, and the educational institution does not release the athlete from representation, the points scored will accrue to that institution;
 - (ii) If the competition is not conducted during the scholastic year, and the institution releases the athlete from representation, the points scored will accrue to the club member for which the athlete member is registered.

3. Armed Forces.

- (a) An athlete member enlisted in the Armed Forces of the United States may represent in open competition either, or both, the athlete's military organization and the club member to which the athlete member belongs. Any points scored by such athlete member will count for the athlete's club member, except where a point trophy is advertised to be contested for by a military organization.
- (b) Any athlete member who is enlisted in the Armed Forces of the United States can represent the athlete member's military organization in open competition upon signing a statement made under oath that the athlete member has never received pay for participating in any contest and is an amateur athlete under the Ted Stevens Act.

4. Unattached.

- (a) An unattached athlete member is an athlete member who does not represent a club member, an educational institution, or allied organization.
- (b) An unattached athlete member will be identified in any sanctioned event by the athlete's place of residence. *For example, J. Doe, Unattached (Middle Atlantic).*
- (c) An unattached athlete member will not accrue points for any club member or allied organization.
- (d) In recognition of the fact that representing a club member is a voluntary agreement between a coach member and an athlete member, if either the coach member or the athlete member decides to withdraw from such voluntary agreement, the athlete member will be considered an unattached athlete member. Unattached status will commence as soon as the coach member or athlete member notifies USA Diving in which the athlete member is registered or, if the decision is made during a competition, the meet director.

5. Coach of Record Ineligible.

In the event that an athlete member's coach member of record is suspended or banned from USA Diving, then the athlete member has the option of:

- (a) proceeding with the athlete member's current club member and selecting a different coach member of record from the same club member;
- (b) competing as an unattached athlete member; or
- (c) transferring to another club member.