

**TO: ALL COACHES, ATHLETES, AND LOCAL DIVING ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS**

**SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, TRAINING, AND EXHIBITIONS INVOLVING ATHLETES FROM OTHER NATIONS**

This advisory provides very important information regarding the participation of the athletes from the U.S. in meets in other countries and participation of U.S. athletes in meets within the United States where athletes from other nations will be participating. The **POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL SPORTS TRAVEL** sets forth and delineates the criteria established by the rules of FINA for participation by athletes in and the sanctioning (approval) of international aquatic relations.

Failure to comply with FINA requirements can affect the rights of the athletes to compete in future international events including suspension for a period of years. The FINA regulations require USA Diving to enforce FINA regulations and apply the required sanctions (penalties) to any person who violates them.

Coaches and athletes contemplating participation in such a meet should carefully consider the policy statement below and the potential consequences of ignoring the FINA regulations.

## POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL SPORTS TRAVEL

USA Diving has been designated by the United States Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport of diving. With this designation, USA Diving is a member of United States Aquatic Sports which is the only organization in the United States recognized by FINA for the control and supervision of all competitive aquatic sports between the United States and other members of FINA; including the Olympic Games, the Pan American Games, the World University Games, the FINA World Championships, the FINA World Cups, the FINA Grand Prix, and all other international competitions.

In order to be able to compete in international competition athletes must abide by all regulations of FINA. Regulation GR 1.1 states that **“All competitors must be registered with their National Federation to be eligible to compete.”** This means in order to compete outside of the United States an athlete must be a member of USA Diving.

GR 2.1 states that **“A competition organized by a National Federation, Regional Body or Club in which other FINA recognized Federations, Clubs or Individuals participate, shall be regarded as an International Competition.”** This regulation clearly indicates that even clubs and individuals competing against other clubs or individuals from other countries come under the regulations of FINA.

GR 2.4 states that **“No team shall be designated by the title of a country or Sport Country unless the competitors have been selected by the Member of the country or Sport Country.”** This means that a team or individual cannot say they are representing or competing for the United States unless they have been selected by USA Diving.

GR 3.1 states that **“A competitor competing at a meet in a foreign country shall be a member of an affiliated Member or of a club affiliated there to. This section shall apply equally to judges, officials, trainers, and coaches.”** Additionally, GR 3.2 states that **“All competitors must have received sanction (approval) by the Member where the competition takes place, and all competitors or clubs must have permission from their respective Member.”** What FINA is saying here is that in order for any club or individual to compete, train, or exhibit outside of the United States they must be a member of USA Diving and have permission from USA Diving.

FINA states in GR 4.1 that **“No affiliated Member shall have any kind of relationship with a non affiliated or suspended body.”** Body is a broad term which FINA can interpret to mean country, club, or individual. GR 4.2 further states that **“The exchange of competitors, administrators, directors, judges, officials, trainers, coaches, etc., with non affiliated or suspended bodies is not permissible.”** GR 4.3 continues with **“The holding of demonstrations and/or exhibitions, clinics, training, competition, etc., with non affiliated or suspended bodies is not permissible.”** FINA has made it clear that all international relationships for divers and officials come under the jurisdiction of FINA and by which USA Diving must abide.

GR 4.5 states that **“Any individual or group violating this rule shall be suspended by the affiliated Member for a minimum period of one year, up to a maximum period**

**of two years. FINA retains the right to review the suspension made by the affiliated Member and to increase it up to the maximum of two years in accordance with the circumstances involved. The affiliated Member shall abide by any such increase made on review. In the event that such individual or group has resigned its membership with the affiliated Member or is not a member, it shall not be allowed to affiliate with that Member for a minimum period of three months up to a maximum period of two years. FINA retains the right to review any such sanction imposed by the affiliated Member and to increase it up to the maximum of two years in accordance with the circumstances involved.”** GR 4.6 further states that **“Each Member that conducts a competition shall strictly enforce FINA Rules governing eligibility.”** As a member of FINA, USA Diving has the responsibility and obligation to enforce these regulations. Athletes, coaches, and officials who are not members of USA Diving are prohibited from any international competitions or exhibitions.