

## AIMS Membership Application Process

The IOC recognised umbrella organisation, the Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport ([AIMS](#)), Membership Application process is open to any interested International Federations, governing a sport at world level, wishing to enter the Olympic Movement.

To become AIMS Member, Applicants must fulfil several [criteria](#).

SportAccord is managing the application process in cooperation with AIMS, being the collective body of the Umbrella Organizations. The application file is evaluated by a [Membership Commission](#) composed of 1 Representative of each of the Umbrella Organisations ([ASOIF](#), [WOF](#), [ARISF](#) and [AIMS](#)) and 1 Representative of the [IOC](#). The Membership Commission will then make a recommendation to the [SportAccord Executive Committee](#) which will decide whether the Applicant has fulfilled the AIMS Membership criteria. Finally, the AIMS General Assembly will decide on whether to accept the qualified Applicant as an AIMS Member.

You will find below some questions and answers which will provide you with an overview of the process.

If you need more information or clarification, please contact [aimsmembership@sportaccord.sport](mailto:aimsmembership@sportaccord.sport)

### 1. [Who can apply to become a Member of AIMS?](#)

The Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport (AIMS) Membership Application process is open to any interested International Federations governing a sport at world level, wishing to enter the Olympic Movement.

### 2. [Who is managing the AIMS Membership Process?](#)

SportAccord manages the AIMS Membership process and criteria, being the collective body of the Umbrella Organizations (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations ASOIF, Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations WOF, Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations ARISF and Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport AIMS).

### 3. [What are the criteria that an Applicant must fulfil?](#)

The AIMS Membership Criteria are divided in 3 groups:

1. [General](#)\*
2. [Legitimacy](#)\*\*
3. [Sport Governance Criteria](#)\*\*\*

#### 1. \*\*GENERAL:

1. 3 Years of Existence
2. Not-For-Profit or equivalent Status
3. Universality:
  - 30 Approved National Federations (NFs) from a minimum of 3 continents (for Winter Sports)
  - 60 Approved National Federations (NFs) from a minimum of 3 continents (for Summer Sports)SportAccord will determine whether a NF of any given country (defined as a state having a National Olympic Committee recognised by the IOC) can be considered approved, verifying

their compliance with organisational, activity and governance standards. The **National Federations of the Applicant** will be evaluated on the following:

- a) Strategic Plan
  - b) Annual Activity Reports
  - c) Organisation of Development Programs (including for Youth)
  - d) Digital Media/On-Line Presence
  - e) Financial Statements
  - f) General Assemblies
  - g) Electoral Rules
  - h) National Championship/Competitions Calendar
  - i) Grassroots Programmes
  - j) List of Stakeholders
  - k) Official Registration
  - l) Statutes
  - m) Not-For-Profit Status
  - n) Recognition Certificate from National Olympic Committee or National State Authority (i.e Sport Ministry)
  - o) Relationship with other Organisations
4. Organisational Standard Compliance. The Applicant will be evaluated on the following:
- a) Organisational Chart
  - b) Strategic Plan
  - c) Organisation of Development Programs (including for Youth)
  - d) Sport Presentation (including for Youth)
  - e) Annual Activity Reports
  - f) Digital Media
  - g) Audited Financial Statement
  - h) General Assemblies
  - i) Election Rules
5. Activities Standard Compliance. The Applicant will be evaluated on the following:
- a) List of International Competitions
  - b) List of Stakeholders
  - c) Support for NFs/Members
  - d) Support for Continental Bodies
  - e) Support for Athletes
  - f) Program for Athletes Health
  - g) Athletes' Representation in Governing Bodies
  - h) Gender Representation in Governing Bodies
  - i) Organisation of Sport for All events
  - j) Program for Athletes with Disabilities
  - k) Program for Athletes Entourage
6. Governance Standard Compliance. The Applicant will be evaluated on the following:
- a) Official Registration (3 years existence minimum)
  - b) Statutes
  - c) Sport Rules
  - d) Code of Ethics
  - e) Conflict of Interest Policy
  - f) Gender Equality Policy
  - g) Code of Conduct

- h) Sustainability Policy
- i) Anti-Doping Risk Assessment
- j) Anti-Doping Rules
- k) Anti-Doping Statistics
- l) Manipulation of Competition Rules
- m) Education Anti-Doping
- n) Social Programmes
- o) Self-Assessment Good Governance

## 2. Legitimacy\*\*\*

The Legitimacy criteria examines whether there are more than one Applicant or other Organisations claiming to be the governing body for the sport. The Applicant must demonstrate that it is the legitimate governing body for the sport. The following aspects will be evaluated in determining whether the Applicant is the legitimate governing body:

- a) Origin of the Sport, and rivalry to existing members of the recognised sport movement
- b) Sport Rules
- c) Good Governance of the Applicant/s (assessed via the self-assessment tool developed by ASOIF)
- d) Number of Members/National Federations
- e) Number of Recognition Certificates of the National Federations either from the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or from the National Sport Authority (NSA) (e.g. Sport Ministry)
- f) Popularity of the Sport (e.g. number of licensed Athletes, media exposure, broadcasting, on-line presence etc.)
- g) Geographical Distribution of the Sport
- h) Overall Structure and Development of the Applicant/s
- i) The Nature of any Conflicts with other Sport Organisations claiming to be the governing body for the sport.

## 3. Sport Governance Criteria\*\*\*\*

The Sport Governance are similar to the legitimacy criteria and examines whether there is a compatibility issue between an Applicant/s and a Member of an Umbrella Organisation (ASOIF, WOF, ARISF and AIMS Members) or other Organisation recognised by the IOC (i.e: International Paralympic Committee, Commonwealth Games Federations etc.). The following aspects will be evaluated in determining whether there is a compatibility issue:

- a) Origin of the Sport, and rivalry to existing members of the recognised sport movement
- b) Sport Rules
- c) Good Governance of the Applicant/s (assessed via the self-assessment tool developed by ASOIF)
- d) Number of Members/National Federations
- e) Number of Recognition Certificates of the National Federations either from the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or from the National Sport Authority (NSA) (e.g. Sport Ministry)
- f) Popularity of the Sport (e.g. number of licensed Athletes, media exposure, broadcasting, on-line presence etc.)

- g) Geographical Distribution of the Sport
- h) Overall Structure and Development of the Applicant/s
- i) The Nature of any Conflicts with Member/s of an Umbrella Organisation (ASOIF, WOF, ARISF and AIMS Members) or other Organisation recognised by the IOC. Any eventual outcome of the conflict (including the CAS decision where applicable) will also be evaluated to assess the fulfilment of the Sport Governance criteria.

**4. [What are the steps to start the AIMS Membership Application?](#)**

1. Send a letter of intent
2. Sign an [acknowledgement form](#)
3. Pay the Membership Application Fee (25.000 CHF)  
*For former GAISF Observers a discounted fee is applicable (10.000 CHF)*

Upon completion of the first 3 steps, the Applicant will receive the access to an On-line Platform to submit the application file and all the related documents.

**5. [When is the deadline for submitting the Application?](#)**

Decisions on AIMS Membership are taken by the SportAccord Executive Committee and by the AIMS General Assembly once a year, usually at the [SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit](#). Therefore, the Applicant will need to submit its full application file some months before the start of the Summit, which usually takes place in April. The deadline varies each year. For 2025, the deadline is **28th February 2025**.

**6. [What is the timeline of the Application process?](#)**

An Application can be commenced at any time. The Application fee is valid for up to 4 years. Therefore, every Applicant has a maximum of 4 years starting from the date of the completion of the first 3 steps of the application process (see point 4 above) to complete successfully complete its application.

If the Applicant fails to become an AIMS Member within this time frame, or earlier if its application is refused the Application is terminated. In that case the Applicant will need to reapply, if they so wish and pay another Membership Application Fee.

**7. [Who is assessing the application file to verify that the criteria are fulfilled?](#)**

The SportAccord Membership Commission evaluates the documents and verifies the fulfilment of the criteria. The Membership Commission is composed of 1 Representative of each of the Umbrella Organisations (ASOIF, WOF, ARISF and AIMS) and 1 Representative of the IOC. The SportAccord Membership Commission is chaired by the AIMS representative.

The Membership Commission, with the support of the SportAccord Administration and Membership Team, produces a report to the attention of the SportAccord Executive Committee.

The SportAccord Executive Committee examines the report of the Membership Commission and decides if an Applicant has fulfilled the criteria to become an AIMS Member.

Finally, The AIMS General Assembly will vote whether to accept them.

To summarize, the application process is composed of **4 phases**:

1. **Initial Phase**, where the Applicant submits the letter of intent, signs the acknowledgment form and pays the Membership Application Fee.
2. **Assessment Phase**, where the Applicant submits the documentation which is assessed by the Membership Commission.
3. **Decision Phase**, where the Applicant is assessed by the SportAccord Executive Committee which decides if an Applicant qualifies for AIMS Membership by virtue of fulfilling all the AIMS Membership criteria.
4. **Confirmation Phase**, where AIMS General Assembly vote whether or not to accept the qualified Applicant as an AIMS Member.

**8. [Will Applicants receive information about their Application?](#)**

The Applicant will be in constant contact with the SportAccord Administration and Membership Team, who will provide guidance throughout the process.

Furthermore, before the completion of the process the SportAccord Administration may transmit an intermediary report to the Applicant, so as to support the Applicant to identify technical issues and possibly guide the Applicant to progress on the fulfilment of the criteria and amend before submission to the Membership Commission.

**9. [Who is taking the decision about the AIMS Membership?](#)**

The SportAccord Executive Committee examines the report produced by the Membership Commission and decides whether or not the Applicant has fulfilled the AIMS Membership criteria.

a) Negative Outcome: If the SportAccord Executive Committee decides that the Applicant failed to meet one of the criteria the Application is terminated. The Applicant will receive a report indicating the AIMS Membership criteria that are met and the one that are not fulfilled, with the relevant scores where applicable.

b) Positive Outcome: If the SportAccord Executive Committee decides that the Applicant fulfils all the AIMS Membership criteria, the Applicant will advance to the confirmation phase, which is the vote of the AIMS General Assembly.

**Finally, the AIMS General Assembly will decide whether to confirm the qualified Applicant as an AIMS Member.** If the AIMS General Assembly does not confirm the qualified Applicant as an AIMS Member the Application is terminated and the Applicant will need to start a new application process, if they wish.

**10. [Who should you contact to apply or have more information?](#)**

Please contact [aimsmembership@sportaccord.sport](mailto:aimsmembership@sportaccord.sport) for any queries.