

## **ARTICLE 4 - AUTHORITY**

SECTION 1 AUTHORITY – MAAD shall exercise the following powers:

- A. Represent MAAD in all international, national, and regional athletic competitions;
- B. Serve as the coordinating body for amateur athletic activity of deaf athletes in the Midwest in the sports of basketball, softball, and volleyball;
- C. Exercise jurisdiction over regional amateur athletic activities and competitions held in the Midwest region for deaf athletes in the sports of basketball, softball, and volleyball;
- D. Establish procedures for the determination of player eligibility for participation in MAAD regional competitions;
- E. Designate the championship and/or invited teams to represent MAAD in national athletic competition in the sports of basketball, softball and volleyball; and
- F. Recommend the names of qualified MAAD individuals and/or teams to USADSF and/or USADB to represent United States in any sport that are held for the Deaflympics, Deaf Pan American Games, or any other relevant international or national athletic competition.

SECTION 2 FINAL AUTHORITY – Except when it may conflict with applicable naad or national sports associations rulings, or when overruled on appeal, the MAAD Board of Delegates shall be the final authority on all decisions concerning games and competitions under its jurisdiction and concerning the actions of its elected Officers, Executive Board, Committees, and Councils.

SECTION 3 INTERPRETATION – The procedure for interpretation of the MAAD Bylaws and the Players Councils' Rules and Regulations shall be as follows:

- A. Any MAAD Member Club in doubt about the applicability of any bylaw, or rule or regulation, shall request an interpretation.
- B. The request shall be in writing by the Member Club Secretary (-Treasurer) to the MAAD Vice President/Deputy Commissioner.
- C. A copy of the MAAD Vice President//Deputy Commissioner's response to a Member Club request shall also be sent to each member of the MAAD Executive Board.

SECTION 4 CONFLICTS – In cases of conflict between the bylaws or rules of any Club Member and those of the MAAD, the MAAD Bylaws and Rules and Regulations shall supersede and be final.

SECTION 5 EXCEPTIONS – Request for exceptions to the MAAD Bylaws and Players Councils' Rules and Regulations shall proceed as follows:

- A. Requests must be made in writing by the Secretary of the Club Member and submitted to the MAAD Vice President/Deputy Commissioner, with copies to the Secretary and Tournament Director of MAAD; and
- B. Requests must include the reason(s) for the requested exception(s).

SECTION 6 APPEALS – The ruling of the MAAD Vice President/Deputy Commissioner shall be binding; however, appeals may be made in writing by any MAAD Member Club through its Secretary.

Appeals shall go through the following process as necessary:

1. to the applicable Players Council,
2. to the Executive Board, and
3. to the MAAD Board of Delegates;

SECTION 7 NO SUSPENSIONS OF THE BYLAWS – There shall be NO suspension of any MAAD Bylaws or Rules and Regulations at any time.

SECTION 8 PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE – Except where the Bylaws or the Rules and Regulations provide direction, the current ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER shall govern.

SECTION 9 ARBITRATION – In the event of a dispute that is brought to arbitration, MAAD shall submit to binding arbitration, conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association, in any controversy involving the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in amateur athlete competition, as provided for by the USOC's Constitution and Bylaws.