

ARTICLE 5 - CLUB AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP – There shall be two classes of membership recognized by MAAD.

- A. **CLUB MEMBERS** – Club Membership is limited to bona fide clubs of the deaf. The definition of a bona fide club of the deaf shall be that it [1] is a permanent organization founded in good faith for the social benefits of its Deaf members and of the Deaf community as a whole; [2] has been in existence for at least one (1) year; [3] has at least fifteen (15) members who are Deaf including at least three (3) officers, all of whom are Deaf; [4] has a set of Bylaws; and [5] holds regular meetings. The bona fide clubs of the deaf shall comply with the constitution & bylaws, and rules & regulations, of MAAD, USADB, and NSAD, and each club shall assume full responsibility for the athletic teams representing it in any competition.
- B. **INDEPENDENT TEAM MEMBERS** – Independent Team Membership shall be granted to those teams that are geographically located within the region of MAAD at the time of application and that are not associated with any club for the deaf. They shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership provided under the constitution & bylaws and rules & regulations of MAAD, USADB, and NSAD.

SECTION 2 APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP –

- A. **CLUBS** – A new or non-member club seeking to become a bona-fide MAAD Club Member shall send club membership application in a formal letter, along with the club's check or money order, to the MAAD Secretary for an approval of the Board of Delegates at the Annual Meeting. Upon obtaining approval, the Club Member may send a team, subject to the bylaws and rules and regulations of the MAAD, to participate at the next tournament.
- B. **INDEPENDENT TEAMS** – An independent team seeking to participate in any sport competition shall send a team registration form with a list of the eligible players and coaches/managers, along with a money order or cashier's check, to be received by the MAAD Treasurer by the registration deadline. Independent Teams shall be subject to higher fees to participate in MAAD tournaments.

SECTION 3 MEMBERSHIP DUES –

- A. The amount of annual membership dues for Club Members and Independent Team Members shall be determined by the Board of Delegates at the Annual Meeting;
- B. Each MAAD Club Member shall pay its annual membership dues to the MAAD Secretary on or before December 1st of each year. MAAD Club Members shall have ninety (90) days after the deadline of December 1st to pay the annual membership dues with late fees. If any MAAD Member Club has not paid its annual membership dues within ninety-one (91) days of December 1st, that Member Club shall lose its membership and all attendant privileges; and
- C. Each Independent Team Member may pay its membership dues and any attendant fees on or before the team registration deadline. Any Independent Team Member failing to pay its membership dues and attendant fees will not be permitted to participate in any MAAD tournament.

SECTION 4 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP – A membership, whether it is for a Club Member or an Independent Team Member, shall terminate on any of the following events:

- A. Expiration of the membership;
- B. The member's failure to pay dues, fees, or assessments set by MAAD;
- C. Any event that renders the member ineligible for membership, or failure to satisfy membership qualifications; and
- D. By a good faith determination of the MAAD Executive Board that the member has failed in a material and serious degree to observe the rules of conduct of MAAD, or its own rules; or

has engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to the purposes and interests of MAAD.

SECTION 5 SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP – A member, whether it is a Club Member, or an Independent Team Member may be suspended based on the good faith determination by MAAD Executive Board that the member has failed in a material and serious degree to observe the rules of conduct of MAAD or its own rules; or has engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to the purposes and interests of MAAD.

SECTION 6 REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERS – Any member, whether it is a Club Member or an Independent Team Member, whose membership has been terminated or suspended under MAAD Bylaws may be reinstated to good standing by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Delegates present and voting at any Annual Meeting.

SECTION 7 CONDUCTS OF MEMBERS –

- A. **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY** – MAAD and its members shall not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, political affiliation, or any other class protected by federal, state, or local laws.
- B. **HARASSMENT POLICY** – MAAD and its members shall not tolerate harassment – sexual, verbal, physical, or any other kind – toward any officer, team member, club members, players, and/or fans of any sort during any MAAD tournament or event.
- C. **CONDUCT POLICY** – MAAD and its members shall engage in appropriate conduct in conformance with the traditions of MAAD tournament and events at all times and in all places. Coaches and managers shall be responsible for the conduct of their teams and players.
- D. **ILLEGAL CONDUCT AND JURISDICTION** – Any persons found to violate the rules of behavior or regulations governing the use of properties, facilities in the state, county or city where the tournament is held shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the host city.