



Sanctioning Committee's Approval Process & Criteria For Event Producers & Worlds Bid Eligibility

The USASF Sanctioning Committee will follow the USASF Sanctioning Committee's Approval Process & Criteria and the USASF Event Producer Memberships requirements. Additionally, the Sanctioning Committee will follow the guidelines listed below in deciding which Cheerleading Worlds qualifying competition to sanction among USASF member event producers that meet the specific membership level guidelines, but have the potential to conflict from either a date or location standpoint. The Sanctioning Committee cannot unreasonably deny sanctioning and/or membership level approval for any event producer that complies with all requirements. The USASF Board of Directors retains the ultimate final approval authority if necessary.

In an effort to protect the integrity of Worlds, the USASF reserves the right to make changes to the approval guidelines, as recommended by the Sanctioning Committee, prior to each year's approval process. Therefore, there is no guarantee that an existing Event Producer or one under new ownership, holding a current season Worlds bid event, will be approved for the following season.

Great care will be used in evaluating each bid application individually to ensure the mission of the USASF is enhanced by each approved application.

USASF Specific Guidelines:

1. The USASF has the authority to approve and sanction championships to give Worlds bids on an annual basis. Each company that applies to be a USASF member, and to award Worlds bids must submit an application, and all other required forms, before the deadline each year to qualify initially or to requalify. All event producers will be notified of their approved Membership level following the completion of the application approval process.
2. The date the event producer became a member of the USASF.
 - A. A member event producer requesting a change in tier and/or location will maintain their priority status as of their membership date with the following exceptions:
 - i. If an event producer with an earlier membership date moves its bid weekend/city for any reason and its event encroaches upon an existing Event Producer's event that has a later membership date, the "earlier membership date" Event Producer cannot displace (*take the place of or remove*) the existing Event Producer's bid giving event, as long as the existing Event Producer's bid event has been held on the same weekend/city for 3 of the past 5 years and has been awarding Worlds Bids continuously for the past 3 years. A city is defined as an MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area). A bid is defined as a Paid, Partial Paid and or At Large bid to The Cheerleading or Dance Worlds.

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- ii. If an Event Producer with a later membership date desires to move their bid weekend/city for any reason and the move encroaches (*to infringe/invoke*) upon an existing Event Producer's bid event who has an earlier membership date, the "later membership date" Event Producer's request will be denied unless the Event Producer with the earlier membership date agrees to allow the move.
 - iii. An Event Producer requesting to "move" its bid event over 200 miles, must appeal to the USASF Sanctioning Committee for an approval.
 - iv. An Event Producer requesting to "move" its bid event date and or location after the "Approval Process" is completed, and encroaches upon another member's date and or location, must appeal to the USASF Sanctioning Committee for an approval.
 - v. Event Producers that hold their bid event on a weekend that is tied to a specific Holiday weekend or is impinged upon by a specific Holiday (i.e. Thanksgiving, Easter, President's Weekend, Martin Luther King Weekend, Leap Year), will not be denied the opportunity to award their bids on that same holiday weekend as long as the date change is due solely to a shift in the calendar.
 - vi. If an Event Producer ceases to give bids in any year, it cannot resume giving bids if it displaces another event producer that has awarded bids the previous year.
 - vii. Any former or current non Worlds bid member event producer applying to award Worlds bids, may not displace a current member who has been awarding Worlds bids.
3. The location of the championship the company desires to give Cheerleading Worlds bids. In order to protect member event producers, the Sanctioning Committee will endeavor to protect existing Worlds Bid Events in the same/similar market by addressing the considerations below:
- A. The present market size and geographical location relative to existing Worlds Bid Events. This is a judgment based on the specific market's ability to absorb another Worlds Bid Event based on the number of all star teams in the market, the total number of competitions in a market, the proximity of this market to other markets, and other factors that have a bearing on the number of Worlds bids that are appropriate within given markets.
 - B. Worlds Bid Events will be protected, within a two week window on either side of the current bid giving event, for a 200 mile radius. In addition, Worlds Bid Events will be protected for a 400 mile radius from other bid giving events on the same weekend.
- Exceptions:**
- Event producers that fail to comply with the required membership criteria for an applied tier level, will have a one year probation to meet all requirements before having their championship tier reduced to the level justified by the tier criteria.
 - Any event producer that does not meet the membership criteria, while on probation, may not reapply for awarding Worlds bids in the same or new city for one year.
 - Event Producers applying for a Worlds bid event inside an existing member company's protected geographical location and date, can appeal to the member

company for approval. This approval, if granted, will satisfy the date and distance criteria. If the appeal is not granted, there will be no other appeals.

4. Event Producer and Championship Background – An event producer desiring to award Worlds bids will be additionally evaluated based on number of years in business, number of multiple early round locations, number of all star competition participants annually, and the geographical scope of its competitions.
5. Appeals Process - If specific situations in a given market indicate the need for these guidelines to be applied differently or for exceptions to be made, the process to address this will be as follows:
 - A. The event producer requesting an exception will request a review and forward the document to the Chairman of the Sanctioning Committee.
 - B. The Chairman will verify the facts in the document and make an initial determination as to whether the proposal has merit. If the proposal is deemed to have merit, it will be forward it to Sanctioning Committee for discussion and a vote.
 - C. Any exception requests/appeals voted upon positively or negatively by the Sanctioning Committee, may further be reviewed by The USASF Board or Directors by the request of the Event Producer(s) filing the exception/appeal.
 - D. Approved exceptions will be recorded and the requesting event producer will be notified.
6. Eligibility - Bid giving eligibility is contingent on members maintaining their membership in good standing and continuing to award bids each year.
7. Flexibility – The goal for Worlds bids is to be sufficiently flexible to ensure participation by event producers as possible while still protecting the value of Worlds bids. Another goal is to recognize the contribution made by the early USASF supporters whose financial support made the Worlds possible initially.