
ADMINISTRATION OF TEAM CALIFORNIA POLICY

Category: Travel Programs
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PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for administering Team California for the United States Indigenous Games.

POLICY

These guidelines will help ensure that all interested teams and individual participants are informed of the US Indigenous Games and provided with clear and timely information in response to their expressed interest in participating. These steps will ensure that communication is consistent and all interested participants are provided equal opportunity to participate. The policy also describes procedures on the formation of Team California, including defining the roles and expectations of the governing body, State Commissioner, coaches, and participants.

Promotion of the Indigenous Games

The State Commissioner shall make an earnest effort to inform Native Americans throughout the state about the opportunity to join Team California and participate in the US Indigenous Games. An informational mailer shall be sent to all federally recognized tribes in the state, as well as other organizations and/or consortiums of tribes that provide services to Native Americans. Information should include an overview of the Games, key dates, registration processes, eligibility guidelines, list of competition events, and projected costs.

Role of the State Commissioner

The State Commissioner is appointed by the national governing body of the US Indigenous Games. The role of this position is to promote and organize Team California and to serve as the direct link between the Team California USIG Committee, coaches, and participants of California and the USIG governing body. It is also the responsibility of the State Commissioner to collect and submit all required forms and registration fees to the USIG governing body by the published deadlines.

Definition and Role of the State Governing Body

A volunteer committee, entitled the Team California USIG Committee, will provide input and direction to the State Commissioner. The committee will assist the decision-making process, including selecting team colors, uniforms, and logos, develop and approve policies and procedures, review budgets and determine registration fees, assist in the promotion of Team California, and other tasks as assigned by the State Commissioner. The State Commissioner will authorize all appointments of members to the committee, with the best interest in Team California as the primary determining factor for committee membership.

Timeline/Deadlines and Definition of Terms

- *Mail Information Packet (6 months prior to the Games):* Packet will be sent to all tribes in California, as well as other Native American organizations and consortiums of tribes.
- *Interest Deadline (30 days prior to the Team California Registration Deadline):* Teams that respond by this deadline are assured of an opportunity to earn a spot on Team California. If no other teams/participants have expressed interest in the event, they will be awarded the spot. If, however, there is another team(s) and/or participant(s) that have expressed interest in the same event as of this deadline, a qualifying event would be held.
- *Registration Deadline (3 weeks prior to the USIG Registration Deadline*):* Once Team California participants have been selected, it is the responsibility of each coach to submit all required roster and individual registration forms for all coaches, participants, and chaperones by the Registration Deadline
- *Registration Fee Deadline (2 weeks prior to USIG Registration Deadline*):* Payment in full to the governing body is required by this deadline. Teams and/or individuals failing to make full payment by the deadline may be removed from Team California.

**The USIG Registration deadline is the date by which the State Commissioner of Team California must submit all required forms and payment of registration fees to the USIG National governing body. This date is different than the Team Californian Registration Deadline.*

Participant Eligibility

- *Tribal Enrollment:* A tribal enrollment number is required at the time of Registration Deadline. Participants without a tribal identification card may register as a lineal descendent, but only with authorization and verification from their tribe. To qualify as a lineal descendant they must provide a letter on tribal letterhead that verifies their lineal descent. The letter must be signed by an authorized official of the tribe (Tribal Council, Enrollment Committee Chair, etc.) and notarized. All participants must bring their proof of eligibility (tribal ID or signed and notarized letter) with them to the games. If their eligibility is questioned or protested they will be required to provide this documentation.
- *Age Requirements:* Age divisions are 19u, 16u, and 14u. The sole determining factor for age eligibility is the participant's age on December 31, 2011. For example, participant can compete in the 19u division as long as they do not turn 20 years old before December 31, 2011. Likewise, if a participant is 14 at the time of the games and turns 15 in 2011, but after the games (the after the games through December 31), they are not eligible for the 14u division. Even though the games are in July, the participant's birth date at the time of the games does not matter, only their age on December 31. While participants may never play down to a lower division, they are allowed to play up one division, but cannot skip up two divisions. For example, a 13 year old is eligible to play in the 14u and 16u divisions, but is ineligible to play in 19u. Participants whose proof of tribal eligibility does not include a birth date should bring a copy of their birth certificate to the games as proof of their age.

Procedure

Identifying Interested Participants: Individuals and/or teams shall be provided an opportunity to express interest in participating on Team California by (1) mailing in the interest form or (2) completing the online interest form on www.intertribalsports.org. Individuals or teams who call or indicate their interest verbally or via email shall be instructed to complete the paper or online interest form. The following guidelines shall be used to ensure that all interested participants receive clear and consistent information:

1. A record of all interest forms shall be kept and maintained by the governing organization, with oversight provided by the State Commissioner.
2. An introductory email detailing the procedures for assembling Team California should be sent to each interested participant within 10 days of the receipt of each interest form.
3. When interest is expressed in an event for which there is an existing team or coach within reasonable geographical distance, the coach's name and contact information should be provided to the interested participant(s). Subsequently, the contact information for the interested participant(s) should be provided to that coach.
4. It is the responsibility of each coach to organize and oversee the selection process of his or her team and/or individual participants for each event category. Coaches are encouraged to use an unbiased evaluation process, such as tryouts, to provide an equal opportunity to all interested participants. However, if a coach wishes to enter an existing or pre-determined team that will be allowed.
5. If a team or coach does not already exist for the identified sport or event, the interested participant(s) and/or coach should be given the following options:
 - a. Identify a coach and assemble a team on their own
 - b. Remain on a waiting list, with the understanding that there is not currently a team and/or coach for event in which they are interested and the team will not be formed until a coach is identified.

Note: The governing organization and/or State Commissioner will not conduct tryouts or assemble teams without an identified coach.

Determining Representation on Team California: As all interested teams and/or participants have been contacted according to the guidelines above, the following process shall be used to determine identification which teams and/or athletes will be placed on Team California:

1. The State Commissioner shall specify a date, approximately 30 days prior to the player and team Registration Deadline, on which coaches of all existing teams and/or participants who have expressed interest will be informed whether their spot on the team is "reserved" or whether they will need to participate in a qualifying event. A specific date of this "Interest Deadline" shall be set and published.
2. If the interest in a sport or event exceeds the number of spots that Team California is allotted, all interested teams and/or participants will compete for the spot on the Team California through a competitive qualifying procedure. The qualifying procedure will be arranged by the State Commissioner and will be made as neutral and equitable as possible in terms of location, date, etc. The exact procedure will vary depending on the sport and will be agreed upon by all coaches involved in the process in advance of the qualifying event. All qualifying events should occur no later than two weeks prior to the Registration Deadline.
3. After the Interest Deadline, new inquiries from interested teams and/or participants will only be accepted for events and sports for which there is not already a designated team. This policy will remain in place until the Registration Deadline.
4. A registration fee, set by the governing body and State Commissioner, will be published in the information packet. The registration fee will cover the USIG registration cost (which includes room and board), uniforms, and administrative costs. It is the responsibility of each coach for each team/event to collect and submit payment in full for all participants, coaches, and chaperones by the published Registration Fee Deadline. Transportation to and from the games will also be the responsibility of each participant. The State Commissioner may

provide coaches with ideas and opportunities for fundraiser activities, but will not administer those efforts.

5. Space will not be held for teams or individuals that fail to register with full payment by the Registration Deadline. Openings may be offered to other interested teams and/or participants, including those who lost in a qualifying event, at the discretion of the State Commissioner.
6. Refunds for cancellation by teams and/or individuals will be based on expenses incurred prior to the refund request and in accordance with the refund policy for the USIG registration fee. An evaluation of these factors on a case-by-case basis will determine the amount of refund, if any, that may be offered.

RELATED INFORMATION

Inter Tribal Sports Documents:

Participant Registration Form

Inter Tribal Sports Related Policies:

Participant Registration Policy; Age Verification & Records Management Policy

Related Links:

www.intertribalsports.org/league-info/league-policies

www.intertribalsports.org/forms/paper-forms