

Sanctioning Committee's Approval Process & Criteria For Tier 1 and 2 Event Producers and Worlds Bid Eligibility

The IASF Sanctioning Committee will follow the IASF Sanctioning Standards and the IASF Event Producer & Affiliate Memberships requirements. Additionally, the Sanctioning Committee will follow the guidelines, listed below, in deciding which Cheerleading Worlds qualifying competition to sanction. The Sanctioning Committee cannot unreasonably deny sanctioning and or tier approval for any company that complies with all requirements. The IASF Board of Directors retains the ultimate final approval authority.

Consistent with the IASF mission of maximizing the number of participants benefiting from the life experience of all star cheer and dance, the goal is to make Worlds qualifying events as accessible as possible for all star programs without diminishing qualifiers prestige by over saturating any given market. Toward this end, there are three principles we follow in determining Worlds bid eligibility: a) teams that have not competed at Worlds previously from countries that do not have a qualifying event can qualify by video and interview, b) event producers, who have not previously awarded Worlds bids, from countries that already have one or more event producers with Worlds qualifying events, must attend Worlds and be interviewed by the IASF before qualifying to extend bids, and 3) Worlds bids can be awarded to teams at Worlds qualifiers outside their home country only if there are no Worlds qualifiers or Sport federations sponsoring teams in their home country.

Additional criteria that could have a direct bearing on the ability of a team to receive a bid or event producer to qualify to give bids are as follows: a) the Worlds is an international competition and, as such, is respectful of the following issues which will have a direct bearing on determining qualifying events and teams: political geography, socioeconomics, and local governmental capabilities, and b) from a practical standpoint, USA immigration policy must be carefully followed with regards to team and event producer qualifications.

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

1. The IASF will sanction championships to give Worlds bids on an annual basis. Each company that applies to be a Tier 1 or 2 member, and award Worlds bids, must submit an application before the April 1 deadline each year to qualify initially or to requalify. All companies will be notified of their approved Tier level by June 1 of each year. A bid is defined as an invitation for a winner of the event producer's qualifying event to attend the Cheer Worlds. All bids can be awarded at only one qualifying event within 13 months of the Worlds for which they are awarded.

2. The date the event producer became a member of the IASF.
 - Priority will be given to members based upon their seniority as member event producers. Member's seniority is based upon the date they publicly became members.
 - A member event producer requesting a change in tier and/or location will maintain their priority status as of their membership date. The exception will be a member cannot be displaced from a bid giving nationals location by another company with an earlier member date moving more than 200 miles. The four week window will be taken into consideration as well.
3. The location of the competition the company desires to give Cheerleading Worlds bids. In order to protect member event producers, the Sanctioning Committee will endeavor to protect existing Tier 1 or 2 Championships in the same/similar market by addressing the considerations below:
 - The present market size and geographical location relative to existing Tier 1 or 2 Championships. This is a judgment based on the specific market's ability to absorb another Tier 1 or 2 Championship based on the number of all star teams in the market, the number of competitions in total 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.
 - Tier 1 Championships will be protected for a 200 mile radius within a four week window, either side of the current Tier 1 nationals, within the same country.
Exceptions:
 - Current Tier 1 and 2 member event producers that fail to comply with the required membership criteria for an applied Tier Level, will have one year to meet all requirements before having their Championship Tier reduced to the Level it justifies by the Tier Criteria.
 - Event producers applying for Tier 1 or 2 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.
4. The number and tier type bids being given by other event producers in that market.
 - The committee will consider the present market size and geographical location relative to existing Sanctioned Championships.
5. The date of the Nationals.
 - The Sanctioning Committee will endeavor to protect existing Sanctioned Championships occurring within a four-week window either side of the requested date.
 - The date of the qualifying nationals must be within 13 months of The Worlds.
6. Event Producer and Championship Background – The event producer desiring to give Tier 1 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 their competitions. Unless waived by the Sanctioning Committee Chairman, event producers being considered for sanctioning as a Worlds bid giving event must attend a Worlds prior to being allowed to give bids.
7. Country Specific Issues – All International (non-USA) Markets to be assessed individually based on political geography, socioeconomic factors, government structure (sports federations, allocation concerns of public funding by government officials), the level of skill development, and USA immigration policy to continually promote growth and participation of new nations & teams.
 - New event producer applicants of nations containing existing same nation citizen event producers must be citizens of that nation as well. Additionally, they must meet at Worlds in Florida (#6) with the IASF and same nation event producers to best determine the course for growth of cheerleading in their nation and for the IASF Worlds.
 - For existing event producer's hosting multiple nations within close proximity (i.e. Europe, Central America), the event producer must be a citizen of a nation within that continent, or geographical area. A preference will be granted to same nation citizen event producers for their own nations' teams.
 - The IASF reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to make a determination of the country status of geographical and political regions based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, FIFA and other like organizational procedures, national sports federations determinations, and historical precedents.
 8. Rules Interpretation – Event producers must be able to properly apply and interpret all IASF rules and safety guidelines.
 9. Waiting List – An event producer may have the option to reserve, in a specific market pending the incumbent losing their right to give a bid or the market being opened up to more bids in the future, the right to give a bid. This waiting list will be an open record of the IASF.
 10. 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:
 - The event producer requesting an exception will write it up and forward the document to the Chairman of the Sanctioning Committee.
 - The Chairman will verify the facts in the document and make an initial determination as to whether the proposal has merit. If in doubt, or if the proposal is deemed to have merit, it will be forward it to full Sanctioning Committee for discussion and a vote.
 - Any exception requests voted upon positively by the Sanctioning Committee will be forwarded to The IASF Board for approval.
 - Approved exceptions will be recorded and the requesting event producer notified.
 11. Eligibility - Bid giving eligibility is contingent on members maintaining their membership in good standing and continuing to give bids each year.

12. Flexibility – The goal for Worlds bids is to be as flexible as possible to ensure participation by as many event producers as possible while still protecting the value of Worlds bids by not giving so many that they lose meaning, and recognizing the contribution made by the early IASF supporters whose financial support made the Worlds possible initially.