

Club Sports Recognition Process

UMBC supports a vibrant Club Sports program on campus as Club Sports contribute to campus life and the health and well being of students. When considering the addition of new Club Sports, we must consider students' interests and the availability of resources to support such clubs. The University takes seriously the need to properly support Club Sports, which require specific coaching and training facilities.

Please Note:

1. A maximum of 25 Club Sports will be recognized at any time. *Only when the number of clubs falls below the maximum will membership be considered for a new club.*
2. Sufficient support, funds, and operational space must be available for the club to be considered.
3. There must be sufficient risk management in place to ensure participants' safety.
There is currently a waitlist for Club Sports.

Club Sport Criteria

1	In order to fulfill its mission and purpose, the organization would require athletic administration and supervision, access to athletic fields, recreational facilities, or equipment managed by the Athletics Department. OR The organization's members would engage in high-risk physical activity, demonstrations of athletic prowess, and/or compete in physical or athletic contests involving physical skill (including all forms of martial arts).
2	The organization plans to participate in intercollegiate athletic competition.

If BOTH 1 AND 2 are TRUE, the prospective organization may proceed as described in the second paragraph of the next section, "Recognition Process for Club Sports."

If BOTH 1 AND 2 are FALSE, a prospective organization may seek University recognition by applying through the Student Organizations Committee (complete the new student organization application through this website: <http://osl.umbc.edu/orgs/neworgapp>). You may contact Romy Hübler in Student Life: romy.huebler@umbc.edu for more information on this process.

If 1 is TRUE but 2 is FALSE, the prospective organization will be unable to proceed with the Club Sports or Student Organization recognition process.

Recognition Process for Club Sports

In order to become a recognized Club Sport at UMBC, a prospective organization must be recognized through both the Athletics Department and Student Life.

First, the prospective organization must complete this application form, choosing Sports/Recreation as the “preferred organization type”: <http://osl.umbc.edu/orgs/neworgapp>.

The second step in the process is for the prospective club to meet with members of the Club Sports Committee to discuss the proposal, Club Sports criteria, and needed resources. Following the meeting, the Club Sports Committee will make a recommendation to the Director of Athletics about whether or not this organization should be recognized as a Club Sport, and therefore should be added to the wait list. The Director of Athletics will send a letter to the Organization, copying the Director of Student Life with notification about being placed on the waitlist or not qualifying for recognition as a Club Sport.

Third, if and when a space opens for a new Club Sport to be added, the Club Sports Committee will contact the group and determine whether or not there is still sufficient interest in the organization. You may contact Kristen Alexander, in Athletics, kristen2@umbc.edu for more information on this process.

Fourth, the Student Organizations Committee will address any gaps in the application with the prospective club. Once resolved, the Student Organizations Committee will make a recommendation to the Director of Student Life about offering the club formal recognition on behalf of Athletics and Student Life. Finally, clubs will receive notification of recognition from the Director of Student Life and the Director of Athletics.

Club Sports Committee

Committee Composition: The Club Sports Committee includes two members appointed by the Director of Athletics, two members appointed by the Director of Student Life, one member appointed by the Club Sports Council and one member appointed by the SGA Vice President for Student Organizations. Four members of the Committee must be present for the Committee to conduct business. The Committee operates by consensus, and informs the Director of Athletics and Director of Student Life of any issues on which a consensus cannot be reached.

Committee Process: Twice each semester (during the fourth and tenth weeks), the Committee meets to discuss and make recommendations regarding whether the University and Athletics & Recreation community can support the addition of proposed Club Sports from the waitlist. The Committee weighs multiple factors in making this determination, including, but not limited to, the availability of space and funding. In addition, the Committee will take the following into account:

1. Why does the club need to be recognized under the Athletic & Recreation Department?
2. Are there interested students/staff to hold the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Advisor?
3. Will the club be active in the form of continually holding practices, competition, classes, and

seminars?

4. Is there a similar club currently active on campus?
5. Does this club provide opportunities substantially different from those provided by already existing clubs?
6. Is there sufficient support and interest from students, staff, or faculty beyond the students proposing to start the organization?

Funding

Once recognized, Club Sports may request funding from the Club Sports Council.

Maintaining Recognition

Because of the high demand for Club Sports, the Club Sports Committee will review all Club Sports annually in the spring to determine their use of resources and compliance with recognition regulations. All Club Sports must register with Student Life each year or when there is a change in officers in order to maintain their status as a recognized Student Organization.

Losing Recognition

Club Sports who fail to: maintain at least 5 members, submit their annual registration forms, abide by their constitution, participate in Club Sports Council meetings, or appropriately use facilities will lose recognition through both the Athletics Department and Student Life. Clubs will be notified of this via email from the Director of Student Life and the Director of Athletics.