An Evaluation of the Governance of US Olympic Sport Federations

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We have applied the methods of SGO 2015 to USOC NGBs
Methodology of 2015 SGO report

- 4 Dimensions, 36 indicators
  - Transparency (12 indicators)
  - Democratic process (10 indicators)
  - Checks and balances (7 indicators)
  - Solidarity (7 indicators)

- Dimensions are equally weighted to create a single index value for each organizations
Total number of US Olympic NGBs

- 39 summer
- 8 winter
- 25 Paralympic
- **72 total**

Today I will present preliminary findings for 22 US summer and winter sport NGBs

- US Paralympic NGBs in general do not have enough information to be ranked
Example from SGO 2015 of scoring of indicators

3.4 Dimension 4. SOLIDARITY

**Indicator 4.1**
The organisation allocates specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activities

**Explanation**
As the custodians of sport, a public good, ISFs have a responsibility for fostering the global development of grass-roots activities. According to Eurostrategies et al. (2011), “grassroots sport covers all sport disciplines practiced by non-professionals and organised on a national level through national sport” (Eurostrategies et al., 2011, p. 13).

**Operationalisation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Not fulfilled at all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>State of the art</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Score 1**: The organisation does not allocate specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activities and does not promote the global development of grass-roots activities
- **Score 2**: The organisation promotes the global development of grass-roots activities, but does not allocate specific resources
- **Score 3**: The organisation allocates specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activities, but it does not consolidate these under a comprehensive strategy (approved or not approved by the Congress)
- **Score 4**: The organisation allocates specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activities and it consolidates these under a comprehensive strategy (not approved by the Congress)
- **Score 5**: The organisation allocates specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activities
  - The different programmes are consolidated under a comprehensive strategy, approved by the Congress
Our scoring methodology

**PRELIMINARY EVALUATION**

- Initial scoring by Person A
- Initial scoring by Person B
- Achieve consensus
- Final check by Person C

**FINAL EVALUATION**

- Share preliminary ranking with NGB
- Receive feedback, adjust if warranted
- FINAL
2015 SGO Index - International Federations

- International Golf Federation
- International Canoe Federation
- International Handball Federation
- International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation
- International Boxing Association
- International Sailing Federation
- International Shooting Sport Federation
- International Fencing Federation
- United World Wrestling
- Fédération Internationale de Natation
- International Ice Hockey Federation
- International Tennis Federation
- International Hockey Federation
- World Archery Federation
- International Basketball Federation
- International Association of Athletics Federations
- Union Cycliste Internationale
- International Weightlifting Federation
- Fédération Internationale de Volleyball
- International Judo Federation
- International Biathlon Union
- World Curling Federation
- International Skating Union
- International Gymnastic Federation
- World Taekwondo Federation
- World Rugby
- International Table Tennis Federation
- Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne
- International Rowing Federation
- Badminton World Federation
- International Luge Federation
- International Ski Federation
- Fédération Internationale de Football Association
- Fédération Equestre Internationale

Median = 46.3
2017 SGO Index - United State Olympic NGBs

Median = 62.0
Rankings

- **US NGBs (2017)** generally score higher than SGO (2015) scores for IFs
- **Only 1 US NGB** scores higher than FIFA (USA Track and Field)
- **Much room for improvement across the board**
## Detailed rankings by criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Sport NGB</th>
<th>TRANSPARENCY</th>
<th>DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES</th>
<th>CHECKS AND BALANCES</th>
<th>SOLIDARITY</th>
<th>OVERALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Track and Field</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weightlifting</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curling</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ski and Snowboard</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Polo</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
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<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triathlon</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diving</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed Skating</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preliminary conclusions

- In general US NGBs are better governed than IFs
  - Median score 62.0 to 46.3
- But don’t get too excited, a score of 62 is a D-
- Only one USOC NGB meets SGO minimum criteria of 75% - USATF (USA Track & Field)
- Much work remains

“It must be stressed that the SGO index reflects the presence of basic criteria of good governance. Medium-size federations should be expected to have an SGO index close to 75%, while large federations should achieve a score higher than 75%.”

Sports Governance Observer 2015
The project team at CU Sports Governance Center

- Sara Sutherland
- Jared Adler
- Jackson McCabe
Thank you!

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- About me: http://rogerpielkejr.com/

SPORTS GOVERNANCE CENTER

2007

Honest Broker:
Perspective and Reflections on Science and Public Affairs

2010

The Rightful Place of Science in the Policy Process: Global Environmental Change

2011

The Climate Fix

2014

2016

The War Against Cheating and Corruption in the Cutthroat World of Elite Sports

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