

FIT Procedures & Protocols

Section 8: Unaffiliated Rule

8.1 Persons to Whom Rule Applies

8.2 Teams, players, referees and officials cannot participate in a F.I.T. event unless that team is affiliated directly or indirectly with a Federation Member. The reverse situation also applies, that is, if team players, referees and officials, participate in an unaffiliated event (despite also participating in affiliated events), they cannot participate in any F.I.T. sanctioned event. Events or teams will not be considered “unaffiliated” if they have the written sanction of the FIT Member in its/their country.

Groups Undertaking Tours

8.3 The F.I.T.’s Policy, Procedures and Protocol document states, a team wishing to undertake a tour of the country of a Federation Member must firstly obtain approval from its own Federation Member, as well as requesting permission from the Member country they intend to visit.

If a Member receives a request for permission (and possibly assistance), from a group to tour their country, they should ensure that the touring group is affiliated with its country’s National Association who is a Member of the Federation. This is a safeguard so that they do not provide their resources to a group who does not contribute financially to the Association of the country from which they come. It follows therefore that if a team is not affiliated with the National Association of their country who is a Member of the Federation, they cannot comply with F.I.T.’s requirements.

Rationale The rationale behind this is, that if a Member is collecting fees from its affiliated groups for the purpose of running a National Organisation, then a group not paying fees or contributing in other ways to that Member, should not be allowed to share in the benefits that Member can provide to its affiliates. The Unaffiliated Policy prevents participants from using the experience they gain from affiliation and taking it to other groups who do not contribute financially or otherwise to the Member Associations.

8.4 Exemptions

8.5 The F.I.T.’s Policy, Procedures and Protocol document allows for exceptions to the rule and these are scrutinised by the Executive of the Federation. These exceptions are based around new and developing groups whose intent is to become affiliated, or a Member of the Federation.

Exemptions Procedure

8.6 Any exceptions, to the applying of these Rules must be forwarded in writing to the Secretary General of the Federation.

Ruling / Penalty

8.7 If a team, player, referee, official etc. participates in an unaffiliated competition, regardless of whether they also play in an affiliated competition, they will be automatically ineligible to participate in a F.I.T hosted or co-hosted tournament for a period of four (4) years.

In addition they are automatically ineligible to participate in any event sanctioned by the FIT Members they are affiliated with for a period of one (1) years.

Protests / Exemptions

Any protest/exemptions to the Rule must be forwarded to the Executive of the Federation by writing to the Secretary General within 30 days of the issue of the notification of suspension. The Executive or an appointed arbitration panel will adjudicate on the appeal. Their decision will be final.