

PRESS RELEASE

STATUS UPDATE ON REGISTRATION OF NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL SPORTS ACT, CAP. 151 AND THE NATIONAL SPORTS REGULATIONS, 2025

22 January 2026

The National Council of Sports (NCS) wishes to inform the general public, sports stakeholders, and all concerned parties of the status of registration of National Sports Federations and Associations (NSF/As) under the National Sports Act, Cap. 151 (the *Act*) and the National Sports Regulations, 2025 (the *Regulations*).

The National Sports Act, Cap. 151 was assented to by H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda on 17 August 2023, repealing the former National Sports Act, Cap. 48. Section 7 of the Act confers legal personality on National Sports Federations and Associations that are duly registered in accordance with the law. However, pursuant to section 1(2) of the Act, section 7 was to take effect only upon commencement by Statutory Instrument.

Accordingly, the National Sports Act (Commencement of Section 7) Instrument, S.I. No. 23 of 2025, was gazetted on 14 March 2025, thereby operationalising section 7. On the same date, the National Sports Regulations, 2025 were gazetted to provide the regulatory framework for implementation of the Act.

Subsequently, in a press statement issued on 26 March 2025, the Hon. Minister of State for Education and Sports (Sports) guided that all National Sports Federations and Associations were required to complete registration under the new legal regime by 20 June 2025.

Further guidance was received from the Hon. Attorney General on 28 April 2025 to the effect that existing sports organisations were required, as a first step, to register under the Act and acquire corporate status pursuant to section 7, and thereafter undertake deregistration under the Trustees Incorporation Act to ensure orderly transfer of assets, liabilities, and legal obligations.

In line with section 81(5) of the Act, all national sports associations and federations that were in existence prior to the commencement of the Act and previously recognised by NCS were required to apply for registration for purposes of compliance with the new legal framework.

At the time of transition, NCS recognised fifty-one (51) National Sports Federations and Associations. Of these, forty-five (45) submitted applications for registration. Notably, six (6) organizations;- Uganda Ultimate Frisbee Association, Uganda Flow Ball Association, Uganda Deaf Sports Federation, Association of Uganda University Sports, Uganda Rollball Association, and Uganda Body Building and Fitness Association, did not submit applications for registration. Consequently, NCS shall follow the due legal process as prescribed by law to resolve the status of these six non-compliant entities independently. For the applications received, NCS duly gazetted them in the Uganda Gazette and published in a newspaper of wide circulation (New Vision), inviting members of the public to lodge objections where justifiable grounds existed.

NCS received eight (8) objections in respect of applications from Uganda Boxing Federation, Uganda Table Tennis Association, Cricket Uganda, Uganda Darts Association, Uganda Draughts Federation, Uganda Lacrosse Association, Uganda Rowing Federation, and VX Uganda.

NCS conducted a preliminary desk review of the 45 applications as well as a physical due diligence around the country in 115 districts to establish the spread of the sports that the NSF/As seek to manage and promote and the presence of the NSF/As in the various districts. Thereafter, NCS communicated the preliminary outcomes of the preliminary desk review exercise and the physical due diligence to the NSF/A citing non-compliances and requesting the respective NSF/As to address the cited gaps and provide additional information/clarifications.

Out of the 45 NSF/A, only 42 responded to the request from NCS to address cited gaps and provide additional information/clarifications. Suffice to note is that among the 45 NSF/As that responded, several of them requested for more time to address the non-compliances cited by NCS and provide the requisite information.

Further, 3 NSF/As did not respond at all, that is; Scrabble Association of Uganda (SAU), VX Uganda (VX) and Uganda Handball Association (UHA). Consequently, NCS prepared 37 Final Registration Reports. The Reports evaluated NSF/As responses and assessed compliance with the Act and the Regulations, and made recommendations on whether to grant Certificates of Registration to the NSF/As to manage and promote the respective recognized national sports in Uganda. The 37 Reports exclude the 8 reports of the NSF/As against whom objections were filed.

The 8 applications against which objections were lodged and additional information availed were reviewed and assessed after NCS had duly determined the objections. Indeed, NCS has duly concluded this exercise and the parties dissatisfied with the decision of NCS have a right to appeal to the Minister of State for Education and Sports (Sports) in accordance with the Act and Regulations.

KEY CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE REGISTRATION EXERCISE

The registration exercise was unprecedented in scope and context within the new legal regime and it revealed a number of systemic challenges within the sports sector, including but not limited to:

1. **Widespread Non-Compliance:** None of the applicant organisations fully met the statutory requirements under the Act and the Regulations at the time of assessment, indicating significant governance, structural, and administrative gaps across the sector.
2. **Limited Institutional Capacity:** Several Federations and Associations exhibited limited internal capacity to promptly interpret, operationalise, and comply with the new legal and regulatory standards.
3. **Delayed and Incomplete Submissions:** A number of applicants submitted incomplete documentation, inconsistent records, or delayed responses, thereby prolonging the assessment process.
4. **Governance and Internal Disputes:** Some organisations were affected by unresolved governance disputes, leadership conflicts, or unclear constitutional arrangements, which hindered compliance verification.

Despite these challenges, NCS remains committed to supporting the sector through this transition while firmly upholding the law.

BOARD RESOLUTION AND WAY FORWARD

Following the preparation of the requisite reports, the findings were presented to the NCS Board and at its sitting in December 2025, the Board resolved to grant all non-compliant applicant organisations a **remedial compliance period of five (5) months**, effective **7 January 2026**, within which to fully satisfy the outstanding statutory requirements.

Failure to attain full compliance within the stipulated period shall result in:

- Automatic rejection of the application for registration; and
- Revocation of the organisation's Certificate of Recognition, in accordance with the Act and the Regulations.

While the zero-compliance outcome is a matter of serious concern, NCS remains cautiously optimistic that the remedial period will enable all applicant organisations to regularise their status and align with the law.

CONCLUSION

The ongoing transition is a critical legal and institutional reform intended to strengthen governance, accountability, transparency, and national character within Uganda's sports sector. It is not a mere procedural exercise but a foundational transformation required by law.

NCS reaffirms its commitment to enforcing the Act and the Regulations to the letter and shall exercise its full regulatory mandate to ensure that only legally compliant and administratively sound organisations are entrusted with the management and promotion of sports in Uganda.

All stakeholders are urged to utilise this final compliance window constructively and responsibly.

Issued by:

Dr. Ogwel Bernard Patrick (PhD)
GENERAL SECRETARY
National Council of Sports