

MODIFIED MIXED MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATION (MMMAA)

ACCREDITATION GUIDE

Modified Mixed Martial Arts Association (MMMAA) is a nationally recognized sport association developed in 2020. MMMA as a sport is designed to allow athletes who require adaptive or modified technique and training to participate in a competitive sport. The association board of directors is comprised of service providers, professional trainers and athletes to form a diversely supportive team.

Affiliated gyms and facilities are developing across the country to create an association of athletes with many diverse talents. MMMA as an association provides training to the facilities and personal trainers who prepare the individuals for competition. MMMA accredits the facility to provide the training to athletes and facilitates events throughout the year.

Athletes and teams will compete at local, state, and national events beginning 2021. The first National competition is slated for October 1st 2021.

Current Board of Directors

President / CEO – Karen Fisher

Vice President – Travis Clark

Director of Athletics – Open

Director of Public Relations – Shana Brooks

Director of Operations – Conor Flynn

Board Members – OPEN

The MMMA Discipline / Code of Conduct

As Athletes, Coaches or Association Members we must follow the discipline set-forth;

THERE SHALL BE “No Risk” involved in the Sport of MMMA

Together We Are Fighting TO BE NOTHING OTHER-THAN RESPECTFUL, INTEGRITY, SPORTSMAN-LIKE, & KIND

As a united association we agree to use each other as tools to reach our individual highest potential. With utmost Respect for other members and our communities, we always present ourselves with Integrity and remain a proper Sportsman, forever losing out to Kindness over risk of harm.

Athletes will learn the value and meaning of NO RISK and vow to each other before competition:

Respect the use of each other’s skills and bodies as our tools to success.

{Therefore, harming our opponent is never the intention within MMMA Sports.}

We will remain united through holding the highest level of Integrity for each other and the Sport.

{Fighters understand they are in competition with themselves and attempting to rank higher than an opponent, to improve upon their own personal best}

Following all safety and sport rules and being accepting of the outcome of a meet or event, by always displaying the best Sportsman like behavior.

{Athletes should learn the rules of the sport and understand that being sportsman like includes taking a loss.}

Remaining Kind under pressure can be difficult, however, all association members must be Kind in their actions and attempts to understand each competitor’s uniqueness.

{Having an involvement in MMMA Sports involves understanding our Athletes face special challenges at times with emotions. It is our belief within the Association that we can overcome all things thru Kindness}

Athletes have the option to fist / elbow / knee bump or bow to each other prior to the start of an event and simply state: “NO RISK” to each other as signification of understanding these principles.

Youth in Crisis athletes my take on a deeper need to understanding these principles when they themselves can feel as they are at risk or being a risk to someone else. Coaches need to understand the dynamics of working with this population and be a mentor for these athletes to assist them in growing in to productive, healthy adults.

NO RISK principles can be applied to all things, (replacing S with Supportive) athletes can be taught that if they apply these principles to others situations and they are respectful, do things with integrity and honor, are supportive of the situation and always bleed kindness, they will prevail.

FIGHTING TO BE NO RISK THERE’S NO HARM IN THE MMMAA

Athlete commitment must be a minimum of two training sessions a month and at least have had twelve training sessions and at least two timed / scored sessions before entering in competition.

Coaches must submit score averages at least two weeks prior to any event.

MMMA ACCREDITATION GUIDE

**PURPOSE AND BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION**

**Purpose**. MMMA, accredits Programs to ensure the worldwide quality, and ultimately the growth, of the MMMA as a recognized Sports Association. Accreditation is a method of assuring that every Program meets the essential core requirements of the MMMA mission and also certain minimum management and financial requirements. The accreditation requirements are designed to enable Programs to demonstrate compliance by completing a short accreditation application with information that is easily verifiable by MMMA regional and legal staff.

Rights and Benefits. When a Program satisfies the accreditation requirements, MMMA signs that Program’s Accreditation License Agreement, which grants the Program the legal right to use the MMMA name, logo and other trademarks within its jurisdiction, to conduct MMMA sports and related activities, and to raise funds under the MMMA name. In addition, Programs gain access to numerous benefits of accreditation, including:

Professional MITTS Technique Training

Brand marketing and access to trademarked assets

Opportunities to attend USA Tournaments, Regional Events, and other competitions and summits

Access to financial and fundraising opportunities through grants, sponsorships, revenue

sharing, and major fundraising initiatives

Shared strategy and vision

National and regional leadership

General Rules, Program Quality Standards, Sports Rules, Coaching Guides, and other resources

Support for key initiatives: Modified MMA Sports, Youth In Crisis Athletes, and general fitness and Health Programs, etc.

Research in sports, health, and disability

Access to customized software

Athlete leadership opportunities

Regional leadership conferences and leadership development opportunities

Technical assistance in sports training, health, games management, IT, legal,

governance, fundraising and marketing

Risk management guidance and support

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

For initial accreditation deadline for submission is thirty (30) days prior to expected start date of program implementation, or one month before expiration.

MMMA Programs are accredited annually. All Programs must submit their accreditation materials within 30 days of expiration.

Pursuant to the General Rules, accreditation automatically expires if not renewed by the expiration date. Programs without active accreditation, conditional accreditation, are not eligible to participate in any MMMA events or represent the Programs as accredited.

**Materials Due from Programs Applying for Accreditation**

Programs that are accredited are required to submit with application the following:

Program Operational Plan (if not yet complete/approved, note on the application when it will be submitted)

Accreditation fees as invoiced

Updated contact information for the Program’s office, Executive Director, and /or Sports Director or Delegate as appropriate

Proof of Insurance

Status report on previous years Program activities and Events

**APPLICATION REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

If a Program’s application is complete in the specified time, MMMA will be able to review the application before the Program’s accreditation expires. If the Program is unable to answer “yes” to all required application questions, or if the materials are otherwise incomplete, MMMA may request further information to complete the application. Based on the review, MMMA will take one or more of the following actions:

**Full Accreditation**

Full accreditation is granted if the Program meets all accreditation requirements or meets all but certain requirements and receives a waiver from MMMA for those requirements.

**Conditional Accreditation**

MMMA may provide conditional accreditation to a Program that cannot, for good cause, satisfy certain accreditation requirements and submits a plan, approved by MMMA, that details how, and by what date, the Program will comply with the unmet requirements. To request conditional accreditation, a Program should include an explanation and plan in the comment box under each required application question to which the Program is unable to answer “yes.” The plan should include a date by which compliance will be completed. MMMA grants conditional accreditation on a case-by-case basis. MMMA staff will work with the Program to develop and complete the compliance plan by the specified date. Conditional accreditation provides the same benefits as full accreditation, but typically comes with a shorter term.

**Compliance Waiver**

If it is impossible for a Program to comply with an accreditation requirement, MMMA may grant a compliance waiver if MMMA determines that such a waiver is clearly in the best interest of MMMA athletes and the Program. MMMA grants waivers on a case-by-case basis and may specify time limits and other parameters for the waiver. In order to request a waiver, the Program should select “waiver” for the relevant application question and include an explanation and any supporting documentation. A Program requesting a waiver must show that the accreditation requirement:

Violates specific national laws applicable to the Program;

Causes significant hardship for the Program; or

Cannot be strictly met, but the Program is in compliance with the requirement’s intent.

**Denial of Accreditation**

A Program that does not submit properly completed accreditation documents demonstrating compliance with the accreditation requirements, and that has not received a waiver or conditional accreditation, may be denied accreditation.

**ONGOING COMPLIANCE**

Accreditation is conditioned on the Program’s continued compliance with all accreditation requirements, the Accreditation License Agreement and the General Rules. If MMMA becomes aware of a Program’s noncompliance, MMMA staff will work with the Program to help it comply with the relevant accreditation or General Rules requirements.

In the event of a Program’s material mismanagement or non-compliance with the accreditation requirements or the General Rules, MMMA reserves the right to take corrective measures. This may include, without limitation, denying eligibility for grant funding, adjusting the Program to conditional accreditation status, adjusting allocation of Event quotas, approving management and personnel decisions, and/or revoking accreditation.

**Modified Sports**

Programs are required to provide opportunities for Modified Martial Art Sports Activities to prepare participants for competition. This requirement is satisfied by providing MITTS program activities at any level.

**ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS**

**MITTS CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED FOR ANY MMMA ACCREDITED PROGRAM – PROOF OF CERTIFICATE MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION.**

Executive Director / Sports Director (Delegate). The Program has an Executive Director / Sports Director or Delegate, who may be part-time or full-time, volunteer or paid.

MMMA Sports. The Program provides quality training and competition in two or more Official MMMA Sports in accordance with General Rules, MITTS certification and/or the Program provides Modified Sports or Fitness opportunities in accordance with General Rules

Registered Athletes. The Program registers MMMA athletes in accordance with General Rules and submits athlete census data to MMMA as required in accordance with General Rules

Operational Plan. The Program has developed a Program plan aligned with MMMA’s strategic plan and priorities and prepared a written operational plan in accordance with General Rules.

Financial Stability - The program must assure financial solvency and appropriate use of all fund raising opportunities. The AP agrees to inform MMMAA if it is bankrupt, has had legal actions taken upon them, or has misappropriated funds in any manner. MMMAA reserves the right to ask for financial audits and or other proof of solvency.

Code of Conduct - The organization follows the MMMAA discipline / code of conduct with trainers and athletes.

Accreditation Fees. The Program pays its accreditation fees when due or makes other arrangements agreed to by MMMA.

License Agreement. The Program has executed a current MMMA Accreditation License Agreement.

Proof of Insurance. The Program shall submit a current copy of it General Liability policy to MMMA.

Health and Safety Standards. – The AP applies universal health and safety standards throughout its operations.

**ACCREDITATION CHECK LIST**

**Administrative Accreditation Questions / Requirements**

1. Do your programs operate within the MMMA Mission?

2. Can you provide proof of adequate insurance for the Program to operate safely?

3. Do you have an appointed Executive Director / Sports Director or Delegate?

4. Have ALL trainers obtained MITTS certification prior to providing Programming?

5. Has there been a change in leadership, ownership, or delegation?

6. Is your Operational Plan inclusive to providing both competitive and functional fitness?

7. Are required health and safety plans in place, in-house and for events occurring outside of the Program location?

8. Does the AP follow the MMMAA Discipline /code of conduct?

9. Has the AP provided MMMA with census data and all required rosters?

10. Has the AP had an financial concerns, can proof of fund raising be established within guidelines?

**MMMA Sports.**

Does the Program provide quality training and competition in 2 or more Official MMMA Sports? Please list all sports. {Providing one official sport AND a functional fitness program is acceptable}

Does the Program provide MMMA Sports Events or other opportunities? (List all)

Does your Accredited Program have a plan of how it will market MMMA Sports? {Please provide an example)

Does the Program serve Disabled and Youth in Crisis? If No, list which that applies and why.

**Registered Athletes.**

Does the Program certify that it registers athletes? Please attach sample athlete registration forms or note when they were previously submitted.

Did the Program submit its prior year census data?

Does the Program use the MMMA name and logo correctly?

Please attach samples of the Program’s current letterhead and business cards or note when they were previously submitted.

Is the Program submitting its coming year operational plan? Please attach the document or, if not yet complete/approved, note when it will be submitted.

**Accreditation Fees**. Has the Program paid all accreditation fees currently due? If the answer is “no,” please contact MMMA to arrange payment or discuss a payment plan. If a payment plan is currently in place, please include a note here.

**License Agreement**. Is the Program submitting its signed Accreditation License Agreement with this application? Please attach the completed and signed document.

Contact Information. Has the Program provided updated contact information for its office, Executive Director /Sports Director or Delegate on the Program Profile Page?

**Requirement**: Executive/National Director / Sports Director {Delegate}

The Program has a Delegate in accordance with General Rules, who may be part-time or full-time, volunteer or paid.

Purpose. The roles of Delegate is to promote accountability.

The Delegate reports to the MMMA and is responsible for the Program’s day-to-day operations and executes daily functions, such as: planning and executing Program goals, managing the Program’s budget, hiring and supervising support staff, planning administrative functions, developing relationships with affiliated sports organizations, and ensuring that all goals are met, and plans and runs the Program’s MMMA sports program, including creating and implementing the MITTS training plan, developing new sports initiatives, managing and coordinating the Program’s MMMA Events.

**Requirement**. The Program provides quality training and competition in two or more Official

MMMA Sports in accordance with MITTS Certification. The Program provides MMMA Sports opportunities in accordance with General Rules

Purpose. MMMA sports are at the heart of our mission. Programs should provide training and competitions consistent with the requirements of the General Rules that are designed to create meaningful and robust sports opportunities for MMMA athletes.

**Requirement**: Registered Athletes

**Requirement**. The Program registers MMMA athletes in accordance with General

Rules and submits athlete census data to MMMA as required.

Purpose. Athlete registration is necessary for health, legal and data collection purposes. Census information is important for program evaluation, planning, and marketing.

**Forms**. As part of registration, Programs are required to collect forms for each athlete. For accreditation, Programs are required to attach their current registration forms or note when they were submitted with a previous accreditation application. If any revisions to the forms have been made since previously submitted, the current forms must be attached. {Quarterly Census reports should note current paid registration for athletes and annual membership dues are up to date for each registrant}

**Operational Plan**. Programs are required to develop a written operational plan for each fiscal year, setting forth comprehensive goals for the Program’s sports, programmatic, administrative and fundraising goals, and its plans for growth.

If needed, please contact your MMMA representative for an operational plan template. If your Program’s operational plan is not yet complete or approved at the time you submit your accreditation application, please note when it will be submitted. Approval of your application will not be delayed as a result of the operational plan if all other items are timely. {Delay of more than two months of submission of the Operational Plan, could result in revocation or sanction of accreditation.

**Requirement**: Accreditation Fees

**Requirement**. The Program pays its accreditation fees when due or makes other arrangements agreed to by MMMA.

Policy. Please see the Accreditation Fees Policy at the end of this guide, which includes fee formulas, the invoicing and payment schedule, payment instructions, and other details.

**Requirement**: License Agreement

**Requirement**. The Program has executed a current MMMA Accreditation License Agreement.

Purpose. The MMMA Accreditation License Agreement gives a Program the legal authority to operate as a MMMA Program and to use the MMMA name and logo for specified purposes, all of which is conditioned on the Program’s compliance with the accreditation requirements and General Rules.

**Requirement:** Provide a copy of releases or contracts the Programs requires Athletes to sign, that release the trainer or facility of legal obligations.

**Requirement**: Proof of in-kind access to the facility at times other than during training to MMMA athletes. Purpose is to integrate persons into the community and allow them to train of functional fitness whenever possible.

**ACCREDITATION FEES**

**Policy Statement**

Each accredited Program is required to pay accreditation fees as a condition for obtaining or maintaining accreditation. See MMMA Official General Rules. Annual accreditation fees are calculated based on each Program’s chosen level of membership and number of programs. MMMA will collect accreditation fees in a timely and consistent way.

**Rationale for Policy**

By paying accreditation fees, programs invest in a license to operate in the MMMA Association. MMMA uses accreditation fees to cover a small portion of the cost of leading and supporting the national quality and growth of the programs. Accredited Programs can conduct MMMA activities and raise funds under the MMMA name. In addition, accredited Programs receive valuable support from MMMA.

**Accreditation Fees:**

Initial Accreditation Only: $3000

The initial accreditation fee includes the first year’s annual dues as an associated member of the MMMA. It is also a requirement of accreditation to obtain MITTS training and certification before making application for accreditation. (See MITTS requirements in General Rule) The MITTS initial training is not included in this initial fee. Includes NO Manual

Initial Accreditation Package: $3500

Includes all initial accreditation plus, one personal trainer certification ($500 value), complete set of standards manuals and guides ($500 value). For $4000 you get a complete MMMA marketing kit with your package.

Initial Corporate Accreditation: $4500

This accreditation level is for franchises or corporations that have more than one location in a county or jurisdiction. The individual personal MITTS trainings for up to three trainers are included in this fee. Additional Counties or jurisdiction of the facility will pay an additional accreditation fee of $1500 and $500 per personal trainer. (includes up to 5 sets of standards manuals)

**Annual Renewal / Reaccreditation**

Reaccreditation Fee: $1500 annually

The renewal will require the Accredited Program to make application and complete all annual compliance forms as requested. Optional continuing education and refresher courses are available for purchase for additional fees. (See MITTS guide)

**Timely Payment Enforcement**. For Programs with overdue fees, MMMA reserves the right to exercise the following enforcement measures pending payment or a mutually agreed payment plan: (i) non-renewal of accreditation, (ii) non-disbursement of grant funds, and (iii) adjustment of events quotas.

**Payment Methods**. With each accreditation fee invoice, MMMA provides a list of payment methods and the primary contact person with regard to payments.

**MMMA accepts payment of accreditation fees by the following methods:**

**Wire Transfer or Check**. MMMA provides bank information for wire transfers and the mailing address for check payments with each accreditation fee invoice. Programs making multiple wire transfer payments in a single year may be charged additional amounts to cover bank fees that reduce the amount received by MMMA.

**Credit Card**. Payments may be made by credit card by calling MMMA contact person at the phone number provided with the fee invoice. Payments made by credit card will be charged an additional 4% to cover MMMA’s processing costs.

**Cash**. Cash payments are generally discouraged. In places where other payment methods are not feasible, Programs may make payments in cash. If payment is made in cash, the Program should send a notification email to MMMA contact person identified in the invoice. The email should include the amount of cash paid, the MMMA staff member receiving the cash, identification of the invoice for which the payment is made, and the date of the transaction.

**Payment Plans, Waivers, and Exceptions**.

a. **Payment Plans**. A Program that is experiencing financial difficulties may request a payment plan. Requests should be sent to MMMA in writing and include the reason for the request and a proposed payment schedule. It is strongly encouraged that the proposed payment schedule include an immediate payment of some amount and conclude within the calendar year. Each payment plan must be approved by the CEO and Board or their respective designees.

b. **Fee Waivers**. A Program that is experiencing exceptional financial difficulties where it is unable to pay accreditation fees on schedule or through a payment plan may request a fee waiver. Such waivers are generally limited to bankruptcy, war, natural disasters, insolvency, and other extraordinary conditions. In each case, a payment plan should be encouraged and given serious consideration before a fee waiver is requested or approved. Requests for fee waivers should be sent to MMMA in writing and include the reason for the request. Each fee waiver must be approved by the CEO and Board.

c. **Exceptions**. Any exception to this policy requires CEO and Board approval.

**MITTS Initial Training and Certification**

MITTS is a required certification to operate as an MMMA facility or organization. There are various options of maintaining certification and obtaining future training. For purposes of initial accreditation Programs are required to attend a one day training, as outlined below, to implement programming and MMMA services or events.

A MITTS certified trainer will come to your facility for one full day to expand on MMMA methodology and train the trainers within your facility to implement the MITTS techniques designed to work specifically with special needs and at risk youth. Administrative and Programmatic structure is provided with all accompanying manuals and forms. (See MITTS Guide). Each trainer certification is $500 if not included in an accreditation package.

**Accreditation Review Process**

The AP makes application with MMMAA to become accredited or to renew accreditation within 30 days of expiration or expected accreditation date.

MMMAA will contact the AP within 7 business days to set the date of review.

All accreditation reviews will be held virtually unless there is a quality assurance or other concern by MMMAA. In house reviews may be required to meet accreditation standards and assure the AP meets all requirements.

**Virtual Reviews average two to three hours and include the following:**

Review of all submitted documents, starting with the application.

AP should walk the reviewer through the facility for assurance of health and safety standards and quality assurance of program functions.

Interviews with Athletes and other stakeholders of the AP

Question and answer sessions

Review of program outlines, operational plan and marketing materials

**In-House Reviews:**

Reviewers will come to your program locations in person. The tour will be more interactive and have an in-depth review of safety standards and documents. Any concerns that warranted the in house review will be addressed to assure MMMA quality standards are being met. The review team will assist the AP in writing a plan of correction if the visit warrants such a plan. All other review activities as outlined in a virtual review will be completed at the time of the in house visit.