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US Sailing Background check FAQs

This FAQ is intended to answer basic questions about US Sailing background checks. For more detailed information, please refer to US Sailing Policy on Background Checks for Race Officials, the Hire Image Data Security document, and the Hire Image Gold Screening Package document. All of these documents are located on the US Sailing [SafeSport & Race Officials](#) web page.

Q. Why do I need a background check?

A. The purpose of background checks is to ensure the safety of all participants in our sport. US Sailing will use the results of criminal background checks when evaluating requests to certify race officials and instructors who have regular contact with or authority over athletes. This policy conforms to standard practices within the National Governing Body (NGB) community, which are also in line with broader societal expectations and are mandated by federal law and United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) policy. US Sailing believes that this policy will enhance the safety and welfare of the sailing community, both youth and adult.

Q. What is US Sailing looking for?

A. US Sailing will decline certification to individuals with any disposition other than “not guilty” to a felony offense involving violence against a person, a felony or misdemeanor offense involving harm to a minor, or a felony or misdemeanor sexual offense. Registration on any sex offender list will automatically preclude the candidate from consideration. Other serious offenses will result in applications for certification being placed in review status.

Q. What records will be searched, and how far back will the background check look?

A. Background checks will include the following search components: independent multi-jurisdictional criminal database searches covering 50 states and the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico; multiple sex offender registry database searches and national watch lists and US Center for SafeSport disciplinary records; and federal district courts searches and county criminal records searches covering all jurisdictions where an individual has resided during the past seven years (subject to applicable state laws on reporting).





Q. Who will conduct the background check?

A. US Sailing's background check vendor is Hire Image, LLC. Hire Image complies with all applicable federal and state laws in its conduct of criminal background checks.

Q. How will US Sailing use the information gathered from a background check?

A. If a background check yields reportable information, the US Sailing Compliance Manager and US Sailing's independent human resource professional will make an initial determination as to the member's eligibility for certification. If their decision is to deny certification, a pre-adverse action notification will be sent informing the member of the decision, inviting him or her to correct any substantive error and to provide additional information explaining or mitigating the disqualifying incident or charge. The Compliance Manager and the human resource professional will then make a final decision on certification.

Q. How will US Sailing ensure the confidentiality of personal information?

A. US Sailing and Hire Image exercise the greatest care to keep members' personal information secure. Hire Image complies with stringent industry standards for data security. Personally identifiable information is redacted in reports provided to US Sailing. Report information is made available to only two people at US Sailing; if the relevant staff director is consulted, he or she will not be informed of the applicant's identity.

Q. What if I disagree with the decision US Sailing makes based on my background check?

A. A member may challenge a decision by US Sailing to decline, suspend, or terminate certification based on reportable information in a criminal background check by submitting a grievance to the US Sailing Review Board. Any matter that comes before the Review Board will be handled pursuant to Section 15.04 of the US Sailing Regulations.

Q. How often do I need to have a background check?

A. Background checks are effective for 24 months, with an included 12-month interim check.

Q. How much does the background check cost?

A: The cost of a US Sailing background check is \$25. US Sailing will cover the cost of background checks for certified race officials and candidates for certification.

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