



2. Process of Removing a sport

A sport will be considered at risk for removal from the official state sports offerings if a continual decline in participation is noted, divisioning can no longer be appropriately done, or when fewer than (20) twenty athletes are competing in the sport.

Before moving forward to determine if the sport can be revived, Local Programs will be surveyed to determine if enough interest exists that will result in an increase in participation numbers. Survey responses will indicate interest with the goal of reaching the numbers (20) required to add a new sport. Once all surveys are processed the *Declining Interest Guidelines* will be implemented. Those guidelines are as follows:

Once a sport is determined to have “Declining Interest” it will enter a two-year probationary period. During the probationary period SONJ staff will attempt to revive interest in the sport.

- Internal and external communication informing constituents and staff that the sport is at risk and needs be revived or it will be removed from Sports offerings.
- If a Sport Management Team exists for the sport, they will be engaged to assist staff to develop and implement reasonable strategies to grow and promote the sport.
- Stakeholders involved with the sport will be engaged to assist staff to develop and implement reasonable strategies to grow and promote the sport.
- Emphasis on coach clinics or trainings.

Declining Questions to be answered?

- Are there enough athletes in the sport to have meaningful competition?
- Are there adequate numbers of qualified coaches to safely train athletes?
- Are there safe and appropriate facilities for both training and competition?
- Is the sport cost effective?
- Would change of season be an effective improvement?

At the end of the probationary period, if meaningful competition requirements are not met the Program Department will recommend to the President/CEO of SONJ that the sport be removed from the official state sports offerings.

Immediate Elimination of a Sport:

- If unforeseen circumstances arise that override the *Declining Interest Guidelines*, the sport will be allowed to finish the current sport season and then will be eliminated.