

U.S. Casting Team Financial Support Policy American Casting Association

The U.S. Casting Team Financial Support Policy ("Policy") governs financial support for U.S. Casting Team Members ("team members") representing the American Casting Association ("ACA") at World-level Casting Championships or Competitions such as the Junior World Championships, Open World Championships, Senior World Championships, Veteran World Championships, and World Games organized by the International Casting Sport Organization (ICSF). The ACA Board of Directors ("Board") may modify this *Policy* at any time by majority vote. This *Policy* does not restrict participation of *team members* not receiving support for any reason.

The U.S. Casting Team Committee ("Committee") will use this *Policy* to generate and submit an Annual Funding Proposal ("Proposal") to the *Board*, with recommendations for distributions of financial support. The *Board* has the full authority to accept or reject the *Committee's Proposal* with or without modifications. A list of funding "Priority Levels" has been established as a guide for all *ACA* distributions of financial support, with particular focus on providing support to promising "young" team members (under 25 years of age)*.

Financial support will be considered by the *Committee* for three categories of expenses associated with participation at World-level tournaments - *Uniform* expenses, *Participation* expenses, and *Travel* expenses*. These expenses are to be investigated and considered by the *Committee* to determine the financial support needs for *team members* participating at various World-level tournaments. In a second step, the *Committee* shall determine the eligibility* of *team members* and their levels of qualification* from tournament data provided by *team members*, the *ACA* secretary, and other relevant sources. While the *Committee* is expected to make a reasonable effort in obtaining such information, the primary responsibility for the availability of the data lies with the *team members*. Considering only eligible *team members*, the *Committee* shall use the following list of funding "Priority Levels" in sequential order to create the *Proposal* to the *Board*. Certain terms used in the list are defined later in the *Policy* and in the glossary.

Priority Levels:

1. *Uniform* and *Participation* expenses for all eligible "young*" participants at Junior and Open competitions.
2. *Uniform* expenses for all eligible participants at Open competitions.
3. *Uniform* expenses for all eligible participants at Senior competitions.
4. *Uniform* expenses for all eligible participants at Veteran competitions
5. 75% of *Travel* expenses for all eligible "young" participants at Junior and Open competitions.
6. *Participation* expenses for Open competitors pro-rated* for Gold qualification
7. *Participation* expenses for Senior competitors pro-rated for Gold qualification
8. *Participation* expenses for Veteran competitors pro-rated for Gold qualification
9. *Participation* expenses for Open competitors pro-rated for Silver qualification
10. *Participation* expenses for Senior competitors pro-rated for Silver qualification
11. *Participation* expenses for Veteran competitors pro-rated for Silver qualification

12. 50% of *Travel* expenses for Open competitors pro-rated for Gold qualification
13. 50% of *Travel* expenses for Senior competitors pro-rated for Gold qualification
14. 50% of *Travel* expenses for Veteran competitors pro-rated for Gold qualification
15. 50% of *Travel* expenses for Open competitors pro-rated for Silver qualification
16. 50% of *Travel* expenses for Senior competitors pro-rated for Silver qualification
17. 50% of *Travel* expenses for Veteran competitors pro-rated for Silver qualification
18. Remaining *Travel* expenses for all eligible "young" participants at Junior and Open Events.
19. Remaining *Travel* expenses for Open competitors pro-rated for Gold qualification
20. Remaining *Travel* expenses for Senior competitors pro-rated for Gold qualification
21. Remaining *Travel* expenses for Veteran competitors pro-rated for Gold qualification
22. Remaining *Travel* expenses for Open competitors pro-rated for Silver qualification
23. Remaining *Travel* expenses for Senior competitors pro-rated for Silver qualification
24. Remaining *Travel* expenses for Veteran competitors pro-rated for Silver qualification
25. *Participation* expenses for Open, Senior, and Veteran competitors pro-rated for Bronze qualification
26. *Travel* expenses for Open, Senior, and Veteran competitors pro-rated for Bronze qualification

The above *Priority Levels* shall be applied subject to the following rules:

- a) The number of supported *team members* shall be capped at 6 male and 4 female participants for each of the four ICSF age groups. This is consistent with current ICSF restrictions for the Junior and Open tournaments. These caps shall adjust as ICSF restrictions change or at the discretion of the Board.
- b) A *Priority Level* may receive funding only if all higher *Priority Levels* (those with a lower number) have been fully funded.
- c) When the last *Priority Level*, for which un-designated funding is available, is only partially funded, the "un-funded portion*" shall be shared evenly among the stake holders at that *Priority Level*.
- d) In case the *ACA* receives and accepts donations designated towards a certain participant, group of participants, category of expenses etc., these donations shall be used as designated. If other available *ACA* funding is sufficient to reach a *Priority Level* that was fully or partially funded with designated donations, the designated donations shall count toward the financial support distributed at that *Priority Level* (i.e. no double-financial support shall occur). It shall be a decision of the *Board* to accept or reject designated donations from individuals that may benefit directly or indirectly from those donations due to the specificity of the designation.
- e) Pro-rating the participation of a team member at a given *Priority Level* is done by considering the proportion to which the caster qualified for that level. For example, a *team member*, who qualified Bronze in two events and Gold in one event and casts in a division with five scheduled events, participates with a 40% (2/5) stake in *Priority levels* specifying the Bronze qualification and with a 20% (1/5) stake in the *Priority levels* specifying Gold qualification and does not participate where Silver is specified.

Qualifications and Eligibility For Financial Support

Team members must meet a set of criteria to be eligible for financial support towards their participation at World-level tournaments. For those eligible, the amount of support is determined based on the number of events in which qualification criteria are met. Another important factor is the competitive level at which qualification occurs. Three competitive levels exist - Gold, Silver, and Bronze - and are described later in this *policy*. *Team members'* competitiveness is measured based on their demonstrated performance casting ICSF events in three types of tournaments. In order of increasing rank, these are *Local* tournaments, *National* tournaments, and *International* tournaments.*

Relative Performance Standards - Score-related criteria to qualify for financial support are to be determined relative to the performances of international casters averaged over the last three World-level tournaments (Juniors, Open, Seniors, Veterans). Three relative performance standards are set as a percentage of participants at those tournaments - 25%, 45%, and 65%. A *team member* meets a particular standard if his/her result would have beaten that percentage of the field. For example, to meet the 25% standard, a *team member* must beat 15 casters in a field of 60 participants. The Committee shall translate the percentages into place numbers and achieved results. The committee may make adjustments for tournaments or events with unusual weather conditions. Appendix A shows data relevant using 2012 as an example.

Bronze Qualifications

A *team member* qualifies in a given ICSF event at the Bronze level by having cast a 25% level score at least three times at *Local* tournaments or higher during the preceding three (3) calendar years. In divisions where World-level tournaments are not held every year, the results from the last three World-level tournaments may be used. Two out of the three scores may be substituted* with scores in *ACA equivalents*. *Team members* who qualify at the Silver or Gold level in an event do not qualify for the Bronze level in that event.

Silver Qualifications

A *team member* qualifies in a given ICSF event at the Silver level by having cast a 45% level score at least three times during the preceding three (3) calendar years. At least one of these scores must have been achieved at a *National* tournament or higher and the remaining two at *Local* tournaments or higher. In divisions where World-level tournaments are not held every year, the results from the last three World-level tournaments may be used. Two out of the three scores may be substituted* with scores in *ACA equivalents*. *Team members* who qualify at the Gold level in an event do not qualify for the Silver level in that event.

Gold Qualifications

A *team member* qualifies in a given ICSF event at the Gold level by having cast a 65% level score at least three times during the preceding three (3) calendar years. At least one of these scores must have been achieved at an *International* tournament, at least one at a *National* tournament or higher, and one at a *Local* tournament or higher. In divisions where World-level tournaments are not held every year, the results from the last three World-level

tournaments may be used. Two out of the three scores may be substituted* with scores in *ACA equivalents*.

Eligibility Criteria

Only *team members* meeting all of the following three conditions are eligible for support according to this Policy:

1. The *team member* meets *ACA* and *ICSF* eligibility criteria for participation.
2. *Team members* in the Junior Divisions and all female *team members* must meet the Bronze Qualification or higher in at least two of the scheduled events. Male *team members* in the adult divisions must meet the Bronze Qualification or higher in at least three of the scheduled events.
3. The *team member* has experience competing in high-level casting competitions (*ICSF* events not required). This is established by participation in at least one *National* tournament and at least five *Local* tournaments. Such participation only counts if the *team member* participated in more than half of the events scheduled in their competitive division of choice.

Once eligibility is established, the actual support is determined following the above listed priorities. Each team member participates at the Gold, Silver, and Bronze *Priority Levels* to the extent (fraction) to which he/she qualified for each level. For example, a *team member*, who qualified Bronze in two events and Gold in one event and casts in a division with five scheduled events, participates with a 40% (2/5) stake in the Bronze *Priority Levels* and with a 20% (1/5) stake in the Gold levels. This applies to *Priority Levels* specifying pro-rated participation. An eligible team member's stake is always 100% in all *Priority Levels* referring to "all eligible" participants.

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

ACA - American Casting Association - a member of the International Casting Sport Federation

ACA equivalents - Because some *ACA* events have rules similar to ICSF events, results achieved in such *ACA* events may be used to substitute* for required ICSF event results. The *Committee* shall decide which *ACA* events, given their rules at any relevant point in time, are to be considered *ACA equivalents*.

Board - Board of Directors of the American Casting Association

Committee - U.S. Casting Team Committee - a standing committee of the American Casting Association

Eligibility - Eligibility criteria are listed near the end of the *Policy*. Due to the time factor of the underlying qualifications, team members must establish eligibility in every funding year. While eligibility is required by the *Policy* to receive support, the amount of actual support (if any) depends on a number of factors - most of all on the available funding.

ICSF events - Events whose rules are set and published by the International Casting Sport Federation (ICSF). These events, or a sub-set thereof, are cast at international casting competitions and other competitions following the ICSF rules. ICSF events may be scheduled as additional events at National tournaments, ACA registered tournaments, or other tournaments. Proficiency in these events is used to determine eligibility for and the amount of support casters may receive.

International tournaments - International tournaments include the various ICSF World Casting Championships, World Games, and other ICSF sanctioned or recognized *International* tournaments, such as "World Cup" tournaments or "Open National Championships" of other countries that follow ICSF rules.

Levels of qualification - On an event-by-event basis, *team members* can qualify at three competitive levels - Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The lowest level - Bronze - is required in a minimum number of events to achieve eligibility for support. The higher levels and other criteria are used to graduate the amount of support. Conditions for qualifications are specified in the text of the *Policy*.

Local tournament - *Local* tournaments are *ACA* Registered Tournaments and practice tournaments held during *ACA*-recognized ICSF training camps. The *Committee* may also recognize non-*ACA* sanctioned tournaments for this group, to the extent they are deemed at least equivalent.

National tournaments - National tournaments are *ACA* Outdoor and Indoor National Tournaments as well as any U.S. Casting Team "qualifying tournaments" as determined and sanctioned by the Board.

Participation expenses - *Participation* expenses will be considered that relate to the cost of participation at tournaments. This often includes per-event and per-team fees as well as

organizer's fees, which typically cover lodging, food, and local transportation for the duration of the tournaments. These costs can range from about \$500 to over \$1000. The exact costs are set by the organizers and usually become known at least two or three months before the tournaments. Unless otherwise specified, *team members* may receive support for participation expenses in events for which they did not qualify.

Policy - U.S. Casting Team Financial Support Policy (i.e. this document)

Priority Levels - Graduated levels of priority according to which available funding is allocated among eligible *team members*. Young casters and those competing at a high level are given preference.

Proposal - An Annual Funding Proposal generated by the *Committee* following the guidelines in this *Policy*. This *Proposal* is the foundation for the funding decision by the *Board* which may accept or reject the *Proposal* with or without modifications.

Pro-rated - Some *Priority Levels* specify the pro-rated consideration of *team members*. Two numbers are needed to determine the stake a *team member* has at a given *Priority Level*: the number of events scheduled at the competition of interest for the *team member's* competitive division and the number of those events (if any) in which the *team member* qualified at the specified competitive level (Bronze, Silver, or Gold). The pro-rating proportion is the latter number divided by the former.

Substitutions - Results from events cast at higher-ranking tournaments can be used to fulfill requirements associated with lower-ranking tournaments. There is no limit to the number of such substitutions. Further, because some *ACA* events have rules similar to ICSF events, such *ACA* events may be used to substitute for required ICSF events. The *Committee* shall decide which *ACA* events, given their rules at any relevant point in time, are to be considered *ACA equivalents*. Due to existing differences, two results in *ACA equivalents* are required for each substitution for a result in an ICSF event. Limits to the number of substitutions of this kind are specified in the qualification sections.

Team members - Members of the U.S. Casting Team regardless of the competitive division or World-level competition

Travel expenses - *Travel* expenses will be considered including round trip airfare and baggage fees between the U.S. and a major airport near the competition, the cost of transportation from the airport to the host city and back, and possibly extra nights of for acclimation. Financial support for *Travel* expenses shall be considered based on the cost of basic services such as coach class and economy lodging in the region. Optionally, an allowance for *Travel* expenses may be given in advance of tournaments to afford team members flexibility in the timing of ticket purchases and for the convenience of their travel planning.

Un-funded Portion - The last *Priority Level* receiving un-dedicated funding may be only partially funded. That is, the sum of all unsatisfied (by dedicated funding) stakes at that level exceed the remaining balance of funding. The difference, i.e. the burden that remains with the casters, shall be distributed equally among the casters having an unsatisfied stake at that

Priority level. Of course, the maximum remaining burden for each caster is his/her stake at that level (no funding for this caster at that level).

Uniform expenses - *Uniform* expenses will be considered that contribute to a uniform appearance of *team members*. A warm-up suit and multiple shirts per *team member* are considered a basic minimum. A hat, shorts, and other apparel may optionally be included. The cost per *team member* generally ranges from \$100 to \$250. The *Committee* shall aim at re-use of uniform items from previous years.

"Young" - "Young" team members are those who are under 25 years of age at the scheduled time of the competition in which they plan to participate.

Appendix A

Standards for Juniors, Girls (2012)			
	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Event #1	57	76	82
Event #2	37.87 m 124 ft	39.63 m 130 ft	41.42 m 136 ft
Event #3	82	84	90
Event #4	64	71	83
Event #5	50.29 m 165 ft	54.48 m 179 ft	57.95 m 190 ft

Standards for Juniors, Boys (2012)			
	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Event #1	64	73	84
Event #2	42.56 m 140 ft	46.11 m 151 ft	47.98 m 157 ft
Event #3	81	87	93
Event #4	67	77	85
Event #5	55.45 m 182 ft	61.18 m 201 ft	65.00 m 213 ft

Standards for Open, Women (2012)			
	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Event #1	63	79	88
Event #2	38.85 m 127 ft	42.33 m 139 ft	44.64 m 146 ft
Event #3	83	89	92
Event #4	60	72	81
Event #5	56.13 m 184 ft	60.68 m 199 ft	64.01 m 210 ft
Event #8	44	54	68
Event #9	64.91 m 213 ft	75.93 m 249 ft	82.74 m 271 ft

Standards for Open, Men (2012)			
	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Event #1	81	88	93
Event #2	49.38 m 162 ft	52.91 m 174 ft	56.12 m 184 ft
Event #3	85	92	95
Event #4	67	78	87
Event #5	65.39 m 215 ft	68.43 m 225 ft	71.70 m 235 ft
Event #6	64.68 m 212 ft	69.96 m 230 ft	73.55 m 241 ft
Event #7	100.79 m 331 ft	105.10 m 345 ft	108.05 m 354 ft
Event #8	51	65	74
Event #9	92.08 m 302 ft	97.81 m 321 ft	102.25 m 335 ft

Standards for Sen&Vet, Women (2012)			
	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Event #1	51	64	71
Event #2	34.30 m 113 ft	36.43 m 120 ft	37.73 m 124 ft
Event #3	64	69	74
Event #4	38	50	66
Event #5	45.61 m 150 ft	48.93 m 161 ft	50.62 m 166 ft
Event #8	8	15	26
Event #9	41.68 m 137 ft	50.72 m 166 ft	56.03 m 184 ft

Standards for Seniors, Men (2012)			
	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Event #1	65	79	87
Event #2	42.12 m 138 ft	45.60 m 150 ft	48.82 m 160 ft
Event #3	76	84	90
Event #4	67	77	82
Event #5	61.37 m 201 ft	63.80 m 209 ft	65.28 m 214 ft
Event #6	56.45 m 185 ft	60.70 m 199 ft	63.09 m 207 ft
Event #7	85.49 m 280 ft	93.40 m 306 ft	96.35 m 316 ft
Event #8	35	46	64
Event #9	71.62 m 235 ft	85.86 m 282 ft	91.58 m 300 ft

Standards for Veterans, Men (2012)			
	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Event #1	60	76	83
Event #2	41.33 m 136 ft	44.85 m 147 ft	48.44 m 159 ft
Event #3	71	78	83
Event #4	56	68	77
Event #5	57.76 m 190 ft	60.00 m 197 ft	63.19 m 207 ft
Event #6	53.11 m 174 ft	56.77 m 186 ft	61.83 m 203 ft
Event #7	84.38 m 277 ft	90.65 m 297 ft	93.65 m 307 ft
Event #8	46	58	64
Event #9	79.07 m 259 ft	85.60 m 281 ft	89.23 m 293 ft