



## **USTA named U.S. representative to International Baton Twirling Federation**

*Designation is part of global effort to earn international sport recognition for baton twirling*

### **Background:**

On Sept. 1, 2024, after a comprehensive application and evaluation process, the United States Twirling Association (USTA) was designated by the International Baton Twirling Federation (IBTF) as the sole U.S. representative to the IBTF. This designation means that USTA will be the sole organization responsible for holding qualifying events for IBTF international competitions held after 2025. Those competitions will include the World Championship, the Nations Cup, and other global competitions held in 2026 and beyond.

As the IBTF U.S. representative, USTA will serve and support **ALL** U.S. twirlers, coaches, judges, and other baton twirling supporters who wish to participate in international competition.

This designation is an important step in the worldwide effort to earn international sport recognition for baton twirling, with the ultimate goal being Olympic recognition.

Please see these **Frequently Asked Questions** for more information.

### **How was USTA selected as the sole U.S. representative to the IBTF?**

In accordance with IBTF and SportAccord's requirements, USTA applied to be the U.S. representative. The comprehensive application required detailed information, documentation, and proof related to the organization itself (e.g., strategic plan, financial statements, electoral process), activities (e.g., national championships, grassroots programs, stakeholders) and governance (e.g. statutes, not-for-profit status). Applications were reviewed individually by an international panel of three non-IBTF attorneys with extensive backgrounds in international sports. On September 1, 2024, USTA, and organizations in other countries who applied to be their country's national representative, received their determination notice from IBTF.

### **What does this designation mean?**

This designation means that USTA will be the sole organization responsible for holding qualifying events for IBTF international competitions held after 2025. Those competitions will include the World Championship, Nations Cup and other global competitions held in 2026 and beyond.

**Who does this designation affect?**

This designation only affects baton twirling athletes who want to compete at the world level as a representative of the United States of America.

**Will U.S. athletes from all U.S. baton twirling organizations be able to participate in world competition qualifiers hosted by USTA?**

Yes! As the IBTF U.S. representative, USTA will serve and support ALL U.S. twirlers, coaches and judges who wish to participate in international competition. Participants will be required to purchase a USTA membership, which provides benefits including insurance coverage, in order to participate in world competition qualifiers and events.

**What is the International Baton Twirling Federation (IBTF)?**

The [International Baton Twirling Federation \(IBTF\)](#) is a non-profit organization created to foster the advancement and development of baton twirling in countries around the world. As the multidisciplinary governing body for the sport of baton twirling, IBTF is leading the way in gaining international recognition of baton twirling with SportAccord (formerly GAISF). A secondary goal of the IBTF is to provide member countries with the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the improvement of the sport of baton twirling, through international educational programs and competitive events.

**What is SportAccord?**

[SportAccord](#) is a global sports event organization based in the Olympic Capital of Lausanne, Switzerland, governed by stakeholders representing over 120 International Federations governing Olympic and non-Olympic sports. SportAccord is the governing body of all sports, including those that want to be Olympic sports. It is essential for baton twirling to earn SportAccord recognition in order to pursue Olympic sport recognition.

**How can I get more information on this exciting development? How can I get involved?**

Subscribe [HERE](#) to get regular updates about future international competitions, future U.S. qualifying events, educational and training opportunities, membership requirements, and more!

**Have more questions?**

Email [info@ustwirling.com](mailto:info@ustwirling.com)!