

ELITE DEVELOPMENT CLUB FAQs

Q: When did the EDC program begin?

A: The EDC program was initiated in the spring of 2004 when more than a dozen USATF clubs were selected for “Elite Development Club” designation. That number rose to nearly 40 clubs during the London quadrennial.

Q: What is USATF looking for in a club candidate for EDC designation?

A: The Elite Development Club (EDC) Program is aimed at creating a comprehensive national network of high-quality, year-round, club-based training environments that serve the development needs of “open athletes” wherever they live. Clubs whose mission includes a commitment to developing highly competitive athletes and teams, have shown they possess the resources to support such athletes and teams, and have demonstrated a recent history of success in open-level USATF Regional and National Championship competition are good candidates to become USATF Elite Development Clubs.

Q: Can there be more than one EDC in the same geographic area or population center?

A: Yes. Large metropolitan areas with large numbers of talented athletes can support multiple Elite Development Clubs within a relatively small geographic area. That said, USATF is also aware of the need to protect currently successful EDCs in small and medium-size population areas from a dilution of resources and athletes that can result from EDC saturation.

Q: When can clubs apply for EDC designation?

A: Clubs can apply for EDC designation at any time. Applications are reviewed immediately upon being received by the USATF Club Council. However, the reviewing group is all-volunteer, so that sometimes means several weeks can elapse between receipt and notification.

Q: Why is there an application fee?

A: Clubs applying for Elite Development Club designation are required to pay a non-refundable \$100 application fee for several reasons. The primary reason for the application fee is to help to offset the costs associated with administrating the EDC Program. In addition, requiring an application fee helps to limit applicants to clubs that are serious about seeking the designation and have the resources to be an EDC.

Q: How long is the designation valid?

A: EDC designations expire at the end of each 4-year Olympic quadrennium.

Q: Do EDCs have to re-apply every four years?

A: Yes. Even Elite Development Clubs with stellar records of success in the most recent Olympic quadrennium are required to re-apply for designation as an EDC during the next quadrennium. Clubs that miss the application deadline for EDC renewal, or that are denied EDC designation for the next quadrennium, must pay the application fee if they wish to re-apply.

Q: Can a club have its EDC designation revoked within the current quadrennium?

A: Yes. USATF may revoke EDC designation for reasons that include, but are not limited to, failure to comply with USATF membership requirements, rules of competition, operating regulations, and/or violations of municipal, state, or federal laws.

Q: What are the areas in which a potential EDC will be evaluated?

A: (1) Qualifiers for the USA Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field Championships, (2) medalists at the Club Track & Field Nationals, (3) level of participation (both individual and team success) at the Club Cross Country Nationals, (4) place winner at the USA Cross Country Championships, (5) success at open men’s and women’s LDR championships at 5 km, 8 km, 10 km, 10-Mile, Half-Marathon, 20 km, or Marathon distances, (6) club mission statement, (7) your evaluation of how well you have achieved that mission in the last four years, (8) dollar support and/or in-kind value of support for elite and emerging elite athletes, (9) development and competition support (coaching, training groups, training facilities, competition schedule, medical and physical therapy services), (10) individual and personal support (housing, living expenses, legal and financial advice, opportunities to start on a career path with a local company), and (11) sponsorship.