

## **World Flying Disc Federation**

### **Disc Approval Process and Permitted Licensing Policy**

*Approved by the WFDF Board on 22 September 2018*

#### **I. APPROVED DISCS**

The disc approval process of the World Flying Disc Federation (“WFDF”) is one that is ongoing, and additional manufacturers and models are currently under consideration for both championship and general level approval. WFDF relies on the certification work of two of other disc sports associations for approval of disc models: USA Ultimate (USAU) for the discipline of Ultimate, and the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) for the disciplines of Disc Golf and Overall Events. Given the nature of the events, the approval process differs for each.

##### **Ultimate**

WFDF relies on the certification work of USA Ultimate (USAU) for basic approval of disc models. USAU employs a Disc Technical Standard that specifies the official size and weight of USAU - approved discs. Once a disc meets these requirements, USAU begins a multi-level player review of the flight characteristics of a candidate disc. When a candidate disc is submitted for approval, the first step is an informal review by members of the Disc Standards Working Group. If a disc appears to meet the basic standards, it is then tested by the seven members of the Disc Approval Committee. Once a disc is approved for formal review it is tested by the larger Flight Test Pool. This approach ensures that candidate discs not only meet the size and weight requirements, but also have acceptable flight characteristics, comfortable grip for players of all sizes and reasonable catchability. If a disc meets all technical standards and has the right flight characteristics the disc is granted USA Ultimate Approved Disc Status.

USAU specifies three levels of approval: Championship, General, and Youth. Should a manufacturer make any changes to the mold, or to the plastic that is used to manufacture the submitted discs, it will be necessary to re-apply for approval. Approved Discs need to be re-submitted for review by the Disc Standards Working Group every three years. The process is outlined at: [www.usultimate.org/resources/disc\\_standards.aspx](http://www.usultimate.org/resources/disc_standards.aspx). Once a disc model/mold is approved by USAU, then the disc and its manufacturer are eligible to apply for recognition and licensing by WFDF to be considered WFDF-approved.

##### **Disc Golf**

WFDF relies on the certification work of the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) for approval of disc models and other equipment. The PDGA has an ongoing testing program to ensure that discs meet the technical standards. In order to have the production of a mold approved for certification, the equipment manufacturer must submit at least three samples of the disc to the PDGA Technical Standards Committee Chair. Developers are encouraged to make early communication with the chair of the committee well prior to submission of samples if they have any questions about the ramifications of a potential design. Manufacturers should review the PDGA Approved Disc list to make sure their proposed disc name will not be too similar to a previously approved disc made by another manufacturer.

The PDGA Technical Standards Committee is responsible for testing equipment submitted for PDGA approval. The tests are conducted either by an independent laboratory or by a committee member with the expertise and equipment necessary to measure the physical attributes. To see technical detail for each of the specifications listed please see Articles 107 and 108 of the WFDF Rulebook or at [www.pdga.com/rules/technical-standards](http://www.pdga.com/rules/technical-standards). The PDGA also certifies disc-catching targets which list is adopted by WFDF. After the manufacturer has received notification of **PDGA**

**approval and certification**, the equipment may be used in WFDF-sanctioned Disc Golf competition.

### **Freestyle and Overall**

Only discs that meet the PDGA technical standards may be used in WFDF sanctioned competitions for Freestyle or Overall events.

### **Guts**

The Wham-O Pro model Frisbee disc, a 15 mold with a cupola, weighing approximately 110-116 grams, is the disc to be used for Guts in WFDF sanctioned competition.

### **Double Disc Court (“DDC”)**

The Wham-O Pro model Frisbee disc, a 23 A or 23 B mold, weighing approximately 110 grams, is the disc to be used for DDC in WFDF sanctioned competition.

### **Mini Disc Golf and Overall**

Only minis made entirely of plastic material are to be used. For example, wood, metal, epoxy and minis made with other materials are not approved. To be used in competition, all mini discs must be 4.5 inches (11.43 cm) or less in diameter. Mini competition uses all WFDF approved rules except for these variations in the disc size. Mini disc golf uses the approved disc golf rules except for a few necessary variations in play and targets, which are listed at the Mini Disc Golf Federation (MDGF) site: <http://minidiscgolf.com>.

## **II. LICENSE AND USE OF WFDF CERTIFICATION**

Once a disc model/mold is approved by USAU or PDGA, the disc and its manufacturer are eligible to apply for recognition and licensing by WFDF to be considered WFDF-approved.

The following outlines all licensing opportunities and restrictions on the manufacturers of discs that are approved for use by WFDF.

### **Ultimate**

For Ultimate, WFDF has established an RFP process of designating a WFDF Official Disc Supplier which is currently in place for a two- or four-year period and reopened at the conclusion of each contract period.

WFDF invites all companies that manufacture approved championship-level 175 gram Ultimate discs to be involved in the Disc RFP bidding process. The selected company receives the exclusive rights to produce “Official WFDF Ultimate Discs” for sale through WFDF and its own merchandise channels and will be the supplier of the “Official Game Discs” during all WFDF Ultimate Championship events during the contract period, unless otherwise agreed. No other manufacturers’ discs may be sold, distributed, promoted or displayed onsite during WFDF championship events or used in WFDF competition.

For all discs that have received USAU Approved Disc Status at either the Championship, General, or Youth level, but are not selected as the WFDF Official Disc Supplier, disc manufacturers may apply for their disc model/mold to receive the designation as a WFDF-Approved Disc. WFDF retains the right to refuse a manufacturer’s discs receiving the designation as WFDF-Approved for any reason and at its sole discretion.

There are two levels of such recognition:

- **Listing Recognition:** For a disc model/mold that has received approval by the USAU at either the Championship, General, or Youth level, which has signed the disc licensing agreement with WFDF, and which has paid the Listing Recognition Fee, WFDF will list the manufacturer's disc model and mold as WFDF-Approved on its website. The disc manufacturer may not state that it is WFDF approved on packaging, the discs themselves, on their web site, in press release or other media, or in any other way.
- **Promotional Recognition:** For a disc model/mold that has received approval by the USAU at either the Championship, General, or Youth level, which has signed the licensing agreement with WFDF, and which has paid the Promotional Recognition Fee, WFDF will list the manufacturers' disc model and mold as WFDF-Approved on its website. The disc manufacturer will be permitted to state that it is WFDF approved on their packaging, on their web site, in press releases and advertising, and in other media. This permission does not grant any disc manufacturer to use the WFDF brand or logo and the text may state that it is a "WFDF Approved Disc."

The Listing Recognition Fee and the Promotional Recognition Fee will be established by the WFDF Board and will be renewable annually in each case for a calendar year, with a 50% discount if approved on July 1st or later in such calendar year. If a disc manufacturer decides not to renew its WFDF disc license, the listing will be terminated as of the calendar year end, at which point the approval will be deleted from WFDF's web site and must be deleted from all promotional media (web site, press releases, advertising, packaging, etc.). Any unapproved uses of the promotional recognition rights may result in the termination of the approved disc status with no refund of fees paid, not being considered in future WFDF Official Disc Supplier decisions, or any other actions including legal actions at its sole discretion in order to remedy such breach.

### **Disc Golf, Freestyle, and Overall**

WFDF does not currently have any exclusivity rights for Disc Golf, Freestyle, or Overall. Players are permitted to use any disc that has received approval for use in competition at a WFDF-sanctioned event. WFDF-sanctioned events may designate a sponsor and limit the promotion of discs from other manufacturers during and around the event.

Unless licensing rights have been agreed in writing with WFDF, disc manufacturers that have a disc model/mold that has received approval by WFDF may not state on packaging, the discs themselves, on their web site, in press releases and advertising or other media, or in any other way, that they have received WFDF approval. They may also not use the WFDF logo or its name. If the disc manufacturer were to receive licensing rights with explicit approval by WFDF in writing, the licensing agreement would define the approved uses and limitations of the licensing arrangement, and the compensation for such rights, negotiable on case-by-case basis directly with WFDF. Any unapproved uses of the licensing rights may result in the termination of the approved disc status, not being considered in future WFDF Official Disc Supplier decisions, or any other actions including legal actions at its sole discretion in order to remedy such breach.

### **Guts, Double Disc Court, and Minidisc**

WFDF does not permit the use or reference to a WFDF approval for these discs.