

U.S. Public Health Service Athletics FAQs

- 1. What is the time period for the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Athletics year?**
 - a. June 1 through May 31
- 2. Why does the athletic year start in June?**
 - a. The PHS Athletics initiative was charted by the Office of the Surgeon General on June 6, 2014. Therefore, each athletic year begins anew every June. In addition, this timeframe allows for Surgeon General's Fitness Team Roll Call certificates to be processed and issued in autumn prior to the end of the calendar year.
- 3. What types of events qualify as a PHS Athletics event?**
 - a. Traditional qualifying events can be found at our website here: <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/phsa/gettingstarted.aspx>
 - b. Other disciplines and events will be evaluated for suitability by the Executive Directors on a case-by-case basis. Contact us at publichealthserviceathletics@gmail.com to find out more.
- 4. What is the minimum participation criteria for a qualifying event?**
 - a. At least 5 PHS Commissioned Corps Officer participants OR
 - b. At least 10 participants (with a minimum of 2 officers)
 - c. Other participant scenario examples meeting the minimum:
 - i. 4 officers, 3 civilians
 - ii. 3 officers, 6 civilians
- 5. How can I qualify to receive a Surgeon General's Fitness Team Roll Call Certificate?**
 - a. Participation in some capacity (i.e., event leader, participant, or supporter) in 2 or more qualifying events within the athletic year
- 6. What are the different levels of achievement for the Surgeon General's Fitness Team Roll Call?**
 - a. There are 3 tiers of certificates for the Surgeon General's Fitness Team Roll Call:
 - i. Event Leader Certificate: for an individual who leads 2 or more qualifying events per Award Year (1 June through 31 May)
 - ii. Participant Certificate: for an individual who participates in 2 or more qualifying events per Award Year
 - iii. Supporter certificate: for supporting two or more events (including walking in a running event <10 miles distance) or supporting one event and participating in a second.
- 7. When and how will the Surgeon General's Fitness Team Roll Call Certificates be distributed?**
 - a. As soon as our Awards Committee processes the year's data and generates the certificates, they will be emailed to each recipient. There are many factors that affect the timing for generating certificates, but the Awards Committee aims to send out certificates by December.
- 8. How can I get more information on becoming an event leader?**
 - a. Contact us at publichealthserviceathletics@gmail.com and we would be happy to walk you through it.
- 9. How many event leaders are allowed for an event?**
 - a. Qualifying Events will typically have no more than two Event Leaders per event, with at least one being a PHS Commissioned Corps officer. Exceptions to this limit may be approved by the PHS Athletics Executive Directors on a case-by-case basis.

10. How can I contact PHS Athletics?

- a. Email us at: PublicHealthServiceAthletics@gmail.com
- b. Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/publichealthserviceathletics>
- c. Follow us on Instagram: @publichealthserviceathletics, #USPHSAthletics
- d. Follow us on Twitter: @USPHSAthletics, #USPHSAthletics
- e. Website: <http://www.dcp.psc.gov/osg/phsa>

11. I participated in two events and have not received my Surgeon General's Fitness Team Roll Call certificate yet. Who can I contact?

- a. Certificates are issued via email by December each year. If you have not received a certificate after they have been issued for the year, first contact the event leader(s) for the events you participated in to confirm that they were qualifying events for the award year in question and verify that they correctly submitted your name with the participation log. If these conditions are met, email us at publichealthserviceathletics@gmail.com with your full name and the name(s) and date(s) of all qualifying events and inquire about the status of your certificate.

12. Who can I check with to determine if I participated in two qualifying events?

- a. Please contact the event leaders for the events that you participated in. The event leaders should be aware if their events qualified or not.

13. How can I join PHS Athletics?

- a. As openings or new positions become available, we will announce them through our email listserv or other outlets as necessary.

14. How can I be added to the PHS Athletics listserv?

- a. Send your listserv request to us at: publichealthserviceathletics@gmail.com

15. Why do we need to display PHS pride gear during PHS Athletic events?

- a. One of the core values of PHS Athletics is visibility of the U.S. Public Health Service. We want all participants and supporters to display PHS pride at every event to help increase the visibility of the while promoting health through fitness. If you do not have PHS athletic gear, please reach out to your event leader or publichealthserviceathletics@gmail.com for recommendations and resources.

16. Can I wear uniform components to show PHS pride?

- a. Please see CC412.01, subsection 6-4 for details regarding appropriate wear of the PHS uniform. <https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/documents/CC412.01.pdf>

17. Can I create my own PHS pride gear for my event?

- a. Yes, we encourage event leaders to be creative with displaying PHS pride. However, if you plan to include the PHS Athletics name on the gear, it must be approved by the PHS Athletics Executive Directors. Contact us at publichealthserviceathletics@gmail.com to submit a request.

18. Why are some photos that I submitted after an event not posted on Facebook?

- a. Some photos may be edited or omitted based on several factors, such as appropriateness, correctness (e.g. wearing of the uniform – see question 16), picture quality, privacy concerns, and/or operations security (OPSEC).

19. Why do I need to submit a photo release form?

- a. PHS Athletics gathers images at athletic events in an effort to tell the story of our mission of promoting health through fitness. A photo release form is required for non-federal employees to confirm cooperation and consent in allowing us to photograph

them for our use in various mediums. This form provides assurance that these images will be used only for official purposes and with the respect and consideration to which they are entitled.

20. Can I participate in an event virtually if I can't make the live event in person?

- a. We have guidelines regarding virtual events. Please contact us at publichealthserviceathletics@gmail.com for additional information.