

An Evaluation of the Governance of US Olympic Sport Federations



TEAM USA RAISING THE BAR



Roger A. Pielke, Jr.
University of Colorado

29 November 2017
PTG 2017
Eindhoven, Netherlands

@RogerPielkeJr
Sports Governance Center
CU Athletics
University of Colorado Boulder




We have applied the methods of SGO 2015 to USOC NGBs


**SPORTS GOVERNANCE
OBSERVER 2015**

The legitimacy crisis in international sports governance

Report / October 2015



Arnout Geeraert



Play the Game

Methodology of 2015 SGO report

- 4 Dimensions, 36 indicators
 - Transparency (12 indicators)
 - Democratic process (10 indicators)
 - Checks and balances (7 indicators)
 - Solidarity (7 indicators)
- Dimensions are equally weighted to create a single index value for each organizations

Total number of US Olympic NGBs

- 39 summer
- 8 winter
- 25 Paralympic
- 72 total



- Today I will present preliminary findings for 22 US summer and winter sport NGBs
 - US Paralympic NGBs in general do not have enough information to be ranked

Example from SGO 2015 of scoring of indicators

3.4 Dimension 4. SOLIDARITY

Indicator 4.1

The organisation allocates specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activities

Explanation

As the custodians of sport, a public good, ISFs have a responsibility for fostering the global development of grass-roots activities. According to Eurostrategies *et al.* (2011), “grassroots sport covers all sport disciplines practiced by non-professionals and organised on a national level through national sport” (Eurostrategies *et al.*, 2011, p. 13).

Operationalisation

Score		Conditions
1	Not fulfilled at all	The organisation does not allocate specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activities and does not promote the global development of grass-roots activities
2	Weak	The organisation promotes the global development of grass-roots activities, but does not allocate specific resources
3	Moderate	The organisation allocates specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activities, but it does not consolidate these under a comprehensive strategy (approved or not approved by the Congress)
4	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The organisation allocates specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activities and it consolidates these under a comprehensive strategy (not approved by the Congress)
5	State of the art	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The organisation allocates specific resources for the global development of grass-roots activitiesThe different programmes are consolidated under a comprehensive strategy, approved by the Congress

Our scoring methodology

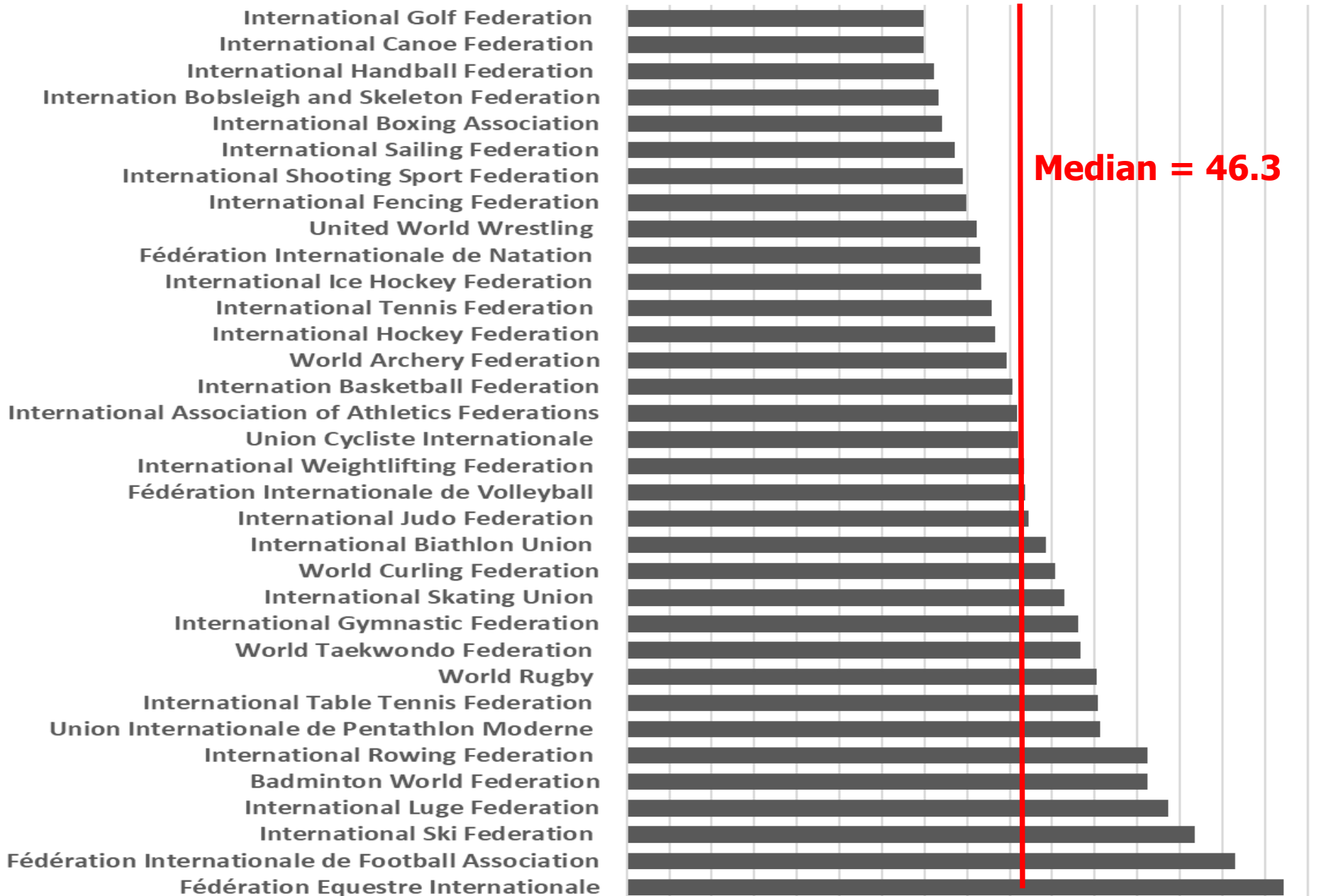
PRELIMINARY EVALUATION



FINAL EVALUATION



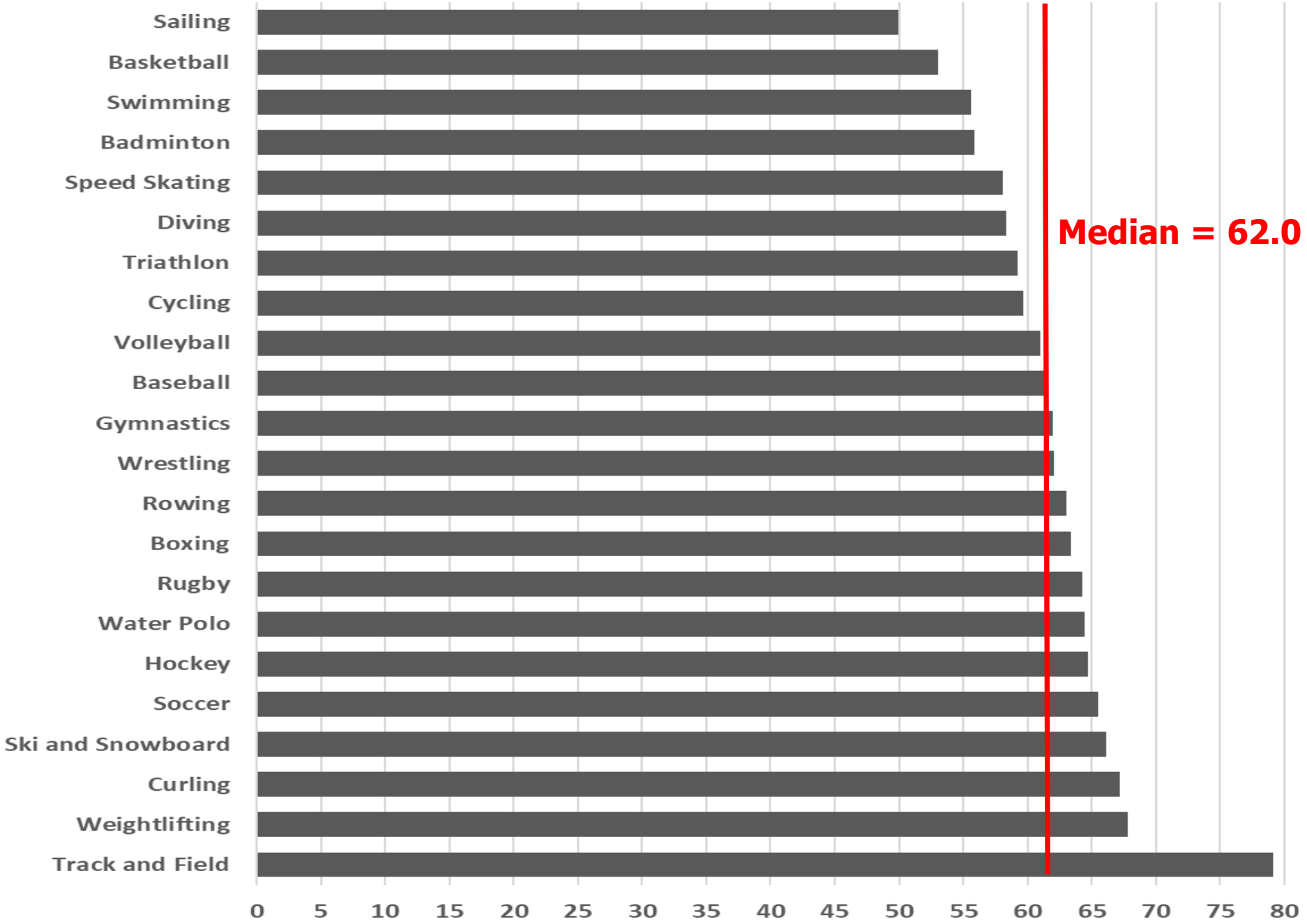
2015 SGO Index - International Federations



Median = 46.3

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80

2017 SGO Index - United State Olympic NGBs



Rankings

- **US NGBs (2017) generally score higher than SGO (2015) scores for IFs**
- **Only 1 US NGB scores higher than FIFA (USA Track and Field)**
- **Much room for improvement across the board**

Track and Field	79.1
Fédération Equestre Internationale	77.3
Fédération Internationale de Football Association	71.5
Weightlifting	67.8
Curling	67.2
International Ski Federation	66.7
Ski and Snowboard	66.1
Soccer	65.5
Hockey	64.7
Water Polo	64.5
Rugby	64.2
International Luge Federation	63.6
Boxing	63.4
Rowing	63.0
Wrestling	62.1
Gymnastics	62.0
Baseball	61.4
Badminton World Federation	61.3
International Rowing Federation	61.2
Volleyball	61.0
Cycling	59.7
Triathlon	59.2
Diving	58.4
Speed Skating	58.1
Badminton	55.9
Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne	55.7
Swimming	55.6
International Table Tennis Federation	55.4
World Rugby	55.2
World Taekwondo Federation	53.4
International Gymnastic Federation	53.1
Basketball	53.0
International Skating Union	51.4
World Curling Federation	50.4
Sailing	50.0
International Biathlon Union	49.2
International Judo Federation	47.3
Fédération Internationale de Volleyball	46.9
International Weightlifting Federation	46.6
Union Cycliste Internationale	46.0
International Association of Athletics Federations	45.8
International Basketball Federation	45.3
World Archery Federation	44.6
International Hockey Federation	43.3
International Tennis Federation	42.9
International Ice Hockey Federation	41.7
Fédération Internationale de Natation	41.5
United World Wrestling	41.1
International Fencing Federation	39.9
International Shooting Sport Federation	39.5
International Sailing Federation	38.6
International Boxing Association	37.0
International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation	36.6
International Handball Federation	36.1
International Canoe Federation	34.9
International Golf Federation	34.9

Detailed rankings by criteria

US Sport NGB	TRANSPARENCY	DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES	CHECKS AND BALANCES	SOLIDARITY	OVERALL
Track and Field	1	1	1	5	1
Weightlifting	12	2	3	5	2
Curling	7	5	6	1	3
Ski and Snowboard	3	9	4	16	4
Soccer	4	12	4	14	5
Hockey	2	21	10	5	6
Water Polo	4	15	10	4	7
Rugby	9	3	10	14	8
Rowing	12	5	18	1	9
Wrestling	6	9	15	11	10
Boxing	16	8	6	11	11
Volleyball	19	9	6	1	12
Gymnastics	15	4	20	5	13
Baseball	11	13	10	11	14
Cycling	7	19	6	16	15
Triathlon	12	14	2	22	16
Diving	16	17	15	5	17
Speed Skating	20	5	10	21	18
Badminton	18	15	15	16	19
Swimming	9	22	21	5	20
Basketball	22	17	18	16	21
Sailing	20	20	22	16	22

Preliminary conclusions

- **In general US NGBs are better governed than IFs**
 - Median score 62.0 to 46.3
- **But don't get too excited, a score of 62 is a D-**
- **Only one USOC NGB meets SGO minimum criteria of 75% - USATF (USA Track & Field)**
- **Much work remains**

"It must be stressed that the SGO index reflects the presence of basic criteria of good governance. Medium-size federations should be expected to have an SGO index close to 75%, while large federations should achieve a score higher than 75%."

Sports Governance Observer 2015

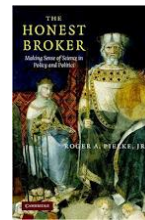
The project team at CU Sports Governance Center

- Sara Sutherland
- Jared Adler
- Jackson McCabe

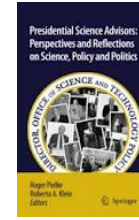


Thank you!

- pielke@colorado.edu
- @rogerpielkejr
- Blog: <http://leastthing.blogspot.com>
- About me: <http://rogerpielkejr.com/>



2007



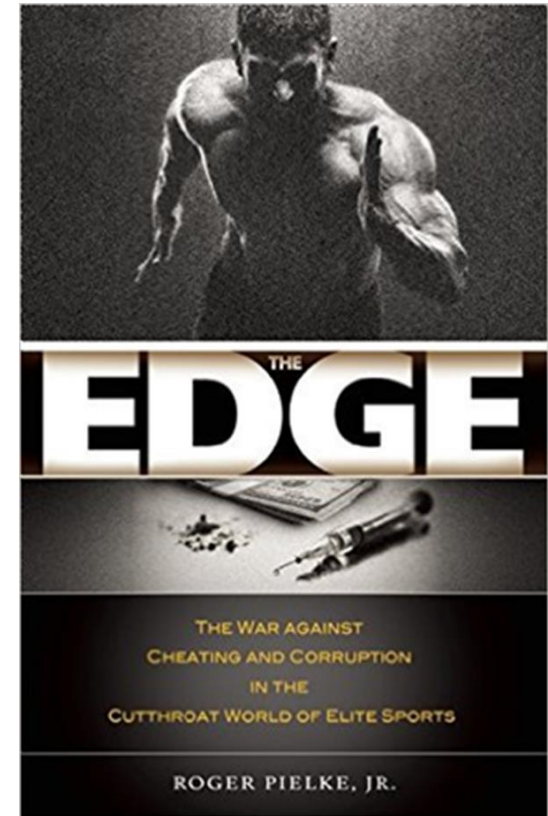
2010



2011



2014



2016