



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SIGA RATING AND VERIFICATION SYSTEM (SIRVS)

1. What is SIRVS?

SIRVS stands for the SIGA Independent Rating and Verification System. An initiative by the Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA), it's the only independent rating and certification system in the sports industry to assess sports organisations' internal processes and practices in accordance with an international set of Universal Standards on Sports Integrity developed by SIGA.

2. What are the SIGA Universal Standards on Sport Integrity?

The SIGA Universal Standards is the best in class set of international standards developed by SIGA to enhance governance, integrity, transparency, and accountability within sports organisations to support their ongoing governance journeys and achieve excellence. SIGA developed Universal Standards on 4 core topics:

- Good Governance in Sport
- Financial Integrity in Sport
- Sports Betting Integrity
- Youth Development and Protection in Sport

3. How does SIRVS assess an organisation's level of compliance?

The SIRVS audit is conducted by a member of SIGA's independent audit team that have experience in delivering rating and certification in accordance with international standards and are trained in the criteria of the SIGA Universal Standards on Sport Integrity and the SIRVS methodology.

The SIRVS audit is broken down into two audits over a period of 4 months and is designed to assess compliance with the criteria and measure the effectiveness of the sports' organisations implementation of the criteria. For those sports organisations that don't yet meet certain criteria, the auditors require a corrective action plan that is reviewed at a later date to support the organisations' governance journey. The final audit report is reviewed by a second member of SIGA's independent audit team by way of a quality check and presented to the sports organisation. SIGA issues the final certificate.

4. What are the SIRVS certification levels?

SIRVS offers three levels of certification: Bronze, Silver, equivalent to Good, Better and Best, respectively. Each level represents a progressively higher standard of adherence to the SIGA Universal Standards on Sport Integrity.

Each level is cumulative, meaning that achieving the Silver certification requires meeting all Bronze criteria and additional Silver criteria. Similarly, the Gold certification requires compliance with all criteria set out for Bronze and Silver, along with its own set of rigorous benchmarks.



5. Liga Portugal and SIRVS

Liga Portugal has been awarded the Bronze Certification on Good Governance in Sport, becoming the first Professional Football League globally to undergo the SIRVS process and be independently assessed and rated against SIGA's governance standards.

6. Are there any other sports organisations that have gone through SIRVS certification?

Yes, the European Rugby League was the pioneering sports organisation to achieve SIRVS certification, in 2021. The European Swimming Federation (LEN) and the International Chess Federation (FIDE) are currently going through SIGA's independent gap assessment audit that is designed to provide an x-ray on a confidential basis to the sports organisation of where they are in terms of compliance with the SIGA Governance Standards as a precursor to SIRVS. This option is increasingly providing a popular initial audit tool. Several international sports organisations, including UEFA, IMMAF, and others have also publicly committed to going through the SIRVS process.

7. How long is the SIRVS certification valid?

The SIRVS certification remains valid for three years with top up annual audits in years two and three to ensure ongoing adherence. Sports organisations' certification may go up or down during the three years cycle.

8. Why is SIRVS essential for sports organisations?

With stakeholders increasingly demanding sport integrity, SIRVS serves as the sole independent tool that validates an organisation's best practices in accordance with a set of internationally recognised standards specifically tailored for the sports industry. The SIRVS kitemark is a symbol of compliance to mitigate reputational risks from those that invest financially and by turn, their reputations in sport, including the sponsors, broadcasters, and fans.

9. How do sports organisations benefit from SIRVS certification?

SIRVS is a proactive way that sports organisations can demonstrate outwardly that they are committed to the values of Sport Integrity. Against a backdrop of increasing scandals in the industry, SIRVS is the action to show that your sports organisation is walking the talk when it comes to good governance in sport. Achieving SIRVS certification signals to stakeholders an organisation's steadfast commitment to sport integrity as defined by the SIGA Universal Standards. This not only strengthens their credibility but also positions them as leaders in fostering the future of a trustworthy sport, according to fans', sponsors' and broadcasters trust and mitigates the risk of reputational damage.

10. What is the SIRVS independent gap analysis assessment audit and how does it contribute to an organisation's journey towards certification?

The confidential gap analysis assessment audit is a tool developed by SIGA as a precursor to an organisation going through SIRVS to assess whether they meet the criteria. It involves a one day virtual or in person audit to identify areas within an organisation that may or may not yet meet the requirements of the SIGA Universal Standards on Sport Integrity and design a corrective action plan



for sports organisations to implement in a 12 month period to get them match fit for the SIRVS audit. This assessment pinpoints specific gaps, enabling organisations to understand their current position relative to the Standards and informing them about necessary improvements to achieve certification.

11. Does SIGA offer training on SIRVS implementation?

Yes. Training plays a pivotal role and can be delivered at any stage of the SIRVS journey, including at the outset, after the gap analysis audit or post SIRVS. The training is designed to support the sports organisations' understanding of specific criteria as often the standards are a new language for employees, and it is a chance to develop a deep level understanding of what the criteria means and how you can demonstrate compliance and implementation.

12. How can sports organisations apply for training, the independent gap assessment audit or the SIRVS certification?

To find out more about more about how your sports' organisation can be supported by SIGA to go through training and SIRVS, please contact us.

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For press inquiries please reach SIGA's Director of Communications and Media, Nuno Perestrelo
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