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Sport Definition Evidence Statement

1. Purpose of this statement

This statement has been prepared by SAMBO Federation of Australia in support of its application for recognition by the Australian Sports Commission as the National Sporting Organisation for Sambo in Australia.
This statement addresses the nature of Sambo, its fundamental principles, scoring system, event format, physical skills required, recognised disciplines and applicable rules.

2. Description of Sambo

Sambo is an international combat sport and martial art involving physical skill, physical exertion, technical execution and structured competition between athletes.
Sambo is generally contested between two individual athletes in a regulated bout. Athletes compete on a competition mat and seek to achieve victory through permitted technical actions, including throws, takedowns, holds, pins, submissions and other discipline-specific techniques.
Sambo is governed internationally by the International Sambo Federation, commonly known as FIAS, and is conducted under formal competition rules, technical requirements, safety standards and event regulations.
For the purpose of the ASC recognition application, Sambo is submitted as a sport because it:

- requires physical exertion, strength, endurance, balance, flexibility, speed and coordination;
- requires technical skill, tactical decision-making and controlled execution of recognised techniques;
- is competitive by nature and organisation;
- produces a measurable result through points, technical superiority, submission, disqualification or other rule-based victory conditions;
- is generally recognised internationally as a sport; and
- is not prohibited by law in Australia.

3. Nature and fundamental principles of Sambo

Sambo is a structured combat sport based on controlled engagement between two athletes. The fundamental principles of Sambo include:

1. **Technical skill -** athletes use permitted techniques such as throws, takedowns, groundwork control and submissions, depending on the discipline.
2. **Physical contest -** athletes compete through controlled physical engagement, requiring strength, agility, endurance, balance and speed.
3. **Fair competition -** bouts are conducted under formal rules and supervised by referees and officials.
4. **Safety and control -** athletes must comply with rules designed to protect participants and prohibit dangerous or illegal conduct.
5. **Scoring and result -** each bout produces a result through points, technical victory, submission, withdrawal, disqualification or other rule-based outcome.

6. **Weight and age categories -** competitions are generally organised by age, gender and weight category to promote fair and safe competition.
7. **Respect and sportsmanship -** athletes, coaches and officials are expected to act with discipline, respect and integrity.

4. How Sambo competitions are conducted

A Sambo bout is generally contested between two athletes on a competition mat.
Each athlete seeks to win the bout by applying permitted techniques under the supervision of referees and officials. Depending on the discipline, the bout may include standing techniques, throws, takedowns, groundwork control, holds, submissions and other permitted actions.
Competitions are usually conducted through structured brackets, pools or elimination formats, with athletes progressing based on bout results. Events may include local, state, national and international competitions.

5. How scores are kept

Sambo uses a formal scoring system. Points are awarded by referees and officials for valid technical actions performed during a bout.
Scoring may include points for:

- successful throws;
- takedowns;
- holds or pins;
- control positions;
- technical superiority;
- penalties awarded against an opponent; and
- other valid actions recognised under the applicable competition rules.

A bout may be won by:

- achieving the highest score at the end of the bout;
- technical superiority;
- a successful submission, where permitted by the discipline;
- an opponent's withdrawal or inability to continue;
- disqualification of an opponent; or
- any other victory condition recognised under the rules.

The detailed scoring method and victory conditions are set out in the official Sambo rules adopted by FIAS and applied by SAMBO Federation of Australia.

6. Number of people involved in a single event

Sambo is primarily an individual combat sport.
A standard Sambo bout involves:

- two athletes competing against each other; and
- referees, judges and technical officials supervising the bout and recording the result.

Although Sambo is contested individually, competitions may also include team classification or national team representation, where individual results contribute to a broader team or country ranking.

7. Physical exertion and physical skills required

Sambo requires significant physical exertion and physical skill. Athletes must develop and apply a broad range of physical abilities, including:

- strength;
- endurance;
- speed;
- agility;
- balance;
- flexibility;
- coordination;
- reaction time;
- explosive power;
- grip control;
- body control;
- safe falling skills;
- defensive skills; and
- controlled application of throws, holds and submissions.

Sambo also requires tactical and technical skills, including timing, positioning, anticipation, decision-making, match awareness and the ability to adapt to an opponent's movement and strategy.
The sport requires athletes to perform under physical pressure while maintaining control, discipline and compliance with the rules.

8. Disciplines of Sambo

Sambo includes different disciplines within the main activity of the sport. The principal disciplines include the following.

8.1 Sport Sambo

Sport Sambo focuses on throws, takedowns, groundwork control and submissions permitted under the rules. Athletes seek to score points through controlled technical actions or win by submission where permitted.
Sport Sambo is comparable in structure to other grappling-based combat sports, but it has its own rules, uniform, scoring system and technical identity.

8.2 Combat Sambo

Combat Sambo includes a broader range of techniques and may allow additional combat actions beyond Sport Sambo, subject to the applicable rules. Combat Sambo requires athletes to combine grappling, throwing, control and discipline-specific techniques within a regulated competition format. Combat Sambo is conducted under formal rules, safety requirements and officiating controls.

8.3 Beach Sambo

Beach Sambo is a discipline conducted on a sand-based competition area. It is usually shorter in format and adapted to the beach environment. Beach Sambo retains the fundamental principles of Sambo but uses rules and competition conditions suited to beach competition.

8.4 Other recognised disciplines or formats

SAMBO Federation of Australia recognises Sambo disciplines and formats recognised by FIAS from time to time. Any additional discipline or format adopted in Australia will be conducted under approved rules, safety standards and governance requirements.

9. Rules of Sambo

SAMBO Federation of Australia adopts and applies the official rules of Sambo as recognised by the International Sambo Federation, subject to any lawful modifications, local safety requirements or event regulations approved by SAMBO Federation of Australia.

The official rules cover matters including:

- competition area and equipment;
- athlete uniform;
- age, gender and weight categories;
- bout duration;
- permitted and prohibited techniques;
- scoring;
- penalties;
- victory conditions;
- referee and official responsibilities;
- protest or appeal procedures;
- safety requirements; and
- event conduct.

A copy of the official Sambo rules should be attached to this statement as Attachment 1 - Official Sambo Rules.

10. Legal status in Australia

Sambo is not prohibited by law in Australia.

Sambo is conducted as a regulated combat sport with rules, safety controls, supervision and officiating.

SAMBO Federation of Australia supports the safe, lawful, ethical and inclusive conduct of Sambo in Australia.

Where required, SAMBO Federation of Australia and its members will comply with applicable laws, regulations, venue requirements, insurance obligations, child safeguarding obligations, anti-doping requirements and sport integrity standards.

11. Constitution and governance support

SAMBO Federation of Australia's Constitution supports its role as the national body responsible for the governance, development, promotion, regulation and management of Sambo in Australia.

The Constitution also recognises SAMBO Federation of Australia's role in developing Sambo from grassroots participation through to high-performance competition, adopting and enforcing rules and policies, supporting competitions and development programs, and selecting or nominating Australian teams for international events.

A copy of the current publicly available Constitution should be attached as Attachment 2 - Constitution of Sambo Federation of Australia Limited.

Signed for and on behalf of SAMBO Federation of Australia:

Authorised representative: _____

Name: Savely Timofeev

Position: Chair (President of Federation)

Date: 25 October 2025