



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Date:
05/09/2022
Employer ID number:

Person to contact:

Release Number: 202231015
Release Date: 8/5/2022
UIL: 501-00-00, 501-03-00, 501-03-30

Dear :

This letter is our final determination that you don't qualify for exemption from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(a) as an organization described in IRC Section 501(c)(3). Recently, we sent you a proposed adverse determination in response to your application. The proposed adverse determination explained the facts, law, and basis for our conclusion, and it gave you 30 days to file a protest. Because we didn't receive a protest within the required 30 days, the proposed determination is now final.

Because you don't qualify as a tax-exempt organization under IRC Section 501(c)(3), donors generally can't deduct contributions to you under IRC Section 170.

We may notify the appropriate state officials of our determination, as required by IRC Section 6104(c), by sending them a copy of this final letter along with the proposed determination letter.

You must file the federal income tax forms for the tax years shown above within **30 days** from the date of this letter unless you request an extension of time to file. For further instructions, forms, and information, visit www.irs.gov.

We'll make this final adverse determination letter and the proposed adverse determination letter available for public inspection after deleting certain identifying information, as required by IRC Section 6110. Read the enclosed Letter 437, Notice of Intention to Disclose - Rulings, and review the two attached letters that show our proposed deletions. If you disagree with our proposed deletions, follow the instructions in the Letter 437 on how to notify us. If you agree with our deletions, you don't need to take any further action.

If you have questions about this letter, you can call the contact person shown above. If you have questions about your federal income tax status and responsibilities, call our customer service number at 800-829-1040 (TTY 800-829-4933 for deaf or hard of hearing) or customer service for businesses at 800-829-4933.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosures:

Letter 437

Redacted Letter 4034

Redacted Letter 4038



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
PO Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Date: 2/28/22

Employer ID number:

Person to contact:

Name:

ID number:

Telephone:

Fax:

Legend:

W = Submission Date
X = Formation Date
Y = State
Z = Region

UIL:

501-00-00
501-03-00
501-03-30

Dear _____ :

We considered your application for recognition of exemption from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(a). We determined that you don't qualify for exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3). This letter explains the reasons for our conclusion. Please keep it for your records.

Issues

Do you qualify for exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3)? No, for the reasons stated below.

Facts

You submitted Form 1023-EZ, Streamline Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, on W.

You attest that you were incorporated on X, in the state of Y. You attest that you have the necessary organizing document, that your organizing document limits your purposes to one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of IRC Section 501(c)(3), that your organizing document does not expressly empower you to engage in activities, other than an insubstantial part, that are not in furtherance of one or more exempt purposes, and that your organizing document contains the dissolution provision required under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

You attest that you are organized and operated exclusively to further charitable purposes. You attest that you have not conducted and will not conduct prohibited activities under IRC Section 501(c)(3). Specifically, you attest you will:

- Refrain from supporting or opposing candidates in political campaigns in any way

- Ensure that your net earnings do not inure in whole or in part to the benefit of private shareholders or individuals
- Not further non-exempt purposes (such as purposes that benefit private interests) more than insubstantially
- Not be organized or operated for the primary purpose of conducting a trade or business that is not related to your exempt purpose(s)
- Not devote more than an insubstantial part of your activities attempting to influence legislation or, if you made a Section 501(h) election, not normally make expenditures in excess of expenditure limitations outlined in Section 501(h)
- Not provide commercial-type insurance as a substantial part of your activities

During review of your Form 1023-EZ, detailed information was requested supplemental to the above attestations.

The By-Laws from your website states the primary purpose of the organization is to promote a high degree of community interest, support, and sponsorship of the Volleyball Program.

The key objectives of your organization are:

- Elevate the volleyball teams' and players' image in the eyes of the community and among themselves through personal involvement in the purpose of the organization.
- Encourage active participation of players in the organization.
- Raise monies for participation and organization of local leagues and inter and intra state tournaments of similar or higher caliber teams.
- Raise monies for the enhancement and development of the volleyball program.
- Run volleyball clinics for school and youths to elevate individual and group skills.

Your response states the club is dedicated to promoting volleyball in the Z region of the state. You do this by conducting activities like participating in local and regional volleyball leagues, run tournaments and training camps.

You have stated your members love to be part of volleyball and are self-motivated to practice healthy and fit lifestyle.

You have stated in your response that you don't intend to direct any activities to the children elderly and/or disabled. Your main focus is to encourage high level play to players that are 18 years old and older.

You have stated funds raised would be used to enhance and develop the volleyball program.

Law

IRC Section 501(c)(3) provides for the recognition of exemption of organizations that are organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable or other purposes as specified in the statute. No part of the net earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

Treasury Regulation Section 1.501(c)(3)-1(a)(1) states that, in order to be exempt as an organization described in IRC Section 501(c)(3), an organization must be both organized and operated exclusively for one or more of the purposes specified in such section. If an organization fails to meet either the organizational test or the operational test, it is not exempt.

Treas. Reg. Sec. 1.501(c)(3)-1(c)(1) provides that an organization will be regarded as operated exclusively for one or more exempt purposes only if it engages primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of such exempt purposes specified in IRC Section 501(c)(3). An organization will not be so regarded if more than an insubstantial part of its activities is not in furtherance of an exempt purpose.

Revenue Ruling 64-275, 1964-2 C.B. 142, held an organization formed for the purpose of training suitable candidates in the techniques of racing sailboats in national and international competition, and thereby improving the caliber of candidates representing the United States in Olympic and Pan-American games, qualifies for exemption as an educational organization described in IRC Section 501(c)(3).

Rev. Rul. 65-2, 1965-1 C.B. 227, describes an organization that is organized and operated for the purpose of teaching a particular sport to children under the ages of 18 by holding clinics conducted by qualified instructors. The organization was recognized as an organization described in IRC Section 501(c)(3) because it is exclusively charitable and educational.

Rev. Rul. 70-4, 1970-1 C.B. 126, describes an organization engaged in promoting and regulating a sport for amateurs. The organization's stated purposes were to promote the health of the general public by encouraging all persons to improve their physical condition and fostering public interest in a particular sport. Its activities were directed toward promoting sport tournaments, exhibitions and holding instructive clinics. The organization did not qualify for exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

Rev. Rul. 80-215, 1980-2 C.B. 174, describes an organization that was formed to develop, promote and regulate a sport for youth under the ages of 18 and to promote sportsmanlike competition among the players. Additionally, it promulgated rules, organized officials, and presented seminars for players and coaches and referees. The organization combatted juvenile delinquency by providing a recreational outlet for the young people, which is a charitable purpose. Furthermore, the organization was educational because it taught and developed the skills of the youth.

In Better Business Bureau of Washington, D.C., Inc. v. United States, 326 U.S. 279 (1945), the Supreme Court determined the activities of that organization were aimed at promoting the prosperity and standing of the business community and therefore, served a substantial private purpose. It concluded that the presence of a single nonexempt purpose, if substantial in nature, will preclude exemption regardless of the number or importance of statutorily exempt purposes.

In Media Sports League, Inc. v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo. 1986-568 (1986), the court ruled that an organization that sponsored sports competitions for adults in the community was not exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3). The court found that the organization had the substantial nonexempt purpose of promoting the social and recreational interests of its members.

In Wayne Baseball, Inc. v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo. 1999-304 (1999), the court held that the organization's nonexempt social and recreational activities were substantial in comparison to the organization's promotion of baseball in the community. The Court found that the only activity sponsored by the organization was the

operation of an adult amateur baseball team and that the primary beneficiaries of the organization were the individual team participants.

Application of law

IRC Section 501(c)(3) and Treasury Regulation Section 1.501(c)(3)-1(a)(1) set forth two main tests to qualify for exempt status. An organization must be both organized and operated exclusively for purposes described in Section 501(c)(3). You have failed to meet the operational requirements, as explained below.

You do not meet the operational test under IRC Section 501(c)(3) because you are not operating exclusively for exempt purposes as required under Treasury Regulation Section 1.501(c)(3)-1(c)(1). Your activities consist of organizing and operating an adult volleyball league, which is neither exclusively educational nor charitable.

You are unlike the organization described in Revenue Ruling 64-275 because you do not provide a training program which prepares participants for national and international competitions.

You are also unlike the organizations described in Revenue Ruling 65-2 or Revenue Ruling 80-215 because your activities are for adults only. However, you are similar to the organization described in Revenue Ruling 70-4, which did not qualify for exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3), because you provide a volleyball league for adults.

Your activities consist of organizing and operating an adult volleyball league. Because you are operating for substantial non-exempt purposes, as described in Better Business Bureau of Washington, D.C., Inc., you are precluded from exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

You are similar to the organizations described in Media Sports League, Inc. and Wayne Baseball Inc. because your social and recreational activities are substantial and preclude exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

Conclusion

Based on the above facts and analysis, you do not qualify for exemption under IRC Section 501(c)(3) because you are not operated exclusively for exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3). You fail the operational test because your recreational activities further a substantial non-exempt purpose. Accordingly, you do not qualify for exemption under Section 501(c)(3).

If you agree

If you agree with our proposed adverse determination, you don't need to do anything. If we don't hear from you within 30 days, we'll issue a final adverse determination letter. That letter will provide information on your income tax filing requirements.

If you don't agree

You have a right to protest if you don't agree with our proposed adverse determination. To do so, send us a protest within 30 days of the date of this letter. You must include:

- Your name, address, employer identification number (EIN), and a daytime phone number
- A statement of the facts, law, and arguments supporting your position

- A statement indicating whether you are requesting an Appeals Office conference
- The signature of an officer, director, trustee, or other official who is authorized to sign for the organization or your authorized representative
- The following declaration:

For an officer, director, trustee, or other official who is authorized to sign for the organization:

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this request, or this modification to the request, including accompanying documents, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the request or the modification contains all relevant facts relating to the request, and such facts are true, correct, and complete.

Your representative (attorney, certified public accountant, or other individual enrolled to practice before the IRS) must file a Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative, with us if they haven't already done so. You can find more information about representation in Publication 947, Practice Before the IRS and Power of Attorney.

We'll review your protest statement and decide if you gave us a basis to reconsider our determination. If so, we'll continue to process your case considering the information you provided. If you haven't given us a basis for reconsideration, we'll send your case to the Appeals Office and notify you. You can find more information in Publication 892, How to Appeal an IRS Determination on Tax-Exempt Status.

If you don't file a protest within 30 days, you can't seek a declaratory judgment in court later because the law requires that you use the IRC administrative process first (IRC Section 7428(b)(2)).

Where to send your protest

Send your protest, Form 2848, if applicable, and any supporting documents to the applicable address:

U.S. mail:

Internal Revenue Service
 EO Determinations Quality Assurance
 Mail Stop 6403
 PO Box 2508
 Cincinnati, OH 45201

Street address for delivery service:

Internal Revenue Service
 EO Determinations Quality Assurance
 550 Main Street, Mail Stop 6403
 Cincinnati, OH 45202

You can also fax your protest and supporting documents to the fax number listed at the top of this letter. If you fax your statement, please contact the person listed at the top of this letter to confirm that they received it.

You can get the forms and publications mentioned in this letter by visiting our website at www.irs.gov/forms-pubs or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800 829 3676). If you have questions, you can contact the person listed at the top of this letter.

Contacting the Taxpayer Advocate Service

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is an independent organization within the IRS that can help protect your taxpayer rights. TAS can offer you help if your tax problem is causing a hardship, or if you've tried but haven't been able to resolve your problem with the IRS. If you qualify for TAS assistance, which is always free, TAS will do everything possible to help you. Visit www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov or call 877-777-4778.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements