



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

# FACTSHEET

## THE IOC SESSIONS

### UPDATE - JULY 2012

## 1. THE MISSION

The IOC Session is the general meeting of the members of the IOC. It is the supreme organ of the IOC. The Session adopts, modifies and interprets the [Olympic Charter](#) and its decisions are final. While the Session may delegate powers to the Executive Board (EB), all important decisions are taken by the Session, which votes on proposals put forward by the EB. If the EB can be considered the "government" of the IOC, the Session is the "parliament".

The Session is held at least once a year, often over a two- or three-day period. In the years when Olympic Games take place, the Session traditionally precedes them. An extraordinary Session can be convened upon the initiative of the IOC President, or on the written request of at least one third of the IOC members.

The main prerogatives of the IOC Session are the following:

- It elects the host city of the Olympic Games, seven years before they are held.
- It elects the IOC President, Vice-Presidents, the other members of the Executive Board and – on the latter's proposal – IOC members.
- It decides upon modifications to the Olympic Charter.
- It decides on the inclusion or exclusion of a sport on the programme of the Olympic Games.
- It decides on the recognition (or exclusion) of International Federations, National Olympic Committees or any other sports organisation which submits a request.
- It decides on the cities which will host forthcoming Sessions (the President decides on the location of Extraordinary Sessions).
- It approves the reports and accounts of the IOC.

## 2. PROCEDURES

The following main procedures are applicable for the decisions taken by the IOC Session:

- The President, or, in his absence, the longest-serving Vice-President present chairs the Session.
- The quorum required for a Session is half the total membership of the IOC, plus one.
- Each member has a vote, and voting by proxy is not allowed. Abstentions and spoiled or blank votes are not counted.
- In general, an IOC member must abstain from participating in a vote when it concerns a city (Olympic Games, Session, Congress), a person (IOC member) or any other matter from his or her country / NOC.
- The decisions are taken by the majority of votes cast. However, a majority of two-thirds of the members present at the Session is required for any modification to the Fundamental Principles and Rules of the Olympic Charter.
- The election of a host city must take place in a country not having a candidate for the Olympic Games in question.
- A city is declared elected when it obtains the majority of the votes cast. If there is no majority, the city with the fewest votes is eliminated, and IOC members proceed to another round of voting. The procedure is repeated until an absolute majority is obtained.
- The President, the Vice-Presidents and the Executive Board members are elected by the Session, in a secret ballot, by the majority of the votes cast. If there is no majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and the IOC members proceed to another round of voting. Abstentions are not taken into account, nor are spoiled or blank votes. The procedure is repeated until an absolute majority is obtained.



### **3. UPCOMING SESSION**

#### **126<sup>th</sup> Session, Sochi, February 2014**

#### **125<sup>th</sup> Session, Buenos Aires, September 2013**

- Election of the new IOC President.
- Election of the host city of the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2020 from among the three Candidate Cities: Istanbul (TUR), Tokyo (JPN), Madrid (ESP).

#### **124<sup>th</sup> Session, London, July 2012**

- Election of two new members of the IOC Athletes' Commission, to which they were elected by their peers during the Games.

### **4. SOME DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE IOC SESSION OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS**

#### **123<sup>rd</sup> Session, Durban, July 2011**

- Election of PyeongChang as host city of the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in 2018.
- Election of Gunilla Lindberg to the Executive Board.
- Re-election of Phil Craven as an IOC member
- Election of three new IOC members: Gerardo Werthein, José Perurena López and Barbara Kendall.
- Election of Phillip Walter Coles, Chiharu Igaya, Shun-ichiro Okano, Arne Ljungqvist, Antun Vrdoljak and Lassana Palenfo as honorary members

#### **122<sup>nd</sup> Session, Vancouver, February 2010**

- Election of two new members: Adam Pengilly and Angela Ruggiero (members of the IOC Athletes' Commission).
- Election of six new members: HRH Prince Faisal bin Al-Hussein of Jordan, Maria de la Soledad Casado Estupiñan, Barry John Maister,

Dagmawit Girmay Berhane, Patrick McQuaid, Yang Yang.

- Election of Manuela Di Centa and Kipchoge Keino, both Olympic champions, as honorary members

#### **121<sup>st</sup> Session, Copenhagen, October 2009**

- Election of Rio de Janeiro as host city of the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016.
- Reelection of Jacques Rogge as the President of the IOC.
- Review of the Olympic programme for the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016 Games: inclusion of gold and rugby sevens in the programme of the 2016 Olympic Games.

#### **120<sup>th</sup> Session, Beijing, August 2008**

- Election of four new IOC members
- Election of a new IOC honorary member

#### **119<sup>th</sup> Session, Guatemala City, July 2007**

- Election of Sochi as host city of the XXII Olympic Winter Games in 2014.
- Election of four new IOC members.
- Simplified voting process for the Olympic programme
- Approval of the project of the Youth Olympic Games
- Recognition of a 204<sup>rd</sup> and a 205<sup>rd</sup> National Olympic Committee: Montenegro (MNE) and Tuvalu (TUV).

#### **118<sup>th</sup> Session, Turin, February 2006**

- Election of five new IOC members.
- Election of Copenhagen to organise the XIII Olympic Congress in 2009 and the Executive Board meetings and 121<sup>st</sup> IOC Session.
- Election of a new Vice-President and two new Executive Board members.
- Confirmation of 26 sports on the programme of the 2012 Olympic Games in London.
- Recognition of a 203<sup>rd</sup> National Olympic Committee: the Marshall Islands.



### **117<sup>th</sup> Session, Singapore, July 2005**

- Election of London as host city of the Games of the XXX Olympiad in 2012.
- Review of the Olympic programme for the Games of the XXX Olympiad in London in 2012: two sports (baseball and softball) did not receive the absolute majority required and were eliminated from the programme.
- Exclusion of an IOC member.

### **116<sup>th</sup> Session, Athens, August 2004**

- Exclusion of an IOC member
- Revision of the Olympic Charter following modifications proposed by the IOC Juridical Commission.

### **115<sup>th</sup> Session, Prague, July 2003**

- Election of Vancouver as host city of the XXI Olympic Winter Games in 2010.
- Adoption of 117 recommendations presented by the Olympic Games Study Commission, aimed at reducing the size, cost and complexity of the Games.

### **114<sup>th</sup> (Extraordinary) Session, Mexico City, November 2002.**

- Confirmation of the principle of regularly reviewing the Olympic programme.
- Decision to limit the number of sports to 28, events to 301 and athletes to 10,500.
- Decision to study the means of controlling the size, cost and complexity of the Games.

### **113<sup>th</sup> Session, Salt Lake City, February 2002**

- Election of a new IOC vice-president
- Election of two new Executive Board members
- Election of four athletes as IOC members
- Election of ten new IOC members

### **112<sup>th</sup> Session, Moscow, July 2001**

- Election of Beijing as host city of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008.
- Election of the new IOC President: Jacques Rogge.

- Appointment of President Samaranch as IOC Honorary President for Life.

### **111<sup>th</sup> Session, Sydney, September 2000**

- Approval of the EPO detection test for the Sydney Olympic Games.
- Election of eight new IOC members.
- Election of new Executive Board members.

### **110<sup>th</sup> Session, Lausanne, December 1999.**

- Adoption of 50 reforms proposed by the IOC 2000 Commission focussing on the composition, structure, organisation and role of the IOC as well as selecting organisers of the Olympic Games.

Among other things:

- Lowering the age limit for new IOC members to 70.
- Creation of a Nominations Commission for IOC membership.
- Limit on the IOC President's mandate to eight years, renewable only once for four years.
- Introduction of a candidature acceptance phase for the organisation of the Games.
- Limit on the number of events and athletes at the Games.
- No visit to candidates cities are allowed

### **109<sup>th</sup> Session, Seoul, June 1999.**

- Election of Turin as host city of the XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006.
- Decision to perform unannounced doping - control tests at the Sydney 2000 Games, under the authority of the IOC.
- Suspension of gender testing.
- Adoption of the IOC Code of Ethics.
- Adoption of the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21.

### **108<sup>th</sup> (Extraordinary) Session, Lausanne, March 1999.**

- Vote of confidence in IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch.



- Exclusion of six IOC members for inappropriate conduct related to the candidature of Salt Lake City.
- Creation of the IOC 2000 Commission responsible for examining the IOC and its structures and recommending necessary changes.
- Creation of the Ethics Commission
- Reform of the election procedure for the 2006 host city: creation of a selection college responsible for selecting the two finalist cities to be put to the final vote.
- Adoption of the Declaration of Lausanne on doping in sport, which provided for the creation of an anti-doping agency.

#### **107<sup>th</sup> Session, Nagano, February 1998.**

- Election of Jacques Rogge as a member of the Executive Board.
- Admission to the programme of women's pentathlon and the Star category in sailing for the Sydney 2000 Games.
- Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg, doyen of the IOC, resigned and was appointed honorary doyen of the IOC.

#### **106<sup>th</sup> Session, Lausanne, September 1997.**

- Re-election for a fourth consecutive term of office of Juan Antonio Samaranch as IOC President.
- Election of the first female IOC Vice-President, Anita L. DeFrantz.
- Election of Athens as host city of the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004.

#### **105<sup>th</sup> Session, Atlanta, July 1996**

- Election of a new Vice-President and two new Executive Board members.
- Election of new IOC members and new honorary members.

#### **104<sup>th</sup> Session, Budapest, June 1995.**

- Election of Salt Lake City as host city of the XIX Olympic Winter Games in 2002.
- Increase in the age limit of IOC members (elected after 1965) to 80.

#### **103<sup>rd</sup> Session, Paris, September 1994.**

- Adoption of a medical code with the objective of unifying the various anti-doping resources.
- Triathlon and taekwondo were provisionally admitted to the programme of the Sydney 2000 Games.

#### **102<sup>nd</sup> Session, Lillehammer, February 1994.**

- Set up of a pre-selection procedure for the candidate cities for the XIX Olympic Winter Games in 2002
- The reforms adopted by the 110<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in December 1999 were maintained and the decision not to visit candidate cities was widely supported.

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#### **IMPRINT**

**THE SESSIONS**

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