



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE OLYMPIC GAMES

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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The [Olympic Charter](#) highlights the three main constituent groups of the Olympic Movement and their different roles and responsibilities with regard to the Olympic Games. They are the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the International Federations (IFs). In addition to these three, can be added the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG), which is responsible for the preparation and hosting of a particular edition of the Games.

“The Olympic Games are competitions between athletes in individual or team events and not between countries. They bring together the athletes selected by their respective NOCs, whose entries have been accepted by the IOC. They compete under the technical direction of the IFs concerned.” (Olympic Charter, 2011, Rule 6)

The Games of the Olympiad are celebrated during the first year of an Olympiad, and the Olympic Winter Games during its third year. However, the preparation process for each edition of the Games lasts from before the start of the bid phase to the Closing Ceremony and beyond - usually more than nine years.

This factsheet will enable you to gain a clearer understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the key bodies within the Olympic Movement, which help to make the Olympic Games a success.

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC)

The IOC is the guardian of the Olympic Games and the ultimate authority on any question relating to the Games. It entrusts the honour and responsibility of hosting the Games to a city, elected at the IOC Session.

Part of the IOC's mission is “to ensure the regular celebration of the Olympic Games” (Olympic Charter, 2011, Rule 2) and to this end, the IOC asks the NOCs to propose cities that are interested in hosting the Games.

The IOC then selects the host city following a rigorous procedure aimed at determining the city's suitability to stage the Games.

Even at this early stage of the process, the IOC begins the transfer of knowledge process from past Games organisers in order to ensure that their plans are as realistic as possible.

Once the cities have been accepted to the bid process, an Applicant City file must be submitted and following a report by an IOC Working Group, the IOC Executive Board decides which cities will progress to the second phase. The cities that pass the first phase must then submit their Candidate City file, which lays out their overall vision and plan for the Games. After the Candidate City file has been presented to the IOC, the IOC's Evaluation Commission visits the prospective hosts and makes its report, which is delivered to the IOC members.

The IOC members also participate in a briefing session with the cities, which is usually held several weeks in advance of the IOC Session, where the host city is elected approximately seven years before the Games are staged.

The other key area where the IOC Session has a direct effect on the organisation of the Games is when it votes, after each edition of the Games, on the sports programme for the Games that will take place in seven years' time.

The IOC's role following the election of the host city is to provide support through finance, knowledge and expertise. This work is directed through the IOC Coordination Commissions that are created for each edition of the Games. The Commissions' role is defined in the Charter: “In order to improve the organisation of the Olympic



Games and cooperation amongst the IOC, the OCOG, the IFs and the NOCs, the President shall establish an Olympic Games Coordination Commission (Coordination Commission) to manage and implement the working relationship between such parties. The Coordination Commission shall include representatives of the IOC, the IFs, the NOCs and the athletes.” (Olympic Charter, 2011, Rule 37)

It is also the IOC that is responsible for inviting the NOCs to participate in the Games, sending out invitations one year before the Opening Ceremony. The IOC does not only physically invite the NOCs to the Games, but through Olympic Solidarity, it is also involved in helping athletes from developing nations reach a suitable standard to participate at the Olympics, thus ensuring the universality of the Olympic Games.

During the Games, the IOC Medical Commission is the body responsible for implementing the World Anti-Doping Code and all other IOC Anti-Doping Rules. During the Olympic Games, under the auspices of the IOC, it is the responsibility of the Organising Committee to conduct the doping controls within the Olympic venues and for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to conduct any controls outside the Olympic venues.

Created by the IOC in 2001, Olympic Broadcast Services (OBS) acts as the Host Broadcaster for the Games and is chiefly responsible for providing the images and sound of the Games to the Rights Holding Broadcasters (RHBs), allowing the watching world to get some outstanding images of the Games.

In addition to OBS services, the IOC also helps to fund the Olympic Games by providing a significant contribution to the organising committee's budget from the revenues it (the IOC) generates.

The IOC is committed to controlling the cost of the Games and ensuring that their legacy will benefit the host city and nation for many years after the Closing Ceremony. The effective transfer of knowledge and careful risk management are two further ways in which the IOC contributes to Games organisation. The IOC transfer of knowledge programmes, implemented by the IOC's Olympic Games Department, help ensure that organizing committees avoid past errors and emulate best practice.

Through a strengthened Olympic Games Department, the IOC has implemented an integrated approach to Games management that encompasses both the bid phase and the preparation phase. The first Games for which these tools and processes are fully implemented are London 2012.

Recommendations by the IOC's Olympic Games Study Commission, meanwhile, have led to the principle of permanent new venues only being built in host cities where there is a demonstrable legacy need. Otherwise, existing venues should be renovated or temporary venues put in place. This principle has been implemented in several Olympic cities now. For example, in London, many existing venues, such as Wembley and Earls Court have been used, while temporary facilities were built for the basketball and shooting events. This approach avoids the unnecessary costs of building an entirely new structure, while maximizing the legacy to the city and controlling the cost of the Games.

THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES (NOCs)

The IOC currently recognises over 200 NOCs. The NOCs are the bodies that represent and promote the Olympic Movement within their respective countries and territories. The full mission and role of an NOC is described in Rule



27 of the Olympic Charter, but an NOC's principle mission is to "*develop, promote and protect the Olympic Movement in their respective countries, in accordance with the Olympic Charter.*" (Olympic Charter, 2011, Rule 27)

The NOC is also a key player in the preparation of the Games; it is the role of the NOC to select the city that will represent it during the bid phase and to propose that city to the IOC. Once an application has been submitted to the IOC to host the Olympic Games, the NOC of the applicant city supervises, and is jointly responsible for, the actions and conduct of the applicant city in relation to its application and eventually to the city's candidature to host the Games.

When the Games are awarded to a city, it is the NOC of the host city, as well as the host city itself, that are entrusted with the organisation of the Games, and it is the NOC that is responsible for the establishment of an OCOG. The NOC is also held jointly and severally liable, together with the OCOG and host city, for all commitments concerning the Games, excluding the financial responsibility for the organisation and staging of the Games.

The most essential task that each NOC must perform for the Olympic Games is to constitute, organise and lead their teams. The NOC decides upon the entry of athletes proposed by their respective national federations. However, the selection of the athletes is not based solely upon the athletes' performance, but also on his or her ability to serve as an example to the sporting youth of their country. It is also the NOC that is responsible for selecting the media to be accredited by the IOC for the Olympic Games.

During the Games, each NOC must appoint a chef de mission, who is the NOC's main liaison with the IOC, the IFs and the OCOG. The chef

de mission may also accomplish other functions assigned to him/her by the NOC. The chef de mission has the responsibility for all the competitors, officials and other NOC team staff.

The NOCs are also responsible for the equipment, transport and accommodation of the members of their delegations, as well as for determining the clothing and uniforms to be worn and the equipment to be used by the delegation during the Games, with the exception of specialised equipment used by athletes during the sports competitions.

It is also the role of the NOC to invite their own dignitaries to the Games and to organize the distribution of tickets to sports fans within their own territory (except for the host nation which is managed directly by the Games organisers).

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS (IFS)

The IFs are essential to the success of the Olympic Games because it is the IFs that run their respective sports during the Games. Indeed, it is the IFs that set the rules for their sports and who are responsible for the technical control and direction of their sports.

The IFs are also responsible for setting the eligibility criteria for the competitions at the Olympic Games and submitting the qualification systems to the IOC. The IFs are also responsible for organising qualifying events in order to select the competitors or teams participating at the Games.

During the candidature process, the IFs play an important role, as they are required to express their opinions on the candidatures for organizing the Games, particularly as far as the technical aspects for the venues of their respective sports are concerned. This technical work continues even after the Games have been awarded, as the OCOG, the IOC, OBS, and the IFs work in



close collaboration on the characteristics of the technical facilities and the sports equipment to be used in the venues during the Olympic Games.

The IFs validate the competition schedule for their respective events taking place during the Games and they also nominate the referees, judges and other technical officials. They also establish the final results and ranking of each event and it is on the basis of these results that the IOC awards the medals to the athletes.

In the fight against doping, the IFs are also key players. They work in close collaboration with the IOC and the OCOG on this issue. Other forums for cooperation exist and the IFs are also part of the tripartite commission, made up of the IOC, NOCs and the IFs, which meets to discuss tripartite invitations.

THE LIST OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS ON THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME IS:

Summer IFs
International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)
International Rowing Federation (FISA)
Badminton World Federation (BWF)
International Basketball Federation (FIBA)
International Boxing Association (AIBA)
International Canoe Federation (ICF)
International Cycling Union (UCI)
International Equestrian Federation (FEI)
International Fencing Federation (FIE)
International Association Football Federation (FIFA)
International Gymnastics Federation (FIG)
International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)
International Handball Federation (IHF)
International Hockey Federation (FIH)
International Judo Federation (IJF)
International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA)
International Swimming Federation (FINA)
International Union of the Modern Pentathlon (UIPM)
World Taekwondo Federation (WTF)
International Tennis Federation (ITF)

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)
International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)
World Archery Federation (WA)
International Triathlon Union (ITU)
International Sailing Federation (ISAF)
International Volleyball Federation (FIVB)
International Golf Federation (IGF)*
International Rugby Board (IRB)*

Winter IFs
International Biathlon Union (IBU)
International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation (FIBT)
World Curling Federation (WCF)
International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF)
International Luge Federation (FIL)
International Skating Union (ISU)
International Ski Federation (FIS)

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES (OCOG)

The Olympic Charter states that “*The organisation of the Olympic Games is entrusted by the IOC to the NOC of the country of the host city as well as to the host city itself. The NOC shall be responsible for the establishment, for that purpose, of an Organising Committee (“OCOG”) which, from the time it is constituted, reports directly to the IOC Executive Board.*” (Olympic Charter, 2011, Rule 35)

The executive body of the OCOG will include the IOC members of the host country, the President and Secretary General of the NOC, and at least one member representing, and designated by, the host city. The executive body may also include representatives of public authorities and other leading figures.

The OCOG’s work is largely guided by the Host City Contract (which the NOC and the host city enter into with the IOC upon being awarded the Games), as well as by its accompanying technical manuals, and by the bid book and guarantees that the candidate city provided



during the bid phase. This means that the OCOG is responsible for establishing functions and services for all aspects of the Games, such as sport, venues, finance, technology, accommodation, catering, media services etc., as well as running the related operations during the Games. The OCOG is advised in this considerable challenge by the IOC Coordination Commission, which oversees the work of the OCOG and reports back to the IOC Executive Board on the organising committee's progress.

However, the OCOG does not only have a close relationship with the IOC, but also with the NOCs and IFs. The OCOG deals with the NOCs on a wide range of subjects including athlete entries and the Olympic Village. With the IFs, the OCOG works on subjects like venue technical requirements, sports results and the competition schedule for the Games, as it is the IFs that are responsible for the technical aspects of their sports.

As well as working with the IOC, IFs, and NOCs, the OCOG also interacts with a myriad of partners and local stakeholders in order to deliver and host the Games, while leaving a lasting legacy. This can range from local authorities to worldwide Olympic partners to the highest levels of Government in the host country, all of whom have a key role to play in making the Games a success.

As part of its work, the OCOG organises the Olympic Torch Relay, which sees the Olympic flame travel from Ancient Olympia in Greece to the Olympic cauldron in the Olympic stadium of the host city.

Other activities that the OCOG is responsible for during its life cycle can include ensuring that all Olympic marks are protected, organising the Cultural Olympiad, producing a roll of honour bearing the names of the medal winners and of those awarded diplomas in each event, and

preparing the official report of the Games once they are over.

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