



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE OLYMPIC GAMES

UPDATE – JULY 2009

ROLES AND RESPONSABILITIES

The Olympic Charter highlights the three main constituent groups of the Olympic Movement and the 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). To these three are added the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG), responsible for the preparation and hosting 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, 2007, 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. The actual preparation process, however, lasts from the bid 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 who help 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, 2007, 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.

The IOC also transfers knowledge from past Games, even at this early stage, in order to ensure that bid city plans are as realistic as possible. The IOC’s Evaluation Commission duly makes its report and, through the votes of the IOC Session, 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 consists of providing 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, 2007, Rule 38)

It is also the IOC that is responsible for inviting the NOCs to participate in the Games, sending



out invitations one year before the Games. Not only does the IOC physically invite the NOCs to the Games, but through Olympic Solidarity, the IOC is also involved in ensuring that athletes from developing nations are able to train in better conditions in order to reach a standard suitable to participate at the Games, 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 (for more information please see the IOC medical factsheet).

The IOC also helps to fund the Olympic Games by providing a significant part of the organizing committee's budget from the revenues it (the IOC) generates through TV rights and worldwide sponsorship sales.

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 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 will be fully implemented are the Games in London in 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 recent Olympic cities, such as Turin, where the renovation of the Palavela not only saw the regeneration of an historical monument of the city of Turin, but also avoided the unnecessary costs of building an entirely new structure, leaving a legacy to the city but also controlling the cost of the Games.

THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES (NOCs)

The IOC currently recognises 205 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 28 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, 2007, Rule 28)

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 organisation and staging of 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.

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 these criteria to the IOC. In certain cases, the IFs are also responsible for organising qualifying events in order to limit the number of 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 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. It is also the IFs that 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, contingencies for delays to events and other multiparty decisions.



The list of International Federations on the Olympic Programme is:

| Summer IFs | Winter IFs |
|--|---|
| International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) | International Biathlon Union (IBU) |
| International Rowing Federation (FISA) | International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation (FIBT) |
| International Badminton Federation (IBF) | World Curling Federation (WCF) |
| International Baseball Federation (IBAF) | International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) |
| International Basketball Federation (FIBA) | International Luge Federation (FIL) |
| International Boxing Association (AIBA) | International Skating Union (ISU) |
| International Canoe Federation (ICF) | International Ski Federation (FIS) |
| 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) | |
| International Softball Federation (ISF) | |
| World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) | |
| International Tennis Federation (ITF) | |
| International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) | |
| International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) | |
| International Archery Federation (FITA) | |
| International Triathlon Union (ITU) | |
| International Sailing Federation (ISAF) | |
| International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) | |

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, 2007, Rule 36)

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 sports planning, venues, finance, technology, accommodation, catering, media services etc., as well as 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.

The OCOG is responsible, for the duration of its life cycle, for ensuring that all Olympic marks are protected, for producing a roll of honour bearing the names of the medal winners and of those awarded diplomas in each event, and for preparing the official report on the Games once the Games are over. The OCOG must also produce all the publications that the IOC requires for the Olympic Games.

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. The OCOG can also, if it wishes, run an international youth camp on the occasion of the Olympic Games, with the approval of the IOC.

Further Information:

- [The Olympic Charter:](#)
- [The Olympic Movement](#)
- [The Olympic Programme](#)
- [Medical: The fight against doping and health Promotion](#)

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