



## 1 IOC SESSIONS

### 1. MISSION

The IOC Session is the general assembly of IOC members. 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, all important decisions are taken by the Session, which votes on proposals put forward by the Executive Board. If the Executive Board 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 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 elects the host city of the Olympic Games, seven years before they are held.
- 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 or 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. SOME DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE IOC SESSION OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS**

#### **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

#### **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.

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

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

#### **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.

#### **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 the host city of the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004: Athens.

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

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

#### **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 whose mandate is to advise and guide the IOC in its running.
- Reform of the election procedure for the 2006 host city: creation of a selection college responsible for selecting the two finalist cities which will 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.

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

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

#### **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 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.

### **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

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

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

### **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 in depth the means of controlling the size, cost and complexity of the Games.
- 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.

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

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

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

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

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

- Election of the host city of the Games of the XXX Olympiad in 2012: London.
- 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.

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

- Election of five new IOC members.
- Election of the city of Copenhagen (Denmark) 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 26 sports on the programme of the 2012 Olympic Games in London.
- Reconnaissance of a 203<sup>rd</sup> National Olympic Committee: the Marshall Islands (the 16<sup>th</sup> NOC from Oceania).

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

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

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

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