



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

# FACTSHEET

## IOC MEMBERS

UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2008

### I. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS AT THE 119<sup>th</sup> IOC SESSION IN GUATEMALA CITY

#### 1. THE CANDIDATURES

The IOC is currently composed of 110 members, including President Jacques Rogge, each being elected by the IOC Session by the majority of the votes cast.

At the 119<sup>th</sup> Session, held from 4 to 7 July 2007 in Guatemala City, four new members were elected, Gerhard Heiberg was re-elected to the Executive Board, and three members became honorary members.

- HRH Princess Haya bint Al-Hussein (UAE) - President of the International Equestrian Federation
- Rita Subowo (INA) – President of the Indonesian Olympic Committee
- Patrick Baumann (SUI) - Secretary General of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA)
- Andrés Botero (COL), President of the Colombian Olympic Committee.

The four candidates were proposed as representatives of National Olympic Committees or International Sports Federations to replace the four members who arrived at the end of their mandate (at the end of 2007). They were:

- Henri Sérandour (FRA)
- Shagdarjay Magvan (MGL)
- Anani Matthia (TOG)
- Ram Ruhee (MRI)

Upon the proposal of the EB, after serving more than ten years and have rendered exceptional services to the IOC, the last three have been elected by the IOC Session as IOC honorary members.

### 2. ELECTION CRITERIA FOR MEMBERS - COOPTATION

A Nominations Commission, comprising seven members, examines each candidature file and forwards them in the form of a report to the IOC Executive Board, the only competent organ to propose a candidate to the Session.

The Session is the only competent organ to elect an IOC member. The election is held by secret ballot and the decisions are taken according to the majority of the votes cast. This type of appointment of members by members is known as cooptation.

### 3. VOTING METHODS

So that a vote can take place, the quorum is set at half the total number of IOC members, plus one. Each IOC member can cast one vote in a vote during the Session. Except in the event of a modification to the fundamental principles of Olympism or the Olympic Charter, the decisions are taken by the majority of votes cast.

## II. CURRENT COMPOSITION

The members are elected as independent individuals, active athletes or presidents or persons with an executive or leadership function within an International Federation (IF) or National Olympic Committee (NOC).

Article 16 of the Olympic Charter defines the composition of the IOC, including member eligibility and numbers. For the representatives of IFs and NOCs, there can be no more than 15 members for each of these families.

The IOC members elected as active athletes are also members of the Athletes' Commission. There cannot be more than 15 of these members. The majority of the members of this Commission are elected by the athletes taking



part in the Olympic Games, while the others are appointed by the IOC President to ensure a balance between the sexes, sports and geographical regions.

### **III. ATHLETES' ELECTIONS**

Thirty-one athletes are candidates for election to the IOC Athletes' Commission at the elections that will be held during the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008. The four places available are those of Sergey Bubka, Robert Ctvrtlik, Barbara Kendall and Alexander Popov whose mandates on the Commission have come to an end.

Voting boxes will be set up to the athletes in each of the three Olympic villages, situated in Beijing, Quindao, and Hong Kong.

The choices of the athletes present in Turin in 2006 were Canada's Rebecca Scott (cross-country skiing) and Finland's Saku Koivu (ice hockey). After acceptance by the IOC Session, the two elected athletes became IOC members for the same length of time as their mandate on the Commission, i.e. eight years.

#### **Selection criteria**

Only NOCs with an athletes' commission may put forward a candidate. In order to be eligible, the candidates had to have participated in the previous edition of the Olympic Games in Athens, or had to be taking part in the Games in Beijing.

#### **The voice of the athletes**

Created in 1981, the Athletes' Commission is the link between the Olympic athletes and the IOC. It also enables the athletes to have their voice heard within the Olympic Movement. Since 2000, the Chairman of the Commission is none other than Olympic champion and six-time world champion Sergey Bubka, who is also an Executive Board member.

At each edition of the Olympic Games (summer and winter), the athletes taking part are invited to vote to elect the majority of the members of the Athletes' Commission. Following the reforms adopted by the 110<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in December 1999, the Commission has comprised 19 members:

- 8 summer sports athletes, elected during the Games of the Olympiad (4 at each edition of the Games);
- 4 winter sports athletes, elected during the Olympic Winter Games (2 at each edition of the Games); and
- 7 athletes, appointed by the IOC President to ensure an equal balance by sex, sport and region.

### **IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **1. THE MEMBERS**

The IOC members, natural persons, are representatives of the IOC in their respective countries, and not their country's delegate within the IOC. As stated in the Olympic Charter: "Members of the IOC represent and promote the interests of the IOC and of the Olympic Movement in their countries and in the organisations of the Olympic Movement in which they serve" (Olympic Charter 2007, Rule 16). The IOC members meet at the general assembly, or Session, which is the organisation's supreme organ, and whose decisions are final.

The IOC members are elected for a period of eight years, and their mandate can be renewed.

The age limit fixed for being an IOC member is 70 years old, except for members co-opted between 1966 and 1999, for whom the age limit is 80. The average age of the members, which goes down every year, is currently 61.7 years.

The members meet every year at the IOC Session in order to take decisions concerning the institution and the Olympic Games, such as the election of the host cities of the Games, changes to the Olympic Charter, election of the IOC President, Vice-Presidents, and members of the Executive Board, as well as the cooptation of new members.

#### **2. THE PRESIDENT**

The IOC President is elected by the members of the Organisation by a secret ballot. Only one



IOC member can be elected to the presidency. Their mandate is of eight years, renewable once for four years. The IOC President is the IOC's permanent representative and presides over all its activities. Since 16 July 2001, the IOC President has been Jacques Rogge (Belgium).

Demetrius Vikelas (GRE)	1894 – 1896
Pierre de Coubertin (FRA)	1896 – 1925
Henri de Baillet-Latour (BEL)	1925 – 1942
J. Sigfrid Edström (SWE)	1946 – 1952
Avery Brundage (USA)	1952 – 1972
Lord Killanin (IRL)	1972 – 1980
Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP)	1980 – 2001
Jacques Rogge (BEL)	2001 –

### 3. THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The four IOC Vice-Presidents are elected by the Session. The duration of their mandate is limited to four years. The four Vice-Presidents are:

- Gunilla Lindberg (SWE). She was elected Vice-President in 2004. She is the second woman – after Anita DeFrantz (1997-2000) – to occupy this important position.
- Lambis Nikolaou (GRE) (elected in 2005)
- Chiharu Igaya (JPN) (elected in 2005)
- Thomas Bach (GER), (elected in 2006)

### 4. HONORARY PRESIDENT, HONORARY MEMBERS, AND HONOUR MEMBERS

An IOC member may be elected as Honorary President if they have rendered exceptional services as President of the IOC. There is currently only one IOC Honorary President: Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Equally, any member who retires after serving the IOC for at least 10 years and having rendered exceptional services to it may be elected as an honorary member of the IOC. There are currently 25 honorary members of the IOC.

Finally, the Session can elect honour members from personalities outside the IOC who have rendered particularly special services to it. There are currently two honour members.

The Honorary President for Life, the honorary members and the honour members do not have the right to vote at the IOC Session.

## V. A SPORTING PAST

More than a third of IOC members have competed at the Olympic Games, and 24 of them have won medals.

In all, 73 medals have been won by IOC members: 34 gold, 25 silver and 14 bronze.

IOC President Jacques Rogge competed in three editions of the Games in sailing (Mexico City 1968, Munich 1972 and Montreal 1976). Many other IOC members have competed in the Olympic Games and World Championships.

### Further information

[www.olympic.org/members](http://www.olympic.org/members)

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