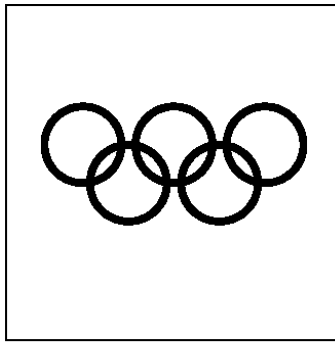


OLYMPIC PROGRAMME COMMISSION



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REVIEW OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROGRAMME OF THE XX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, TURIN 2006

**REPORT BY THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, FRANCO CARRARO
IOC EXECUTIVE BOARD, AUGUST 2002**

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1. INFORMATION ON THE WORK OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME COMMISSION

The goal of the work of the Olympic Programme Commission in regard to the XX Olympic Winter Games, Turin 2006, is to present recommendations on the sport and discipline programme, and the detailed event programme, to the IOC Executive Board.

International Federations were asked to make requests for amendments to the current programme by 31 December 2001, although it was noted that some Federations may request event changes following the XIX Olympic Winter Games, Salt Lake City 2002.

In January 2002 a working group of the Commission met to make an initial review the requests for the addition of new sports for Turin 2006. This working group met again on 14 July, and developed recommendations in the following areas in regard to the programme of the XX Olympic Winter Games, Turin 2006:

- i. *sport/discipline programme* - review the requested admission of the new sport of ski orienteering, the new discipline of natural track luge, and finalise recommendations on the sport (and discipline) programme
- ii. *event programme* - review the requests for new events in the sports of biathlon, luge and skiing, and finalise recommendations on the detailed event programme
- iii. *athlete quotas* – finalise a recommendation on the principles of introducing athlete quotas in each sport/discipline in the Olympic Winter Games

These recommendations were discussed and finalised the following day, 15 July 2002, by the Olympic Programme Commission, and are presented in this report to the IOC Executive Board, meeting on 28-29 August 2002.

2. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT OLYMPIC PROGRAMME AND REQUESTED NEW SPORTS/DISCIPLINES/EVENTS FOR THE XX OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, TURIN 2006

2.1 GENERAL DISCUSSIONS

The Commission discussed the current Olympic Programme and reviewed the requests for new sports, disciplines and events for the XX Olympic Winter Games. In particular the Commission noted the historical and recent development of the programme of the Olympic Winter Games, with the steady growth in the number of events and athletes.

It was noted that the considerations of the Olympic Games Study Commission applied equally to the Olympic Winter Games, and the demands on the OCOG of programme amendments must be carefully considered. However, it was also agreed that each request had to be considered independently to allow a fair appraisal.

Regarding additions to the programme of Turin 2006, it was noted it would be difficult to add new sports/disciplines within the climate of reducing the scope and costs of the

Olympic Games. Operationally, the addition of further athletes to the Olympic Villages outside the city would also complicate existing challenges in Village capacities.

However, the Commission felt there may be scope for controlled additions where strong arguments could be made for the additional value brought by the new sport, discipline or event.

2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NEW SPORTS

Two requests had been received from IOC-recognised International Federations for the inclusion of new sports in the programme of XX Olympic Winter Games, Turin 2006.

Ski Mountaineering (UIAA)

Following a review in January 2002 of the request for the addition of this sport, it was agreed that due to the current level of development of ski mountaineering, further consideration could not be given for inclusion in the Turin 2006 Olympic Winter Games. This decision was communicated to the UIAA following this meeting.

Ski Orienteering (IOF)

In reviewing the request of the IOF for the introduction of ski orienteering, it was noted that this was a well established sport in Nordic countries, where it receives the majority of its media coverage. It was also noted that the proposal indicated that the sport could use the biathlon course for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games, although this may not be the case at future Games.

Concerns were expressed over the low participation in ski orienteering of countries outside Europe. Also, the Commission raised questions over the challenges for broadcasters and spectators to easily follow the competition.

In regard to considerations for the costs and demands for the organisation of the Olympic competition, ski orienteering would still require the introduction of a new technology and results system, additional athletes and team officials, additional technical officials and a new IF for the IOC, AIOWF and TOROC to work with.

The Commission therefore recommends that ski orienteering is not admitted to the programme of the XX Olympic Winter Games.

2.3 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NEW DISCIPLINES

One request was received for inclusion of a new discipline of a sport in the programme of XIX Olympic Winter Games, Salt Lake City 2002.

Natural Track Luge (FIL)

It was noted that a completely new venue would be required for the introduction of this discipline, and this would necessitate the addition of the full requirements for an Olympic sport (venue overlay, technology/results system etc.). This venue would also require full services and facilities for spectators. In addition, it would result in an increase in athlete and team official numbers, and technical officials.

The attraction for broadcasters was also questioned, noting the low broadcast coverage of the existing luge programme, in particular in consideration of the very low participation of countries outside Europe.

The Commission therefore recommends that Natural Track Luge is not admitted to the programme of the XX Olympic Winter Games.

2.4 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NEW EVENTS

Four requests were received for inclusion of new events in sports in the programme of the XIX Olympic Winter Games, Salt Lake City 2002. The discussions on the addition of new events took particular consideration of the additional organisational requirements caused by increasing the number of events within the Olympic Programme and the need for new events to bring additional value to the Olympic Games.

Biathlon - mass start events (IBU)

The Commission acknowledges the general principle of the need for new events to bring additional value to the Olympic Programme. In the case of the biathlon mass start events, the high spectator and broadcast appeal was noted, as a result of the event being simple to understand for the general public, and exciting through the use of the 'first past the post' finish. The successful inclusion of this event in the biathlon World Cup and World Championship programme was also noted, as was the fact that there would not be additional venue or technology costs.

However, the Commission noted that in the interests of reducing venue costs for the Olympic Games, it is preferable that cross country skiing and biathlon share the same competition venue, and if the number of events in these sports is increased, this would create competition schedule challenges for the combined use of a venue.

Also, the Commission did not support the principle of increasing the number of events in the sport of biathlon, and therefore, while supporting the introduction of this event in the Olympic Programme, believes this must be within the existing biathlon programme of a maximum of eight events.

The Commission therefore recommends that the number of events within the biathlon programme is not increased. However, if the IBU wishes to introduce the mass start event, this could be requested as the replacement for existing events such as the pursuit.

Luge - team event (FIL)

The Commission noted that luge team event would be an additional event for the same athletes and NOCs who already participate in individual luge events, and also have the likely result of the same nations winning medals. The principle of not introducing new team events in individual sports was also discussed in relation to this request

The Commission also noted the principle that the Olympic Programme must not necessarily reflect the programme of the world championships of a sport, and new events must bring additional value to the Olympic Programme.

The Commission therefore recommends not to include the luge team event in the programme of the XX Olympic Winter Games.

Skiing – ski flying (FIS)

The Commission noted the venue requirements of this event, which requires a specialised ski jumping hill. Currently there are very few venues in the world where sky flying can be practised (only five homologated venues, all in Europe), The low global participation was noted, and the possibilities for further global development of this event are considered very low.

The Commission therefore recommends not to include ski flying in the programme of the XX Olympic Winter Games.

Skiing - snowboard cross (FIS)

The Commission recommends further review of snowboard cross in regard of inclusion in the programme of the XX Olympic Winter Games, Turin 2006.

The Commission noted the high appeal for spectators and broadcast of the snowboard events in the Olympic Programmes of 1998 and 2002, in particular with the youth group of 15-25 year olds. In this regard, snowboard cross is very popular with this group and could therefore bring additional value to the Olympic Programme.

Therefore, the Commission has requested further information on global participation, Olympic requirements and broadcast appeal of the major events for this event from FIS before giving its final recommendation.

2.5 ATHLETE QUOTAS

The Commission discussed the possibility of introducing athlete quotas in the Olympic Winter Games, and noted that in the Games of the Olympiad, athlete quotas have been progressively introduced from the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games. For the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, athlete quotas are in place for all sports and disciplines with the exception of athletics and swimming, in which target numbers have been identified. These quotas and targets are the base of qualification systems, of which a key element is the manner in which the quota is respected.

The implementation of athlete quotas in each sport/discipline, with the support of efficient qualification systems, allows for a control of athlete numbers in each sport/discipline and a control of the global number of athletes and officials.

Within a sport/discipline, the Commission felt it is important in allowing accurate planning of such functions as the detailed competition schedule, training schedules, configuration of results systems, capacities and schedules of transport systems, and demands on athlete facilities and services in venues. In a wider sense, the total number of athletes directly determines the number of NOC officials, and therefore the requirements of the Olympic Villages and resulting NOC facilities and services.

The Commission therefore recommends that quotas or target numbers are introduced in each sport and discipline in the Programme of the Olympic Winter Games.

2.6 QUALIFICATION SYSTEMS

The Commission discussed the implementation of the qualification systems for the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Winter Games, and noted that further detail may be required in the systems for some sports for future Games. The Commission has therefore requested that the IOC Sports Department develop a list of general principles of qualification for the Olympic Winter Games which will be reflected in all sports for Turin 2006.

2.7 TIMELINE OF WORK

The Commission discussed the timeline of future work and decisions in relation to the programme of the XX Olympic Winter Games, and recommends the following timeline:

August 2002	Executive Board review of the recommendations of the Olympic Programme Commission for Turin 2006 Olympic Winter Games, as contained in the current document.
September-November 2002	Discuss with the IFs the principle of the introduction of quotas in all sports, and the development of the qualification system principles
November 2002:	Executive Board - Decisions of quotas for all sports IOC Session – Decision on admission of new sports (if recommended by the IOC Executive Board)
2002/2003 season:	Test implementation of drafted qualification systems for Turin 2006
February 2004:	Distribution of finalised qualification systems

2.8 CONCLUSIONS

The recommendations noted in this report are presented for the consideration of the IOC Executive Board at its August 2002 meeting.