



Implementing Provisions of the IOC Code of Ethics

Rules Governing the Candidature Process Olympic Winter Games 2026

The Rules Governing the Candidature Process Olympic Winter Games 2026 are intended to ensure that the process for selecting Olympic host cities is guided by a core Olympic value – fair play. Adherence to these Rules protects the integrity of the process, avoids conflicts of interests and ensures that all cities, at all stages of the process are treated in a fair and equal manner. It is the obligation of the cities taking part in the Candidature Process, IOC Members and all relevant parties as mentioned in article 2 to respect these Rules.

Article 1

Fundamental principles

These Rules are supplemented by the “Candidature Process” document established by the IOC. Non-compliance with the provisions of the “Candidature Process” document shall constitute a breach of the fundamental principles of these Rules.

The entities or persons mentioned in article 2 must refrain from any approach to a constituent of the Olympic Movement or a third-party authority with the aim of obtaining financial, political or other support which is not compliant with the candidature process established by the IOC and these Rules.



The conduct of all the persons mentioned in article 2 must be in full compliance with the principles and provisions of the Olympic Charter, the IOC Code of Ethics and its implementing provisions.

Article 2

Scope of application

2.1 The Candidature Process comprises two stages: the Dialogue Stage (29 September 2017 to October 2018) and the Candidature Stage (October 2018 to September 2019 – exact dates to be confirmed). A city in the Dialogue Stage is referred to as “Interested City”. A city invited by the IOC Session to enter the Candidature Stage is referred to as an “Candidate City”.

Unless otherwise specified, these Rules apply equally to Interested Cities and Candidate Cities. The terms “city” or “cities” refer to the cities and the committees leading the Olympic project in both stages of the process. Cities must respect these Rules and ensure that they are respected by any person, individually or acting within an organisation, participating in the process, at any stage, on behalf of a city or supporting it.

The NOC of the country of each city participating in the candidature process must respect these Rules at all times. The NOC is responsible for the activities and conduct of its city until the election of the host city by the IOC Session (date and location of this session outlined in article 3). The NOC is also responsible for informing other relevant parties of these Rules and ensuring they are respected by any person, individually or acting within an organisation, participating in the candidature process, on behalf of a city or supporting it.

These Rules are applicable as soon as they are published on the IOC website (namely, as from 29 September 2017). They replace the previous Rules in force and incorporate the spirit of Olympic Agenda 2020 adopted by the 127th IOC Session in December 2014.



2.2 These Rules also apply to IOC Members, the IOC administration, the Evaluation Commission, National Olympic Committees, International Federations and IOC-recognised associations, as well as to any person or organisation participating in any way in the process, including consultants.

Article 3

Statement of competitions and Olympic meetings

The NOC of each Candidate City shall submit to the IOC Ethics and Compliance Office a list of international Olympic sports competitions and meetings of IOC-recognised organisations taking place on its territory between the date that the IOC Session invites the cities to become Candidate Cities namely in October 2018 – exact date to be confirmed, and the host city election by the IOC Session in Milan, Italy in September 2019 – exact date to be confirmed¹.

This list should include all scheduled international events and events in the process of being scheduled and must be provided by 1st November 2018.

No new international Olympic Sports competitions or meetings of IOC recognised organisations proposed after 1st November 2018 will be approved.

Between the date of publication of these Rules and the election of the host city by the Session, no meeting of an IOC-recognised organisation involving a significant number of IOC members may be organised on the territory of a country of an Interested City or a Candidate City.

¹ The IOC will provide the cities, in due time, with a template to use when listing the requested events.



Article 4

Statement of assistance provided to the NOCs

The NOC of each Candidate City shall submit to the IOC Ethics and Compliance Office a list of all the agreements with other NOCs (including assistance programmes of any nature) existing between the date that the IOC Session invites the cities to become Candidate Cities namely the IOC Session in October 2018 – exact date to be confirmed, and the date of the host city election in Milan, Italy in September 2019 – exact date to be confirmed².

This list should include all agreements and agreements in the process of being negotiated and must be provided by 1st November 2018.

No new agreement of any nature with an NOC proposed after 1st November 2018 will be approved.

Article 5

Registration of consultants and Declaration of consultants

5.1 All consultants, individuals or companies participating in or supporting a city in any way must be entered in the IOC's Register of Consultants. The NOC and/or the city may only use the services of consultants taking part in the candidature process who are entered in the Register.

² The IOC will provide the cities, in due time, with a template to use when listing the requested agreements.



The purpose of entry in the Register is to ensure that the consultant undertakes, as an individual or on behalf of a company and on behalf of any person acting in their name, to respect the IOC's ethical principles, the Olympic Charter, the IOC Code of Ethics and its implementing provisions, especially the Rules Governing the Candidature Process Olympic Winter Games 2026 concerned and the Rules concerning Conflicts of Interest.

This entry in the Register must take place prior to any provision of service and/or any consultant being hired to work on the 2026 Olympic project by the NOC and/or the city. The NOC is responsible for ensuring that this entry has taken place before signing any consultancy agreement or the provision of any service by a consultant.

Non-compliance with these texts by a consultant may result in the application of a measure or sanction against the consultant, as specified in article 14 of these Rules, in particular withdrawal from the Register.

5.2 The conditions for the entry of consultants in the Register are set forth in a specific set of regulations (see Appendix 1).

The Register will be public. The NOC must check on a regular basis whether the list of consultants involved with their city is accurate, and inform the IOC Ethics and Compliance Office of any change to the information on the list.

Article 6 Promotion

6.1 Throughout the whole process, all promotional activities shall take place with dignity and moderation.

The city and its NOC are entirely responsible for all forms of promotion. The “Candidature Process” document established by the IOC contains specific



provisions concerning promotional activities during international events in which the IOC participates. Promotion must respect the provisions of the “Candidature Process” document.

6.2 National promotion

National promotion is possible at any time, during any stage of the process, subject to respect of these Rules.

6.3 International promotion by Candidate Cities

After being invited to become a Candidate City international promotion may commence. However, unless the IOC grants specific authorisation, no form of promotion may be undertaken on the territory of the country hosting the host city election Session during the three weeks before the day of the vote – exact date to be confirmed.

6.4 For the specific situation of the Swiss Confederation, due to the fact that the IOC headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland, and many IOC Members travel to Lausanne for meetings, no form of advertising may be undertaken in the following locations: Geneva Airport and the City of Lausanne (and the bordering communes³), unless the IOC grants specific authorisation.

6.5 Any form of national or international promotion (advertising, public relations work, use of social networks, etc.) is to be undertaken by the cities themselves, excluding all third parties.

To provide cities with the opportunity to address all the principal stakeholders of the Olympic Movement, the Candidate Cities will be invited to make presentations during certain meetings, the list of which is specified in the “Candidature Process” document.

³ The communes bordering Lausanne are: Pully, Le Mont, Epalinges, Romanel, Prilly, Renens, Chavannes, Ecublens, St-Sulpice. The map of the communes may be provided on demand



Article 7

Relations with partners and sponsors

7.1 In order to preserve the integrity and neutrality of the process, TOP Partners and other IOC sponsors shall refrain from supporting or promoting any of the cities.

Consequently, cities may not solicit or accept any such support or promotion from TOP Partners and other IOC sponsors.

7.2 Until the election of the host city by the Session, cities' sponsors or donors may not conclude any new contract of any kind in support of an organisation recognised by the IOC when there is a risk of a conflict of interests⁴.

Article 8

Relations with International Federations (IFs)

In regard to working visits by the IFs, if any, the conditions for these are defined in the “Candidature Process” document; and must be strictly and equally respected by the NOCs, the cities and the IFs. For these visits, a sense of moderation must be respected, particularly concerning hospitality and accommodation.

No form of promotion or advertising is permitted in any IF publication and cities may not take or be offered a promotional stand at IF events.

⁴ See definition in the Rules Concerning Conflicts of Interests.



Article 9

Relations with the media

During the Candidature Stage cities may organise working visits for media representatives. All costs are to be covered by the media.

Article 10

Relations with IOC Members

This article defines a number of obligations that are to be respected equally by IOC Members and cities.

10.1 There shall be no visits by IOC Members to the cities, or by the cities to IOC Members.

If an IOC Member has to travel to a city for any reason not linked with the city's Olympic project (business or personal), he or she shall inform the IOC Ethics and Compliance Office in advance of travel. The city may not take advantage of this occasion to promote its project, nor cover the costs and other expenses linked to such a visit, in particular travel and accommodation.

10.2 During the Candidature Stage cities may directly contact IOC Members to provide information and promote their projects with IOC Members on the occasion of international events, international competitions, or by sending written documentation (electronic / printed material).

No other form of promotion is authorised in particular, IOC Members who are not from the country of the city may not:

- be invited or accept an invitation to any form of reception linked to the promotion of a city and their Olympic project;



- be contacted by the Ambassador or Embassy of the countries concerned with a view to promoting the city and their Olympic project;
- receive honorary diplomas or official decorations from a city or a representative of a city's country.

10.3 In order to respect the neutrality of the IOC Members, the cities may not use the name or image of an IOC Member, an IOC Honorary Member or an IOC Honour Member, with the exception of the members from the country of the city concerned.

To respect the same principle, the IOC Members must refrain from making any public declaration expressing an opinion on one or another of the cities.

Article 11

Gifts

No gifts, of whatever value, may be given to or accepted/received by IOC Members or any other person or organisation mentioned in article 2.

No invitation, to any sporting or other event that includes accommodation and/or transport, may be given to or accepted by an IOC Member or any other person or organisation mentioned in article 2.

No advantage or promise of an advantage may be made to or accepted by an IOC Member or any other person or organisation mentioned in article 2.

These restrictions shall be respected by the IOC Members, the cities and their NOCs and by all those acting on behalf of or supporting the city.

The same restrictions apply to the cities' relations with third parties, in particular the media and organisations recognised by the IOC.



Article 12

Relations between cities

In all circumstances and at all times, cities must respect each other as well as the IOC Members and the IOC itself.

The cities shall refrain from any act or comment likely to tarnish the image of another city or be prejudicial to it. Any comparison with other cities is strictly forbidden.

To ensure respect between cities, they may not take part in any debate between each other.

No agreement, coalition or collusion between the cities or their NOCs aimed at influencing the result of the host city election is permitted.

Article 13

Election of the host city

The IOC Ethics Commission supervises the host city election procedure, in accordance with the provisions made by the IOC.

Article 14

Interpretation and Sanctions

14.1 All questions concerning these Rules and matters concerning their interpretation shall be addressed to the IOC Ethics and Compliance Office.

Minor breaches of these Rules will be dealt with by the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer:

- a first minor breach will result in a confidential observation, in writing, to the city concerned;



- a second minor breach will result in a written notification to the members of the IOC Executive Board and the other cities.

In the event of serious or repeated breaches of these Rules, the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer may refer these to the IOC Ethics Commission with a view to recommending sanctions to the IOC Executive Board.

14.2 The possible measures or sanctions are specified in Rule 59 of the Olympic Charter and also include the following additional specific measures or sanctions:

- The deduction of one or several votes (minimum one, maximum five) during the election by the Session, for the first round or for several rounds;
- A fine proportional to the seriousness of the infraction;
- A reduction in the presentation time of the Candidate City at the briefing for IOC Members or during the Session;
- The Candidate City supporting delegation being prohibited from attending the presentation to the IOC Session;
- The official exclusion of a member of the city's team;
- Withdrawal of the entry of a consultant in the Register for a specific period of time and at least one year;
- A warning together with publication of an official IOC press release sent individually to all the IOC Members.

Any sanctions imposed by the IOC Executive Board will be communicated in writing to all IOC Members.



Appendix 1 referred to in Article 5

Rules for the IOC's Register of Consultants

Article 1

All consultants wishing to participate in or support a project for the Olympic Winter Games 2026 must be entered in the IOC's Register of Consultants on the list for the NOC/city concerned. Entry in the Register is a prerequisite for the provision of any service and/or the signature of any service contract by the NOC and/or the city.

Registration in the IOC's Register of Consultants does not constitute an endorsement by the IOC.

A consultant is considered to be any individual or company who is not linked by an employment contract to the NOC, the city, or the Olympic project and who participates in or supports a city by providing consultancy or similar services in any way and at any time.

Article 2

Entry in the Register is made through a written undertaking by the consultant to respect the IOC's ethical principles, the Olympic Charter, the IOC Code of Ethics and its implementing provisions, especially the Rules for the Candidature Process concerned and the Rules Concerning Conflicts of Interest.

The consultant binds him/herself personally for his/her activities, as well as for the activities of any person acting on his/her behalf or on behalf of his/her company.

Article 3

Such undertaking is made by following the electronic entry procedure accessible on the IOC website.

The Ethics and Compliance Office is responsible for keeping and posting the Register of Consultants for the Candidature Process on www.olympic.org.



Article 4

Any failure to respect the IOC's ethical principles, the Olympic Charter, the IOC Code of Ethics and its implementing provisions, especially the Rules for the Candidature Process concerned and the Rules Concerning Conflicts of Interest, may lead to sanctions as specified in article 14 of these Rules, in particular withdrawal from the Register by the IOC Executive Board.

The procedure to re-enter the Register may take place only after the deadline specified by the IOC Executive Board, and after at least one year.

Declaration of consent by the consultant

I, the undersigned, confirm:

- that I have taken note of the Olympic Charter, the IOC Code of Ethics and its implementing provisions, especially the Rules Governing the Candidature Process Olympic Winter Games 2026 concerned, the Rules Concerning Conflicts of Interest and the Rules for the Register of Consultants participating in the candidature process;*
- that I have understood them;*
- and that I undertake to inform all those acting on my behalf, or on behalf of the company I represent, about them.*

I undertake to respect these texts personally and to ensure their respect by all those acting on my behalf or on behalf of the company, which I confirm I am authorised to represent for the purpose of the present declaration.

I undertake, personally and on behalf of the company, not to support more than one city to host the Olympic Winter Games 2026, and to inform the IOC Ethics and Compliance Office of any type of existing contract with the IOC.

I undertake, personally and on behalf of the company, not to refer in any way to this entry in the Register of Consultants for promotional or commercial purposes.



I undertake, personally and on behalf of the company, to keep the data of the entry up to date and to accept withdrawal from the list once services are no longer provided or if the contract with the NOC and/or the city is terminated.

I accept that the IOC Ethics and Compliance Office is entitled to request additional information or documents for the purpose of verifying compliance with the present declaration, and that any refusal to provide such information may result in withdrawal or cancellation of the entry in the Register of Consultants.

I accept that the IOC may use the data linked to my entry in the Register of Consultants in accordance with the declaration on the processing of personal data.

I accept that any non-compliance by me personally or by any person acting on my behalf or on behalf of the company may be sanctioned and may lead to withdrawal from the IOC's Register of Consultants, in accordance with the Rules for the Register participating in the candidature process.

I accept any decision by the IOC Executive Board as final.

I accept that any dispute arising from or linked to the present declaration, entry in the Register of Consultants or participation in the candidature process will be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, for final and binding settlement in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration.