



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE OLYMPIC GAMES

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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The [Olympic Charter](#) highlights the three main constituent groups of the Olympic Movement and their 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). In addition to these three, can be added the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs), which are responsible for the preparation and hosting of a particular edition 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, 2015, 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. However, the preparation process for each edition of the Games lasts from before the start of the Candidature phase 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, which help to 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, which is elected at the IOC Session.

Part of the IOC’s mission is “to ensure the regular celebration of the Olympic Games” ([Olympic Charter](#), Rule 2). To this end and following the recommendations of [Olympic Agenda 2020](#), the IOC invites interested NOCs, cities or countries to come and discuss their plans and to learn more about organising the Games during an Invitation phase.

This proceeds the formal Candidature phase, where NOCs are asked to propose cities that are interested in hosting the Games.

The IOC then selects the host city following a three-stage process, where the IOC works in partnership with cities to align their candidacies with local long-term plans and the needs of the Games.

Even at this early stage of the process, the IOC begins the transfer of knowledge process from past Games organisers in order to give Candidate Cities the information that they need to start developing and improving their plans.

Following the Invitation phase, cities that enter the candidature procedure are now provided with all of the Olympic Candidature Process documentation (including the Host City Contract) at the outset. Over the course of the process, the cities pass through three different stages:

- Stage 1 – Vision, Games Concept and Strategy
- Stage 2 – Governance, Legal and Venue Funding
- Stage 3 – Games Delivery, Experience and Venue Legacy

During each stage the cities submit a part of their Candidature File, which is then analysed by the IOC’s Evaluation Commission and feedback provided to the cities.

The Evaluation Commission report is published following the submission of all three parts of the



Candidature File and a visit to each of the cities by the Commission. It is then delivered to the IOC Members, who can also participate in a briefing session with the cities, which is usually held several weeks in advance of the IOC Session, where 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 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 is to provide 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](#), Rule 37)

It is also the IOC that is responsible for inviting the NOCs to participate in the Games, sending out invitations one year before the Opening Ceremony. The IOC does not only physically invite the NOCs to the Games, but through Olympic Solidarity, it is also involved in helping athletes from developing nations reach a suitable standard to participate in the Olympics, thus ensuring the universality of the Olympic Games.

During the Games, the IOC is the body responsible for implementing the World Anti-Doping Code, and all those at the Games under the authority of the IOC are bound by this Code.

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 the Olympic Villages. Other anti-doping agencies (such as the host country National Anti-Doping Organisation) conduct tests outside the Village and venues at the request and under the auspices of the IOC. Any cases arising from these tests will then be handled by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) Anti-Doping Division.

Created by the IOC in 2001, Olympic Broadcast Services (OBS) acts as the Host Broadcaster for the Games and is chiefly responsible for providing the images and sound of the Games to the Rights-Holding Broadcasters (RHBs), allowing the watching world to get some outstanding images of the Games. In addition to OBS services, the IOC also helps to fund the Olympic Games by providing a significant contribution to the organising committee's budget from the revenues it (the IOC) generates.

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 the Games' organisation. The IOC transfer of knowledge programmes, implemented by the IOC's Olympic Games Department, help organising committees to learn lessons from the past and to emulate best practices.

Through a strengthened Olympic Games Department, the IOC has implemented an integrated approach to Games management that encompasses the entire lifecycle of a Games organiser. With the IOC's Olympic Games Study Commission recommendations all fully implemented for the Olympic Games London 2012, the IOC is now working on the



implementation of the [Olympic Agenda 2020 recommendations](#). This strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement that was unanimously adopted by the IOC membership in December 2014 outlines 40 recommendations that will have an important influence upon the organisation of the Olympic Games. Many of the recommendations have already been implemented. For example, Tokyo 2020 has reaped the benefits with the finalisation of its venue masterplan seeing significant savings with the increased use of existing and temporary venues.

THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES (NOCs)

The IOC currently recognises 206 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 27 of the Olympic Charter. Their principal mission is to “*develop, promote and protect the Olympic Movement in their respective countries, in accordance with the Olympic Charter.*” ([Olympic Charter](#), Rule 27).

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 Candidature 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 candidate city supervises, and is jointly responsible for, the actions and conduct of the city in relation to its 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 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.

It is also the role of the NOC to invite their own dignitaries to the Games and to organise the distribution of tickets to sports fans within their own territory (except for the host nation which is managed directly by the Games organisers).

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 which are responsible for their technical control and direction.



They are responsible for setting the eligibility criteria for the competitions at the Olympic Games and submitting the qualification systems to the IOC. The IFs also organise qualifying events in order to select the competitors or teams participating in the Games.

During the candidature process and following Olympic Agenda 2020, the IFs play an important role in analysing and providing feedback to the candidate cities on the technical aspects for the venues of their respective sports. This work continues even after the Games have been awarded, as the OCOG, the IOC, OBS and the IFs work in close collaboration on the sport and the characteristics of the technical facilities to be used 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. They 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 also form part of the tripartite commission, made up of the IOC, NOCs and the IFs, which meets to discuss tripartite invitations.

THE LIST OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS ON THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME IS:

Sports on the programme of the Games of the XXXI Olympiad	
FINA	International Swimming Federation
WA	World Archery Federation
IAAF	International Association of Athletics Federations
BWF	Badminton World Federation

FIBA	International Basketball Federation
AIBA	International Boxing Association
ICF	International Canoe Federation
UCI	International Cycling Union
FEI	International Equestrian Federation
FIE	International Fencing Federation
FIFA	International Association Football Federation
IGF	International Golf Federation
FIG	International Gymnastics Federation
IHF	International Handball Federation
FIH	International Hockey Federation
IJF	International Judo Federation
UIPM	International Modern Pentathlon Union
FISA	International Rowing Federation
WR	World Rugby
ISAF	International Sailing Federation
ISSF	International Shooting Sport Federation
ITTF	International Tennis Table Federation
WTF	World Taekwondo Federation
ITF	International Tennis Federation
ITU	International Triathlon Union
FIVB	International Volleyball Federation
IWF	International Weightlifting Federation
UWW	United World Wrestling

Sports on the programme of the XXII Olympic Winter Games	
IBU	International Biathlon Union
IBSF	International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation
WCF	World Curling Federation
IIHF	International Ice Hockey Federation
FIL	International Luge Federation
ISU	International Skating Union
FIS	International Ski Federation



THE 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](#), Rule 35)

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 - Principles (which the NOC and the host city enter into with the IOC upon being awarded the Games), as well as by its Host City Contract – Operational Requirements, and by the candidature file and guarantees that the candidate city provided during the Candidature phase. This means that the OCOG is responsible for establishing functions and services for all aspects of the Games, such as sport, venues, finance, technology, accommodation, catering, media services, etc., as well as running the related 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, as it is the IFs that are responsible for the technical aspects of their sports.

As well as working with the IOC, IFs, and NOCs, the OCOG also interacts with myriad partners and local stakeholders in order to deliver and host the Games, while leaving a lasting legacy. This can range from local authorities to worldwide Olympic partners to the highest levels of government in the host country, all of whom have a key role to play in making the Games a success.

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 host city.

Other activities that the OCOG is responsible for during its life cycle can include ensuring that all Olympic marks are protected, organising the Cultural Olympiad, producing a roll of honour bearing the names of the medal winners and of those awarded diplomas in each event, and preparing the official report of the Games once they are over.

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