



OLYMPIC CHARTER

In force as from 4 July 2003



I N T E R N A T I O N A L O L Y M P I C C O M M I T T E E

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Olympic Charter

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*The Rule is supplemented by a Bye-law.



The modifications adopted since the last printed edition of the Olympic Charter (in force as of 14 July 2001) are the following:

- those ratified on 29 November 2002 by the 114th IOC Session in Mexico City:
 - paragraph 13 of Rule 2 (Role of the IOC)
 - paragraphs 1.1, 3.2, 3.4.2 and 5 of Rule 20 and paragraphs 1.2, 2.2.2, 2.7 and 2.8.7 of its Bye-law (Members)
 - paragraphs 1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1 and 4.2 of Rule 23 (Executive Board)
 - paragraph 1.1 of Rule 32 (Composition of the NOCs)
 - paragraph 1 of Rule 42 (Olympic Village)
 - Rule 60 (Publications)

- those ratified on 4 July 2003 by the 115th IOC Session in Prague:
 - paragraphs 2, 2.2.1, 2.2.4, 2.2.5 and 5 of Rule 25 (IOC Ethics Commission Measures and Sanctions)
 - Rule 29 (Recognition of the IFs)
 - Rule 45 and paragraph 3 of its Bye-law (Eligibility Code)



- paragraphs 1, 2.1, 2.1.1 and 2.2 of Rule 48
(World Anti-Doping Code and Medical Commission)
- paragraphs 3, 5.1 and 5.3 of the Bye-law to Rule 49 (Entries)
- paragraph 1.1.3 of Rule 52
(Sports Programme, Admission of Sports, Disciplines and Events)
- Rule 50 (Infringement of the Olympic Charter)
- paragraph 2.4 of the Bye-law to Rule 70
(Victory, Medals and Diplomas Ceremony)

NOTE

In the Olympic Charter, the masculine gender used in relation to any physical person (for example, names such as member, leader, official, chef de mission, participant, competitor, athlete, judge, referee, member of a jury, attaché, candidate, personnel, or pronouns such as he, they, them) shall, unless there is a specific provision to the contrary, be understood as including the feminine gender.

Fundamental Principles

- 1 Modern Olympism was conceived by Pierre de Coubertin, on whose initiative the International Athletic Congress of Paris was held in June 1894. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) constituted itself on 23rd June 1894. In August 1994, the XII Congress, Centennial Olympic Congress, which was entitled “Congress of Unity”, was held in Paris.
- 2 Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.
- 3 The goal of Olympism is to place everywhere sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity. To this effect, the Olympic Movement engages, alone or in cooperation with other organizations and within the limits of its means, in actions to promote peace.
- 4 The Olympic Movement, led by the IOC, stems from modern Olympism.
- 5 Under the supreme Authority of the IOC, the Olympic Movement encompasses organizations, athletes and other persons who agree to be guided by the Olympic Charter. The criterion for belonging to the Olympic Movement is recognition by the IOC. The organization and management of sport must be controlled by the independent sport organizations recognized as such.
- 6 The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practised without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.



- 7 The activity of the Olympic movement, symbolized by five interlaced rings, is universal and permanent. It covers the five continents. It reaches its peak with the bringing together of athletes of the world at the great sports festival, the Olympic Games.
- 8 The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport in accordance with his or her needs.
- 9 The Olympic Charter is the codification of the Fundamental Principles, Rules and Bye-laws adopted by the IOC. It governs the organization and operation of the Olympic Movement and stipulates the conditions for the celebration of the Olympic Games.

Chapter I

The Olympic Movement

I Supreme Authority

- 1 The IOC is the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement.
- 2 Any person or organization belonging in any capacity whatsoever to the Olympic Movement is bound by the provisions of the Olympic Charter and shall abide by the decisions of the IOC.

2 Role of the IOC

The role of the IOC is to lead the promotion of Olympism in accordance with the Olympic Charter. For that purpose the IOC:

- 1 encourages the coordination, organization and development of sport and sports competitions, and ensures the promotion and application, in liaison with the international and national sports institutions, of measures aimed at strengthening the unity of the Olympic Movement;
- 2 collaborates with the competent public or private organizations and authorities in the endeavour to place sport at the service of humanity;
- 3 ensures the regular celebration of the Olympic Games;
- 4 participates in actions to promote peace, acts to protect the rights of the members of the Olympic Movement and acts against any form of discrimination affecting the Olympic Movement;
- 5 strongly encourages, by appropriate means, the promotion of women in sport at all levels and in all structures, particularly in the executive bodies of national and international sports organizations with a view to the strict application of the principle of equality of men and women;
- 6 supports and encourages the promotion of sports ethics;



- 7 dedicates its efforts to ensuring that in sports the spirit of fair play prevails and violence is banned;
- 8 leads the fight against doping in sport and participates in the international fight against drugs;
- 9 takes measures the goal of which is to prevent endangering the health of athletes;
- 10 opposes any political or commercial abuse of sport and athletes;
- 11 encourages sports organizations and public authorities to use their best efforts to provide for the social and professional future of athletes;
- 12 encourages the development of sport for all, which is part of the foundations of high-level sport, which in turn contributes to the development of sport for all;
- 13 takes measures to promote a positive legacy from the Olympic Games to the host city and the host country, including a reasonable control of the size and cost of the Olympic Games, and encourages the Organizing Committees of the Olympic Games (OCOGs), public authorities in the host country and the persons or organizations belonging to the Olympic Movement to act accordingly;
- 14 sees to it that the Olympic Games are held in conditions which demonstrate a responsible concern for environmental issues and encourages the Olympic Movement to demonstrate a responsible concern for environmental issues, takes measures to reflect such concern in its activities and educates all those connected with the Olympic Movement as to the importance of sustainable development;
- 15 supports the International Olympic Academy (IOA);
- 16 supports other institutions which devote themselves to Olympic education.



3 Belonging to the Olympic Movement

- 1 In addition to the IOC, the Olympic Movement includes the International Federations (IFs), the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), the Organizing Committees of the Olympic Games (OCOGs), the national associations, clubs, and the persons belonging to them, particularly the athletes whose interests constitute a fundamental element of its actions, and judges / referees, coaches and the other sports technicians. It also includes other organizations and institutions as recognized by the IOC.
- 2 Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, sex, or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement.
- 3 In order to belong to the Olympic Movement, it is necessary to respect the fundamental ethical principles.

4 Recognition by the IOC

- 1 In order to promote the Olympic Movement throughout the world, the IOC may recognize as NOCs organizations the activity of which is linked to its role. Such organizations shall have, where possible, the status of legal persons in their countries. They must be established in accordance with the Olympic Charter, and their statutes must be approved by the IOC.
- 2 The IOC may recognize associations of NOCs formed at continental or world level, such as:
 - Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC);
 - Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA);
 - Olympic Council of Asia (OCA);



- Pan-American Sports Organization (PASO);
- Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC);
- The European Olympic Committees (EOC);

provided their statutes comply with the Olympic Charter and have been approved by the IOC.

- 3 The IOC may recognize IFs according to the conditions laid down in Rule 29. In addition, it may recognize associations of IFs such as:
 - Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF);
 - Association of the International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF);
 - Association of the IOC Recognized International Sports Federations (ARISF);
 - General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF).
- 4 The recognition of associations of IFs or NOCs does not in any way affect the right of each IF and of each NOC to deal directly with the IOC and vice versa.
- 5 The IOC may recognize non-governmental organizations connected with sport, operating on an international level, the statutes and activities of which are in conformity with the Olympic Charter.
- 6 The IOC may withdraw, with immediate effect, its recognition from IFs, NOCs, and other associations and organizations.



5 Patronage by the IOC

- 1 The IOC may grant its patronage, upon such terms and conditions as it may consider appropriate, to international multisports competitions - regional, continental or worldwide - on condition that they take place in strict compliance with the Olympic Charter and are organized under the control of NOCs or associations recognized by the IOC, with the assistance of the IFs concerned and in conformity with their technical rules.
- 2 Furthermore, the IOC Executive Board may grant IOC patronage to other events, provided such events are in keeping with the goal of the Olympic Movement.

6 Periodic Consultation with the IFs and with the NOCs

The IOC Executive Board organizes periodic meetings with the IFs and with the NOCs at least once every two years. Such meetings are chaired by the President of the IOC who determines the procedure and the agenda after consultation with the relevant bodies.

7 Olympic Congress

- 1 The IOC shall organize an Olympic Congress, in principle every eight years, convened upon decision of the IOC, by its President, at a place and on a date determined by the IOC. The President of the IOC shall preside and determine the procedure. The Olympic Congress has a consultative character.
- 2 The Olympic Congress is composed of the members, Honorary President for life, honorary members and honour members of the IOC, of the



delegates representing the IFs, the NOCs, and the organizations recognized by the IOC. In addition, the Olympic Congress comprises athletes and personalities invited in their individual capacity or on behalf of the organization which they represent.

- 3 The IOC Executive Board determines the agenda of the Olympic Congress after consultation with the IFs and the NOCs.

8 Olympic Solidarity*

- 1 The aim of Olympic Solidarity is to organize aid to NOCs recognized by the IOC, in particular those which have the greatest need of it. This aid takes the form of programmes elaborated jointly by the IOC and the NOCs, with the technical assistance of the IFs, if necessary.
- 2 All such programmes are administrated by the Olympic Solidarity Commission which is chaired by the President of the IOC.

Bye-law to Rule 8

The objectives of the programmes adopted by Olympic Solidarity are to contribute to:

- 1 promoting the fundamental principles of the Olympic Movement;
- 2 developing the technical sports knowledge of athletes and coaches;
- 3 improving, through scholarships, the technical level of athletes and coaches;
- 4 training sports administrators;



- 5 collaborating with the various IOC commissions as well as with the organizations and entities pursuing such objectives, particularly through Olympic education and the propagation of sport;
- 6 creating, where needed, simple, functional and economical sports facilities in cooperation with national or international bodies;
- 7 supporting the organization of competitions at national, regional and continental level under the authority or patronage of the NOCs;
- 8 encouraging joint bilateral or multilateral cooperation programmes among NOCs;
- 9 urging governments and international organizations to include sport in Official Development Assistance.

9 Olympic Games

- 1 The Olympic Games are competitions between athletes in individual or team events and not between countries. They bring together the athletes designated for such purpose by their respective NOCs, whose entries have been accepted by the IOC, and who through their sports performances compete under the technical direction of the IFs concerned.
- 2 The authority of last resort on any question concerning the Olympic Games rests with the IOC.
- 3 The Olympic Games consist of the Games of the Olympiad and the Olympic Winter Games. Both take place every four years, subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 below.



- 4 The first Olympic Winter Games were celebrated in 1924. Starting from that date, they are numbered in the order in which they are held, the XVII Olympic Winter Games being, however, held in 1994. Those sports which are practised on snow and ice are considered as winter sports.

10 Olympiad

- 1 The term “Olympiad” designates a period of four successive years. The Olympiad begins with the opening of one edition of the Games of the Olympiad and ends with the opening of the following edition.
- 2 In the event of non-celebration of the Games of an Olympiad, such Olympiad begins four years after the start of the preceding Olympiad.
- 3 The Olympiads are numbered consecutively from the first Olympic Games (Games of the Olympiad) of modern times, celebrated in Athens in 1896.

11 Rights over the Olympic Games

The Olympic Games are the exclusive property of the IOC which owns all rights and data relating thereto, in particular, and without limitation, all rights relating to their organization, exploitation, broadcasting, recording, representation, reproduction, access and dissemination in any form and by any means or mechanism whatsoever, whether now existing or developed in the future. The IOC shall determine the conditions of access to and the conditions of any use of data relating to the Olympic Games and to the competitions and sports performances of the Olympic Games.

All profits derived from the celebration of the Olympic Games shall be applied to the development of the Olympic Movement and of sport.



12 Olympic Symbol*

- 1 The Olympic symbol consists of the five Olympic rings used alone, in one or in several colours.
- 2 The five colours of the rings are mandatorily blue, yellow, black, green and red. The rings are interlaced from left to right. The blue, black and red rings are situated at the top, the yellow and green rings at the bottom. The whole approximately forms a regular trapezium, the shorter of the parallel sides forming the base, according to the official design deposited at the IOC headquarters and reproduced below.
- 3 The Olympic symbol represents the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from throughout the world at the Olympic Games.

13 Olympic Flag*

The Olympic flag has a white background, with no border. In its centre is located the Olympic symbol in its five colours. Its design and proportions shall be those of the flag presented by Pierre de Coubertin at the Paris Congress in 1914.

14 Olympic Motto*

The Olympic motto “Citius . Altius . Fortius” expresses the message which the IOC addresses to all who belong to the Olympic Movement, inviting them to excel in accordance with the Olympic spirit.



15 Olympic Emblem*

- 1 An Olympic emblem is an integrated design associating the Olympic rings with another distinctive element.
- 2 The design of any Olympic emblem shall be submitted to the IOC Executive Board for its approval. Such approval is a prerequisite to any use of such emblem.

16 Olympic Anthem*

The Olympic anthem is that approved by the IOC at its 55th Session in 1958 in Tokyo, the score of which has been deposited at the IOC headquarters.

17 Rights to the Olympic Symbol, Flag, Motto and Anthem*

All rights to the Olympic symbol, the Olympic flag, the Olympic motto and the Olympic anthem belong exclusively to the IOC.

Bye-law to Rules 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17

- 1
 - 1.1 The IOC may take all appropriate steps to obtain the legal protection, both on a national and international basis, of the Olympic symbol, flag, motto and anthem.
 - 1.2 Even if the national law or a trademark registration grants to an NOC the protection of the Olympic symbol, such NOC may only use the ensuing rights in accordance with instructions received from the IOC Executive Board.



- 2 Each NOC is responsible to the IOC for the observance, in its country, of Rules 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 and of their Bye-law. It shall take steps to prohibit any use of the Olympic symbol, flag, motto or anthem which would be contrary to these Rules or their Bye-law. It shall also endeavour to obtain protection of the designations “Olympic” and “Olympiad” for the benefit of the IOC.
- 3 An NOC may at any time call upon the IOC for its assistance in obtaining protection, as envisaged above, for the Olympic symbol, flag, motto or anthem and for the settlement of any differences which may arise with third parties in such matters.
- 4 The NOCs may only use the Olympic symbol, flag, motto and anthem within the framework of their non-profit-making activities, provided such use contributes to the development of the Olympic Movement and does not detract from its dignity and provided the NOCs concerned have obtained the prior approval of the IOC Executive Board.
- 5 The IOC encourages, in collaboration with the NOCs of the countries concerned, the use of the Olympic symbol on postage stamps issued in liaison with the IOC by the competent national authorities; to that effect, it may authorize the use of the Olympic symbol subject to the conditions set forth by the IOC Executive Board.
- 6 The IOC may create one or several Olympic emblems which it may use at its discretion.
- 7
 - 7.1 An Olympic emblem may be created by an NOC or an OCOG.
 - 7.2 The IOC Executive Board may approve the design of an Olympic emblem provided that it considers that there is no risk of confusion between such emblem and the Olympic symbol or other Olympic emblems.



- 7.3 The area covered by the Olympic symbol contained in an Olympic emblem shall not exceed one third of the total area of such emblem. Furthermore, the Olympic symbol contained in an Olympic emblem must appear in its entirety and must not be altered in any way whatsoever.
- 7.4 In addition to the foregoing, the Olympic emblem of an NOC must fulfil the following conditions:
- 7.4.1 The emblem must be designed in such a way that it is clearly identified as being connected with the country of the NOC concerned.
- 7.4.2 The distinctive element of the emblem cannot be limited to the sole name - or abbreviation of such name - of the country of the NOC concerned.
- 7.4.3 The distinctive element of the emblem must not make reference to the Olympic Games or to a specific date or event, so as to be limited in time.
- 7.4.4 The distinctive element of the emblem must not contain mottoes, designations or other generic expressions which give the impression of being universal or international in nature.
- 7.5 In addition to the provisions contained in paragraphs 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 above, the Olympic emblem of an OCOG must fulfil the following conditions:
- 7.5.1 The emblem must be designed in such a way that it is clearly identifiable as being connected with the Olympic Games organized by the OCOG concerned;
- 7.5.2 The distinctive element of the emblem cannot be limited to the sole name - or abbreviation of such name - of the country of the OCOG concerned;



- 7.5.3 The distinctive element of the emblem must not contain mottoes, designations or other generic expressions which give the impression of being universal or international in nature.
- 7.6 Any Olympic emblem which has been approved by the IOC Executive Board before the coming into effect of the foregoing provisions shall remain valid.
- 7.7 Whenever and wherever possible, the Olympic emblem of an NOC must be susceptible of registration (i.e. of legal protection) by the NOC in its country. The NOC must carry out such registration within six months of such emblem's approval by the IOC Executive Board and provide the IOC with proof of registration. IOC Executive Board approval of Olympic emblems may be withdrawn unless the NOCs concerned take all possible steps to protect their Olympic emblems and inform the IOC of such protection. Similarly, the OCOGs must protect their Olympic emblems, in the manner described above, in their countries as well as in other countries as decided in consultation with the IOC Executive Board. Any protection obtained by the NOCs and the OCOGs cannot be put forward against the IOC.
- 8 The use of the Olympic symbol, flag, motto and anthem for any advertising, commercial or profit-making purposes whatsoever is strictly reserved for the IOC.
- 9 The use of an Olympic emblem for any advertising, commercial or profitmaking purposes whatsoever must be in accordance with the conditions laid down in paragraphs 10 and 11 below.
- 10 Any NOC or OCOG wishing to use its Olympic emblem for any advertising, commercial or profit-making purposes whatsoever, either directly or through third parties, must comply with this Bye-law and ensure its observance by such third parties.



- 11 All contracts or arrangements, including those concluded by an OCOG, shall be signed or approved by the NOC concerned and shall be governed by the following principles:
 - 11.1 The use of an NOC Olympic emblem shall only be valid within the country of the said NOC; such emblem, as well as any other Olympic-related symbols, emblems, marks or designations of an NOC, may not be used for any advertising, commercial or profitmaking purposes whatsoever in the country of another NOC without the latter's prior written approval;
 - 11.2 similarly, the Olympic emblem of an OCOG as well as any other Olympic-related symbols, emblems, marks or designations of an OCOG, may not be used for any advertising, commercial or profit-making purposes whatsoever in the country of an NOC without the prior written approval of such NOC;
 - 11.3 in all cases, the period of validity of any contract concluded by an OCOG must not extend beyond December 31st of the year of the Olympic Games concerned;
 - 11.4 the use of an Olympic emblem must contribute to the development of the Olympic Movement and must not detract from its dignity; any association whatsoever between an Olympic emblem and products or services is prohibited if such association is incompatible with the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter or the role of the IOC as set out therein.
 - 11.5 upon request by the IOC, any NOC or OCOG shall provide a copy of any contract to which it is a party.
- 12 The Olympic symbol and the Olympic emblems of the IOC may be exploited by it or by a person authorized by it, in the country of an NOC, provided that the following conditions are respectively fulfilled:



- 12.1 For all sponsorship and suppliership agreements and for all marketing initiatives other than those referred to in paragraph 12.2 below, the condition shall be that such exploitation does not cause serious damage to the interests of the NOC concerned and that the decision be taken by the IOC Executive Board in consultation with such NOC, which shall receive part of the net proceeds deriving from such exploitation.
- 12.2 For all licensing agreements, the condition shall be that the NOC shall receive half of all net income from such exploitation, after deduction of all taxes and out-of-pocket costs relating thereto. The NOC will be informed in advance of any such exploitation.

The IOC, in its sole discretion, may authorize the broadcasters of the Olympic Games to use the Olympic symbol and the Olympic emblems of the IOC and the OCOGs to promote the broadcasts of the Olympic Games. The provisions of paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2 of this bye-law do not apply in respect of any such authorization.

18 Olympic Flame, Olympic Torch

- 1 The Olympic flame is the flame which is kindled in Olympia under the authority of the IOC.
- 2 An Olympic torch is a torch, or a replica thereof, on which the Olympic flame burns.
- 3 The IOC holds all rights of any kind relating to the use of the Olympic flame and of Olympic torches.

Chapter 2

The International Olympic Committee (IOC)

19 Legal Status

- 1 The IOC is an international non-governmental non-profit organization, of unlimited duration, in the form of an association with the status of a legal person, recognized by the Swiss Federal Council.
- 2 Its domicile is in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 3 The mission of the IOC is to lead the Olympic Movement in accordance with the Olympic Charter.
- 4 The decisions of the IOC, taken on the basis of the provisions of the Olympic Charter, are final. Any dispute relating to their application or interpretation may be resolved solely by the IOC Executive Board and, in certain cases, by arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

20 Members

- 1 Composition of the IOC - Recruitment, election, admittance and status of IOC members
 - 1.1 The members of the IOC are all natural persons. The IOC includes among its members active athletes and presidents or senior leaders of IFs, organisations recognised by the IOC pursuant to paragraph 5 of Rule 4 and NOCs. The total number of IOC members may not exceed 115, subject to the transitional provisions of paragraph 2.8 of the bye-law to the present rule.
 - 1.2 The IOC recruits and elects its members from among such persons as it considers qualified, in accordance with the bye-law to the present rule.
 - 1.3 The IOC admits its new members at a ceremony during which they agree to fulfil their obligations by taking the following oath:



“Granted the honour of becoming a member of the International Olympic Committee and of representing it, and declaring myself aware of my responsibilities in such capacity, I undertake to serve the Olympic Movement to the very best of my ability, to respect and ensure the respect of all the provisions of the Olympic Charter and the decisions of the IOC, which I consider as not subject to appeal on my part, to comply with the Code of Ethics, to keep myself free from any political or commercial influence and from any racial or religious consideration, to fight against all other forms of discrimination and to defend in all circumstances the interests of the IOC and those of the Olympic Movement.”

- 1.4 Members of the IOC are its representatives.
- 1.5 Members of the IOC may not accept from governments, organizations, or other legal entities or natural persons, any mandate liable to interfere with the freedom of their action and vote.
- 1.6 IOC members are not personally liable for the debts and obligations of the IOC.

2 Obligations

Each IOC member has the following obligations:

- 2.1 to participate in IOC Sessions;
- 2.2 to participate in the work of the IOC Commissions to which he has been appointed;
- 2.3 to help in the development of the Olympic Movement;
- 2.4 to follow, at local level, the implementation of the IOC's programmes, including those of Olympic Solidarity;



- 2.5 to inform the IOC President, at least once a year, of the development of the Olympic Movement and its needs;
- 2.6 to inform the IOC President, without delay, of all events liable to hinder the application of the Olympic Charter or otherwise affect the Olympic Movement;
- 2.7 to comply in all circumstances with the Code of Ethics provided for under Rule 25;
- 2.8 to perform other tasks assigned to him by the President, including, when needed, the representation of the IOC in any country, territory or organization.

3 Cessation of membership

- 3.1 Any IOC member may terminate his membership at any time by delivering his written resignation to the IOC President. Before taking cognizance of such resignation, the IOC Executive Board may ask to hear the resigning member.
- 3.2 Any IOC member will lose his membership without further formality if he is not re-elected in accordance with paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 of the bye-law to the present rule.
- 3.3 Any IOC member must retire no later than at the end of the calendar year during which he reaches the age of 70, subject to the transitional provisions provided under paragraph 2.8 of the bye-law to the present rule.
- 3.4 Membership will be forfeited by:
 - 3.4.1 Any IOC member elected as the result of a candidature as an active athlete, pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 of the bye-law



to the present rule, with immediate effect, as soon as he is no longer a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission.

- 3.4.2 Any IOC member elected as the result of a candidature linked to a function within one of the organizations cited in paragraphs 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 of the bye-law to the present rule, with immediate effect, as soon as he ceases to exercise such function.
- 3.5 Any IOC member elected as the result of a candidature proposed pursuant to paragraph 2.2.4 of the bye-law to the present rule is deemed to have resigned if he no longer has his domicile or his main centre of interests in the country mentioned in connection with his name in the list of members provided for in paragraph 5 of the present rule. In such cases, the loss of membership will be established by decision of the IOC Session.
- 3.6 Any IOC member is deemed to have resigned and thus forfeits his membership without any further declaration on his part, subject to force majeure, if he fails to attend Sessions or to take any active part in the work of the IOC for two years. In such cases, the loss of membership will be established by decision of the IOC Session.
- 3.7 An IOC member, Honorary President for life, honorary member or honour member may be expelled by decision of the IOC Session if he has betrayed his oath or if the Session considers that such member has neglected or knowingly jeopardized the interests of the IOC or has acted in a way which is unworthy of the IOC.
- 3.8 Decisions to expel an IOC member, Honorary President for life, honorary member or honour member are taken by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at the Session on the proposal of the Executive Board. The member concerned shall have the possibility to state his case and appear personally to such effect before the IOC Session.



Until the IOC Session decides on an expulsion proposal, the IOC Executive Board may provisionally deprive the member concerned of all or part of the rights, prerogatives and functions deriving from his membership.

A member, Honorary President for life, honorary member or honour member expelled from the IOC may not be a member of an NOC, an association of NOCs or an OCOG. Under no circumstances may he again become a member, Honorary President for life, honorary member or honour member of the IOC.

4 Honorary President for life - Honorary Members - Honour Members

- 4.1 Upon the proposal of the IOC Executive Board, the IOC may elect as Honorary President for life an IOC member who has rendered exceptional services as President of the IOC. The Honorary President for life is invited to attend the Olympic Games, Olympic Congresses, IOC Sessions and meetings of the IOC Executive Board, where a place is reserved for him beside the President of the IOC. The Honorary President for life has the right to offer his advice. The position of Honorary President for life does not include the right to vote.
- 4.2 Any IOC member who retires after serving the IOC for at least ten years and having rendered exceptional services to it may, upon the proposal of the IOC Executive Board, be elected as an honorary member of the IOC. Honorary members are invited to attend the Olympic Games, Olympic Congresses and IOC Sessions, where a place is reserved for each of them; they offer their advice when requested by the IOC President. They no longer have the right to vote.
- 4.3 Upon the proposal of the IOC Executive Board, the IOC may elect as honour members eminent personalities from outside the IOC who have rendered particularly outstanding services to it. Such honour members do not have the right to vote. They are invited to



attend the Olympic Games and Olympic Congresses, where a place is reserved for each of them. The IOC President may further invite them to attend other IOC events or meetings.

5 List of members

The IOC Executive Board keeps an up-to-date list of all IOC members, the Honorary President for life, honorary members and honour members. If an IOC member has been elected as the result of a candidature as an active athlete, pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 of the bye-law to the present rule, or if such candidature is linked to a function within one of the organizations cited in paragraphs 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 of the said bye-law, the list will state this.

Bye-law to Rule 20

1 Eligibility

1.1 Any natural person aged 18 or over is eligible for IOC membership, provided that: his candidature is submitted in accordance with paragraph 2.1 below; he fulfils the conditions laid down in paragraph 2.1; his candidature is examined by the Nominations Commission; and his election is proposed to the Session by the IOC Executive Board.

1.2 All IOC members are elected in conformity with the provisions of the present bye-law for a period of 8 years. They are all eligible for re-election, subject to paragraphs 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 of Rule 20.

2 Procedure for electing IOC members

2.1 Submission of candidatures for election to IOC membership



The following persons and organizations are entitled to submit one or more candidatures for election to IOC membership:

- *IOC members*: each IOC member is entitled to submit one or more candidatures for election to IOC membership.
- *IOC Athletes' Commission*: the IOC Athletes' Commission is entitled to submit one or more candidatures for election to IOC membership.
- *International Federations of Olympic Sports*: the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), the Association of the International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF) and all ASOIF- and AIOWF-member International Federations are entitled to submit one or more candidatures for election to IOC membership.
- *National Olympic Committees*: the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), the Pan-American Sports Organization (PASO) and the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC), together with any IOC-recognized NOC, are entitled to submit one or more candidatures for election to IOC membership.

To be admissible, all candidatures must be submitted in writing to the IOC President. In addition, they must in all cases fulfil the conditions laid down in paragraph 2.2 below.

2.2 Conditions to be fulfilled by candidatures

All persons or organizations referred to in paragraph 2.1 above that submit one or more candidatures for election to IOC membership, pursuant to paragraphs 2.2.1, 2.2.2 or 2.2.3 below, must clearly indicate, for each candidature, whether the candidate is being



proposed as an active athlete, pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 below, or if the candidature is linked to a function which the candidate exercises within one of the organizations cited in paragraphs 2.2.2 or 2.2.3 below.

2.2.1 If the candidate is proposed as an active athlete in the meaning of paragraph 1.1 of Rule 20, he must be an athlete member of the IOC Athletes' Commission. Such an athlete member must have been elected or appointed to the IOC Athletes' Commission not later than the edition of the Games of the Olympiad or the Olympic Winter Games following the Games in which the athlete last participated.

When submitting one or more candidatures, the IOC Athletes' Commission will ensure that an equitable balance is struck between athlete candidates from summer sports and athlete candidates from winter sports. The total number of members elected as a result of such candidatures within the IOC at any one time may not exceed 15.

2.2.2 If the candidature, as proposed, is linked to a function within an IF or association of IFs, or an organisation recognised by the IOC pursuant to paragraph 5 of Rule 4, the candidate must hold the post of president of an IF, the ASOIF, AIOWF, or other recognised organisation, or an executive or senior leadership position within one of these organizations. The total number of members elected as a result of such candidatures within the IOC at any one time may not exceed 15.

2.2.3 If the candidature, as proposed, is linked to a function within an NOC or world or continental association of NOCs, the candidate must hold the post of president of an NOC, the ANOC, ANOCA, EOC, OCA, PASO or ONOC, or an executive or senior leadership position within one of these organizations. There may be no more than one member per



country elected on the basis of such candidatures. The total number of members elected as a result of such candidatures within the IOC at any one time may not exceed 15.

- 2.2.4 Any other candidature proposal must concern a personality who is a national of a country in which he has his domicile or his main centre of interests and in which there is an NOC recognized by the IOC. No more than one member per country may be elected on the basis of such candidatures. The total number of members thus elected within the IOC at any one time may not exceed 70.

2.3 Nominations Commission

- 2.3.1 A Nominations Commission will be constituted composed of seven members, three of them chosen by the IOC Ethics Commission, three by the IOC Session and one by the IOC Athletes' Commission. The members of the Nominations Commission are elected for four years; they may be re-elected.

- 2.3.2 The task of the Nominations Commission is to examine each candidature in accordance with paragraph 2.4.2 below and establish for the IOC Executive Board a written report on each candidature.

- 2.3.3 The Nominations Commission is self-organized; it appoints its chairman and a secretary; the latter may be chosen from outside the members of the Commission.

2.4 Examination of candidatures by the Nominations Commission

- 2.4.1 Upon receiving a candidature, the IOC President forwards this to the chairman of the Nominations Commission, who immediately orders a file to be opened. Save in exceptional



circumstances, any file received by the chairman of the Nominations Commission no later than three months before the date of the opening of the next IOC Session must be dealt with, so that the Executive Board can submit a proposal to the aforementioned Session in good time.

- 2.4.2 Upon receiving a candidature forwarded by the IOC President, the chairman of the Nominations Commission will immediately inform his fellow Commission members accordingly and consult them; the Nominations Commission will acquire all useful information on the candidate, in particular on his professional and material situation, and on his career and sports activities; the Commission may ask the candidate to provide references from personalities from whom it may obtain information; the Commission may invite the candidate for an interview.
- 2.4.3 The Commission will verify the origin of all candidatures and, if necessary, the candidate's status as an active athlete or the function to which the candidature is linked.
- 2.4.4 When it deems that it has obtained all the necessary details, the Nominations Commission produces a written report for the Executive Board in which it states its reasons for believing whether or not a candidate possesses the qualities required for election as an IOC member. In addition, if the candidate is as an active athlete pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 above, or if candidature is linked to a function within one of the organizations cited in paragraphs 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 above, the Nominations Commission indicates this in its report.

2.5 Procedure before the IOC Executive Board

- 2.5.1 The IOC Executive Board alone is competent to propose a candidature to the Session.



2.5.2 At its meeting after receiving a report from the Nominations Commission, the Executive Board, after taking cognizance of the contents of the said report, will decide whether or not to propose the candidate for election as an IOC member. The Executive Board may hear the candidate(s) if it deems it necessary to do so. When making an election proposal, the Executive Board submits to the Session, no later than 30 days before the start of the Session, a written proposal to which is attached the report by the Nominations Commission.

The Executive Board mentions the origin of each candidature and, if applicable, whether it is a candidature as an active athlete, pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 above, or if the candidature is linked to a function within one of the organizations cited in paragraphs 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 above. The Executive Board may propose several candidatures for the election of a single member.

2.5.3 The procedure for examining candidatures proposed as active athletes pursuant to paragraph 2.2.1 above may be accelerated and, in such cases, the deadlines provided in paragraphs 2.4.1 and 2.5.2 above may be waived inasmuch as is necessary to allow the election, as IOC members, of athletes newly elected to the IOC Athletes' Commission.

2.6 Procedure before the IOC Session

2.6.1 The IOC Session alone is competent to elect any IOC member.

2.6.2 All candidatures for election to IOC membership proposed by the Executive Board are submitted to a vote by the Session; votes are taken by secret ballot; decisions are taken by a majority of the votes cast.



2.6.3 The chairman of the Nominations Commission may communicate to the Session the opinion of the said Commission.

2.7 Re-election procedure

The procedure for re-electing all IOC members eligible for such re-election, for an eight-year term, takes place in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 above; it may be accelerated and simplified.

2.8 Transitional provisions

The established rights of IOC members whose election has taken effect before the date of the opening of the 110th IOC Session (11th December 1999) are maintained as follows:

2.8.1 Any IOC member whose election has taken effect before the date of the opening of the 110th IOC Session (11th December 1999) must retire by the end of the calendar year during which he reaches the age of 80, unless he was elected before 1966. If a member reaches this age limit during his term as IOC President, Vice-President or Executive Board member, the retirement will take effect at the end of the next IOC Session.

2.8.2 In addition, IOC members whose election has taken effect before the date of the opening of the 110th IOC Session (11th December 1999) who have not reached the age limit in accordance with paragraph 2.8.1 above will be subject to re-election by the IOC Session, one third in 2007, one third in 2008 and one third in 2009, under the conditions laid down in paragraph 2.6 of the present bye-law. Lots will be drawn during the 111th IOC Session to decide which members will be thus divided.



- 2.8.3 On the occasion of the Games of the Olympiad in 2000, eight athletes shall be elected to the IOC Athletes' Commission. The four members elected with the highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of eight years and the four members with the next highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of four years.
- 2.8.4 On the occasion of the Olympic Winter Games in 2002, four athletes shall be elected to the IOC Athletes' Commission.
- The two members elected with the highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of eight years and the two members with the next highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of four years.
- 2.8.5 In the case of members of the IOC Athletes' Commission elected as IOC members upon the occasion of the 110th IOC Session, their terms shall end immediately following the closing ceremony of the Games of the Olympiad or Olympic Winter Games four years after they were elected as members of the IOC Athletes' Commission.
- 2.8.6 The provisions of paragraphs 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5.2 and 2.6.2 above apply to the election of active athletes only as of 1st January 2000.
- 2.8.7 Until 31st December 2007, the total number of IOC members may reach 130.

21 Organization

The organs of the IOC are:

- 1 the Session,



- 2 the Executive Board,
- 3 the President.
- 4 In the event of doubt in determining the competence of one or the other of the organs of the IOC, the expression IOC used with no other specification or addition shall be understood as meaning the “Session”, subject to such delegation of powers which may have been made in favour of the Executive Board.

22 Sessions

- 1 A general meeting of the members of the IOC, called a Session, is held at least once a year. An extraordinary Session is convened upon the initiative of the President or upon the written request of at least one third of the members.
- 2 The place at which the Session is held is determined by the IOC, and that at which an extraordinary Session is held is determined by the President. The notices of the Sessions or extraordinary Sessions are sent out by the President at least one month before the meeting, together with an agenda.
- 3 The organization of the Session, including all financial matters relating thereto, is governed by the “Guide to Organizing Meetings” and other communications issued to that effect by the IOC Executive Board.
- 4 The Session is the supreme organ of the IOC. It adopts, modifies and interprets the Olympic Charter. Its decisions are final. Upon proposal of the Executive Board, it elects the members of the IOC.
- 5 The Session may delegate powers to the Executive Board.



23 Executive Board

1 Composition

The Executive Board consists of the President, four Vice-Presidents and ten other members. The choice of these members will reflect the composition of the Session. At each election, the Session shall see to it that the above-mentioned principle is respected.

2 Election

All the members of the Executive Board are elected by the Session, in a secret ballot, by a majority of the votes cast.

3 Terms of office and Renewals

3.1 The duration of the presidential term of office and its renewal are set out in Rule 24 hereafter.

3.2 The duration of the terms of office of the Vice-Presidents and the ten other members of the Executive Board is four years. A member may serve for a maximum of two successive terms, on the Executive Board, regardless of the capacity in which he has been elected. The duration of any period served as a replacement member, pursuant to paragraph 4.2 below, is not taken into consideration.

3.3 In the case of a member completing two successive terms of office pursuant to paragraph 3.2 above, he may be elected as member of the Executive Board after a minimum period of two years. This does not apply to the election for the office of President, for which there is no waiting period.

3.4 All members of the Executive Board begin their terms of office and renewals at the end of the Session which elected them; however, as



soon as they are elected, they may participate in a consultative capacity at Executive Board meetings. Their terms of office conclude at the end of the last ordinary Session held during the year in which they expire.

- 3.5 For purposes of this Rule, a “year” means the period between two successive ordinary Sessions.

4 Vacancies

- 4.1 The case of vacancy of the President’s office is addressed in Rule 24 hereafter.
- 4.2 In case of vacancy of any other office, the IOC elects a replacement member at its following Session. Such member completes the term of office of the member he is replacing. He is then immediately eligible for any office on the Executive Board.

5 Powers and Duties

The Executive Board manages the affairs of the IOC. In particular, it performs the following duties:

- 5.1 it attends to the observance of the Olympic Charter;
- 5.2 it assumes the ultimate responsibility for the administration of the IOC;
- 5.3 it approves the IOC’s internal organization, its organization chart and all internal regulations relating to its organization;
- 5.4 it is responsible for the management of the IOC’s finances and prepares an annual report;
- 5.5 it presents a report to the Session on any proposed change of rule or bye-law;



- 5.6 it submits to the IOC Session the names of the persons whom it recommends for election to the IOC;
- 5.7 it supervises the procedure for accepting and selecting candidatures to organize the Olympic Games.
- 5.8 it creates and attributes the honorary distinctions of the IOC;
- 5.9 it establishes the agenda for the IOC Sessions;
- 5.10 upon proposal from the President, it appoints the Director General and Secretary General and dismisses them. The President decides on their promotion, sanctions and emoluments;
- 5.11 it keeps the records of the IOC;
- 5.12 it enacts, in the form it deems most appropriate, (codes, rulings, norms, guidelines, guides, instructions) all regulations necessary to ensure the proper implementation of the Olympic Charter and the organization of the Olympic Games;
- 5.13 it performs all other duties assigned to it by the Session.

The Executive Board meets when convened by the President on the latter's initiative or at the request of the majority of its members.

24 The President

- 1 The IOC elects, by secret ballot, a President from among its members, for a term of eight years, renewable once for four years. Candidatures are declared three months before the date of the opening of the Session at which the election is due to take place.
- 2 Except as provided in paragraph 3 below, the President is elected by the Session held during the second year of the Olympiad.



- 3 If the President is unable to fulfil the duties of his office, the Vice-President, who is senior in such office, replaces him until a new President is elected at the next IOC Session. This new President then completes the term of office of the President whom he replaces. The President is then reeligible in accordance with the first sentence of paragraph 1 above.
- 4 The President presides over all activities of the IOC and represents it permanently.
- 5 The President sets up permanent or ad hoc commissions and working groups whenever it appears necessary, establishes their terms of reference and designates their members. The President decides their dissolution once he considers that they have fulfilled their mandates. No meeting of such commissions or working groups may be held without the prior agreement of the President of the IOC. The President is a member ex officio of all commissions and working groups and shall have precedence whenever he attends one of their meetings.

Athletes' Commission

An Athletes' Commission shall be constituted, the majority of whose members shall be athletes elected by athletes participating in the Olympic Games. The election shall be held on the occasion of the Games of the Olympiad and the Olympic Winter Games in accordance with regulations adopted by the IOC Executive Board, in consultation with the Athletes' Commission, and communicated to the IFs and NOCs one year prior to the Olympic Games at which such election is to be held.

25 IOC Ethics Commission Measures and Sanctions

- 1 An IOC Ethics Commission is charged with developing and updating a framework of ethical principles, including a Code of Ethics, based upon the values and principles enshrined in the Olympic Charter. In addition, it



investigates complaints raised in relation to the non-respect of such ethical principles, including breaches of the Code of Ethics, and if necessary proposes sanctions to the Executive Board.

- 2 The measures or sanctions which may be taken by the Session, the Executive Board or the disciplinary commission referred to below are:

2.1 In the context of the Olympic Movement:

2.1.1 with regard to IOC members, Honorary President for life, honorary members and honour members:

- a) a reprimand, pronounced by the Executive Board;
- b) suspension, for a specific period, pronounced by the Executive Board. The suspension may be extended to all or part of the rights, prerogatives and functions deriving from the membership of the person concerned.

Sanctions may be imposed on IOC members, Honorary President for life, honorary members or honour members who, by their conduct, jeopardize the interests of the IOC.

The measures and sanctions provided above may be combined.

By decision of the Executive Board, the member, Honorary President for life, honorary member or honour member concerned may, throughout the disciplinary inquiry conducted into his case, be deprived of all or part of the rights, prerogatives and functions deriving from his membership.

The expulsion of an IOC member, Honorary President for life, honorary member or honour member is governed by Rules 20.3.7 and 20.3.8.



- 2.1.2 with regard to IFs:
 - a) withdrawal from the programme of the Olympic Games of:
 - a sport (Session);
 - a discipline (Executive Board);
 - an event (Executive Board);
 - b) withdrawal of recognition (Session);
- 2.1.3 with regard to associations of IFs: withdrawal of recognition (Session);
- 2.1.4 with regard to NOCs:
 - a) withdrawal of the right to enter competitors in the Olympic Games (Executive Board);
 - b) suspension (Executive Board); in such event, the Executive Board determines in each case the consequences for the NOC concerned and its athletes;
 - c) provisional or permanent withdrawal of recognition (Session); in the case of permanent withdrawal of recognition, the NOC forfeits all rights conferred on it in accordance with the Olympic Charter;
 - d) withdrawal of the right to organize a Session or an Olympic Congress (Session);
- 2.1.5 with regard to associations of NOCs: withdrawal of recognition (Session);
- 2.1.6 with regard to a host city, an OCOG or an NOC: withdrawal of the right to organize the Olympic Games (Session).



- 2.2 In the context of the Olympic Games:
- 2.2.1 with regard to individual competitors and teams: temporary or permanent ineligibility or exclusion from the Olympic Games, disqualification or withdrawal of accreditation; in the case of disqualification or exclusion, the medals and diplomas obtained in relation to the applicable infringement of the Olympic Charter shall be returned to the IOC. In addition, at the discretion of the IOC Executive Board, a competitor or a team may lose the benefit of any ranking obtained in relation to other events at the Olympic Games at which he or it was disqualified or excluded; in such case the medals and diplomas won by him or it shall be returned to the IOC (Executive Board);
 - 2.2.2 with regard to officials, managers and other members of any delegation as well as referees and members of the jury: temporary or permanent ineligibility or exclusion from the Olympic Games (Executive Board);
 - 2.2.3 with regard to all other accredited persons: withdrawal of accreditation (Executive Board).
 - 2.2.4 The IOC Executive Board may delegate its powers to a disciplinary commission.
 - 2.2.5 No decision taken in the context of the Olympic Games can be challenged after a period of three years from the day of the closing ceremony of such Games.
- 3 Before applying any measure or sanction, the competent IOC organ may issue a warning.
- 4 Any individual, team or any other individual or legal entity has the right to be heard by the IOC organ competent to apply a measure or sanction



to such individual, team or legal entity. The right to be heard in the sense of this provision includes the right to be acquainted with the charges and the right to appear personally or to submit a defence in writing.

- 5 Any measure or sanction decided by the Session, the Executive Board or the disciplinary commission referred to above shall be notified in writing to the party concerned.
- 6 All measures or sanctions shall be effective forthwith unless the competent organ decides otherwise.

26 Procedures

1 Ordinary Procedure

- 1.1 The President, or, in his absence, the attending Vice-President who is senior in such office, chairs the Sessions and the meetings of the Executive Board. In the absence of the President and the Vice-Presidents, the attending member of the Executive Board who is senior in such office acts as Chairman.
- 1.2 The quorum required for a Session is half the total membership of the IOC, plus one. The quorum required for a meeting of the Executive Board is eight members.
- 1.3 Decisions are taken by a majority of the votes cast; however, a majority of two-thirds of the IOC members attending the Session (the said majority consisting of at least thirty members) is required for any modification of the Fundamental Principles and the Rules. The modified Rules and Bye-laws come into effect immediately, unless otherwise decided by the Session.

A matter which does not appear on the agenda of a Session may be discussed if one third of the members so request or if the Chairman authorizes it.



- 1.4 Each member has one vote. Abstentions and blank or spoiled votes are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority. Voting by proxy is not allowed. Voting is held by secret ballot if the Chairman so decides or upon the request of at least a quarter of the members present. In the event of a tie, the Chairman of the meeting shall decide.
- 1.5 The provisions of paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4 above are applicable to elections, whether of persons or of host cities. However, when there are (or remain) only two candidates, the candidate obtaining the greater number of votes is declared elected.
- 1.6 An IOC member must refrain from taking part in a vote in the following circumstances:
- a) when the vote concerns an Olympic Games host city election in which a city in the country of which he is a national is a candidate;
 - b) when the vote concerns the selection of a venue for a Session, an Olympic Congress or any other meeting or event for which a city or any other public authority of the country of which he is a national is a candidate;
 - c) when the vote concerns the election to membership of the IOC of a candidate who is a national of the same country as the member;
 - d) when the vote concerns the election, to any office on the Executive Board, or to any other office, of a candidate who is a national of the same country as the member;
 - e) when the vote concerns any other matter relating to the country of which he is a national or the NOC of that country.

In case of doubt, the chairman shall decide whether or not the member concerned may take part in a vote.



- 1.7 The President of the IOC establishes the regulations for all elections.
 - 1.8 Any matter of procedure concerning IOC Sessions and not covered by the Olympic Charter is determined by the Chairman of the meeting.
 - 1.9 The Chairman declares the Session closed.
- 2 Procedure in case of urgency
- 2.1 In case of urgency, the President or the Executive Board may submit a resolution to a vote by correspondence of the members of the IOC, to whom a deadline shall be set for their determination. If the total number of written answers received within such deadline is not less than half the total membership plus one, and if the number of answers received in favour of the proposed resolution reaches the requisite majority, the resolution is carried. The result must immediately be communicated in writing to the members of the IOC. For the calculation of the required majority, if there is any doubt as to the formal validity - particularly by reason of a delay in the mail or of other particular circumstances - or as to the material validity of one or several answers, the President decides in last resort upon the validity and the taking into account of such answers.
 - 2.2 The President of the IOC may take action or a decision when circumstances prevent it from being taken by the Session or the Executive Board. Such action or decision must be submitted for ratification by the competent organ.
 - 2.3 Resolutions, decisions or actions taken pursuant to this procedure in case of urgency cannot apply to modifications of the Olympic Charter.



27 Languages

- 1 The official languages of the IOC are French and English.
- 2 At all IOC Sessions, simultaneous interpretation into German, Spanish, Russian and Arabic must also be provided.
- 3 In the case of divergence between the French and English texts of the Olympic Charter and all other IOC documents, the French text shall prevail unless expressly provided otherwise in writing.

28 IOC Resources

- 1 The IOC may accept gifts and bequests and seek all other resources enabling it to fulfil its tasks. It collects revenues from the exploitation of rights, including television rights, as well as from the celebration of the Olympic Games.
- 2 The IOC may grant part of the revenues derived from the exploitation of television rights to the IFs, NOCs including Olympic Solidarity, and the OCOGs.

Chapter 3

The International Federations (IFs)

29 Recognition of the IFs

In order to promote the Olympic Movement, the IOC may recognize as IFs international non-governmental organizations administering one or several sports at world level and encompassing organizations administering such sports at national level. In order to be recognized, these organizations must adopt and implement the World Anti-Doping Code. The recognition of IFs newly recognized by the IOC shall be provisional for a period of two years or any other period fixed by the IOC Executive Board. At the end of such period, the recognition shall automatically lapse in the absence of definitive confirmation given in writing by the IOC. As far as the role of the IFs within the Olympic Movement is concerned, their statutes, practice and activities must be in conformity with the Olympic Charter. Subject to the foregoing, each IF maintains its independence and autonomy in the administration of its sport.

30 Role of the IFs

- 1 The role of the IFs is to:
 - 1.1 establish and enforce, in accordance with the Olympic spirit, the rules concerning the practice of their respective sports and to ensure their application;
 - 1.2 ensure the development of their sports throughout the world;
 - 1.3 contribute to the achievement of the goals set out in the Olympic Charter, in particular by way of the spread of Olympism and Olympic education;
 - 1.4 establish their criteria of eligibility to the competitions of the Olympic Games in conformity with the Olympic Charter, and to submit these to the IOC for approval;



- 1.5 assume the responsibility for the technical control and direction of their sports at the Olympic Games and at the Games under the patronage of the IOC;
 - 1.6 provide technical assistance in the practical implementation of the Olympic Solidarity programme.
- 2 In addition, the IFs may:
- 2.1 formulate proposals addressed to the IOC concerning the Olympic Charter and the Olympic Movement in general, including the organizing and holding of the Olympic Games;
 - 2.2 give their opinions concerning the candidatures for organizing the Olympic Games, particularly concerning the technical capabilities of the candidate cities;
 - 2.3 collaborate in the preparation of the Olympic Congresses;
 - 2.4 participate, on request from the IOC, in the activities of the IOC commissions.

Chapter 4

The National Olympic Committees (NOCs)

31 Mission and Role of the NOCs*

- 1 The mission of the NOCs is to develop and protect the Olympic Movement in their respective countries, in accordance with the Olympic Charter.
- 2 The NOCs:
 - 2.1 propagate the fundamental principles of Olympism at national level within the framework of sports activity and otherwise contribute, among other things, to the diffusion of Olympism in the teaching programmes of physical education and sport in schools and university establishments. They see to the creation of institutions which devote themselves to Olympic education. In particular, they concern themselves with the establishment and activities of National Olympic Academies, Olympic Museums and cultural programmes related to the Olympic Movement;
 - 2.2 ensure the observance of the Olympic Charter in their countries;
 - 2.3 encourage the development of high performance sport as well as sport for all;
 - 2.4 help in the training of sports administrators by organizing courses and ensure that such courses contribute to the propagation of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism;
 - 2.5 commit themselves to taking action against any form of discrimination and violence in sport;
 - 2.6 shall fight against the use of substances and procedures prohibited by the IOC or the IFs, in particular by approaching the competent authorities of their country so that all medical controls may be performed in optimum conditions.



- 3 The NOCs have the exclusive powers for the representation of their respective countries at the Olympic Games and at the regional, continental or world multi-sports competitions patronized by the IOC. In addition, each NOC is obliged to participate in the Games of the Olympiad by sending athletes.
- 4 The NOCs have the authority to designate the city which may apply to organize Olympic Games in their respective countries.
- 5 The NOCs must work to maintain harmonious and cooperative relations with appropriate governmental bodies; they must also contribute effectively to the establishment of programmes for the promotion of sport at all levels. As sport contributes to education, health, the economy and social order, it is desirable for the National Olympic Committees to enjoy the support of the public authorities in achieving their objectives. Nevertheless, the NOCs shall preserve their autonomy and resist all pressures of any kind, including those of a political, religious or economic nature, that may prevent them from complying with the Olympic Charter.
- 6 NOCs have the right to:
 - 6.1 formulate proposals addressed to the IOC concerning the Olympic Charter and the Olympic Movement in general, including the organizing and the holding of the Olympic Games;
 - 6.2 give their opinions concerning the candidatures for the organization of the Olympic Games;
 - 6.3 collaborate in the preparation of the Olympic Congresses;
 - 6.4 participate, on request from the IOC, in the activities of the IOC commissions.
- 7 The IOC helps the NOCs fulfil their mission through its various departments and Olympic Solidarity.



- 8 In order to fulfil their mission, the NOCs may cooperate with governmental or non-governmental bodies. However, they must never associate themselves with any activity which would be in contradiction with the Olympic Charter.
- 9 Apart from the measures and sanctions provided in case of infringement of the Olympic Charter, the IOC may, after having heard an NOC, suspend it or withdraw its recognition from it:
 - 9.1 if the activity of such NOC is hampered by the effect of legal provisions or regulations in force in the country concerned or by acts of other entities within such country, whether sporting or otherwise;
 - 9.2 if the making or expression of the will of the national federations or other entities belonging to such NOC or represented within it is hampered by the effect of legal provisions or regulations in force in the country concerned or by acts of other entities within such country, whether sporting or otherwise.

32 Composition of the NOCs*

- 1 Whatever their composition, NOCs must include:
 - 1.1 the IOC members in their country, if any. Such members have the right to vote in the general assemblies of the NOC. In addition, the IOC members in their country, if any, referred to in paragraphs 2.2.1 and 2.2.4 of the bye-law to Rule 20 are ex officio members of the NOC executive body, within which they have the right to vote;
 - 1.2 all national federations affiliated to the IFs governing sports included in the programme of the Olympic Games or the representatives designated by them (with a minimum of five such national federations). Proof must be adduced that these national federations exercise a specific and real sports activity in their



country and internationally, in particular by organizing and participating in competitions and implementing training programmes for athletes. An NOC shall not recognize more than one national federation for each sport governed by such IF. Furthermore, such national federations or the representatives chosen by them must constitute the voting majority of the NOC and of its executive organ;

- 1.3 active athletes or retired athletes having taken part in the Olympic Games; however, the latter must retire from their posts at the latest by the end of the third Olympiad after the last Olympic Games in which they took part.
- 2 The NOCs may include as members:
 - 2.1 national federations affiliated to IFs recognized by the IOC, the sports of which are not included in the programme of the Olympic Games;
 - 2.2 multi-sports groups and other sports-oriented organizations or their representatives, as well as nationals of the country liable to reinforce the effectiveness of the NOC or who have rendered distinguished services to the cause of sport and Olympism.
- 3 When dealing with questions relating to the Olympic Games, only the votes cast by the executive organ of the NOC and by the national federations affiliated to IFs governing sports included in the programme of the Olympic Games are taken into consideration.
- 4 Governments or other public authorities shall not designate any members of an NOC. However, an NOC may decide, at its discretion, to elect as members representatives of such authorities.
- 5 Before existing as an NOC and acquiring the right to be designated as such, an organization must be recognized by the IOC. This recognition can be granted only to an organization, the jurisdiction of which coincides with the limits of the country in which it is established and has its headquarters.



Bye-law to Rule 31 et 32

- 1
 - 1.1 In order to be recognized by the IOC, an applicant NOC must fulfil all conditions prescribed in Rule 32. In such a case, the applicant NOC must submit to the IOC for approval two copies, in French or English, of its statutes. The applicant NOC must obtain from each IF to which a member national federation of the applicant NOC is affiliated an attestation certifying to the IOC that such national federation is a member in good standing of the IF concerned.
 - 1.2 Each applicant NOC, the statutes of which have been approved by the IOC, shall send a copy thereof to the IOC, together with a request for recognition and a list of the members of its executive organ, all three documents being certified as true copies by its President and its Secretary General.
- 2 The statutes of each NOC shall, at all times, be in accordance with the Olympic Charter and refer expressly to the latter. If there is any doubt as to the implication or the interpretation of the statutes of an NOC, or if there is a contradiction between such statutes and the Olympic Charter, the latter takes precedence.
- 3 Any subsequent change to the statutes as originally approved by the IOC shall also be communicated to the latter with a request for approval. Copies of the minutes of the meetings at which elections or replacement of members have taken place shall be sent to the IOC. All documents must be certified as true copies by the President and the Secretary General of the NOC.
- 4 The General Assembly of an NOC shall be held at least once a year.
- 5 The members of the executive organ of an NOC shall be renewed at least every four years, during a meeting of the General Assembly the agenda of which includes such renewal.



- 6 The members of the NOCs, with the exception of those who devote themselves to the administration of sport, shall accept no salary or bonus of any kind in consideration for the performance of their functions. They may, however, be reimbursed for their travelling and accommodation costs and other justified expenses incurred in the carrying out of their functions.
- 7 NOCs which cease temporarily or permanently to be recognized by the IOC thereupon lose all rights conferred upon them by the IOC, including, but not limited to, the rights:
 - 7.1 to call or refer to themselves as “National Olympic Committee”;
 - 7.2 to use their Olympic emblems;
 - 7.3 to benefit from the activity of Olympic Solidarity;
 - 7.4 to take part in activities led or patronized by the IOC (including regional Games);
 - 7.5 to send competitors, team officials and other team personnel to the Olympic Games;
 - 7.6 to belong to any association of NOCs.
- 8 The NOCs perform the following tasks:
 - 8.1 They constitute, organize and lead their respective delegations at the Olympic Games and at the regional, continental or world multi-sports competitions patronized by the IOC. They decide upon the entry of athletes proposed by their respective national federations. Such selection shall be based not only on the sports performance of an athlete but also on his ability to serve as an example to the sporting youth of his country. The NOCs must ensure that the entries proposed by the national federations comply in all respects with the provisions of the Olympic Charter.



- 8.2 They provide for the equipment, transportation and accommodation of the members of their delegations. They contract for the latter's benefit adequate insurance covering the risks of death, disability, illness, medical and pharmaceutical expenses and third party liability. They are responsible for the behaviour of the members of their delegations.
- 8.3 They have the sole and exclusive authority to prescribe and determine the clothing and uniforms to be worn, and the equipment to be used, by the members of their delegations on the occasion of the Olympic Games and in connection with all sports competitions and ceremonies related thereto.

This exclusive authority does not extend to specialized equipment used by athletes of their delegations during the actual sports competitions. For the purposes of this rule, specialized equipment shall be limited to such equipment acknowledged by the NOC concerned as having a material effect on the performance of athletes, due to the specialized characteristics of the equipment. Any publicity in respect of any such specialized equipment must be submitted to the NOC concerned for approval if there is any reference, express or implied, to the Olympic Games.

- 9 It is recommended that NOCs:
 - 9.1 regularly organize (if possible each year) an Olympic Day or Week intended to promote the Olympic Movement;
 - 9.2 include in their activities the promotion of culture and arts in the fields of sport and Olympism;
 - 9.3 participate in the programmes of Olympic Solidarity;
 - 9.4 seek sources of financing which will enable them to maintain their autonomy in all respects. The collection of funds must, however,



be accomplished in accordance with the Olympic Charter and in such a manner that the dignity and independence of the NOC are not harmed.

33 The National Federations

To be recognized by an NOC and accepted as a member of such NOC, a national federation must exercise a specific and real sports activity, be affiliated to an IF recognized by the IOC and conduct its activities in compliance with both the Olympic Charter and the rules of its IF.

34 Country and Name of an NOC

- 1 In the Olympic Charter, the expression “country” means an independent State recognized by the international community.
- 2 The name of an NOC must reflect the territorial extent and tradition of its country and must be approved by the IOC.

35 Flag, Emblem and Anthem

The flag, the emblem and the anthem adopted by an NOC for use in relation to its activities, including the Olympic Games, must be approved by the IOC Executive Board.

Chapter 5

The Olympic Games

I ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

36 Celebration of the Olympic Games*

- 1 The Games of the Olympiad are held during the first year of the Olympiad which they celebrate.
- 2 Beginning in 1994, the year of the XVII Olympic Winter Games, the Olympic Winter Games are held during the second calendar year following that during which an Olympiad begins.
- 3 The honour of hosting the Olympic Games is entrusted by the IOC to a city, which is designated as the host city of the Olympic Games.
- 4 The time of year at which the Olympic Games are to be held must be proposed by the candidate cities to the IOC Executive Board for approval prior to the election of the host city.
- 5 The non-celebration of the Olympic Games during the year in which they should be held entails the cancellation of the rights of the host city.

Bye-law to Rule 36

The duration of the competitions of the Games of the Olympiad and of the Olympic Winter Games shall not exceed sixteen days. If no competition is scheduled for Sundays or public holidays, the duration of the Olympic Games may, with the approval of the IOC Executive Board, be extended accordingly.



37 Election of the host city*

- 1 The election of any host city is the prerogative of the IOC alone.
- 2 Only a city the candidature of which is approved by the NOC of its country can apply for the organization of the Olympic Games. The application to organize the Olympic Games must be made to the IOC by the official authority of the city concerned with the approval of the NOC. The official authority of the city and the NOC must guarantee that the Olympic Games will be organized to the satisfaction of and under the conditions required by the IOC. Should there be several candidate cities in one country for the organization of the same Olympic Games, it rests with the NOC to decide which one will be proposed for election.
- 3 Cities whose candidatures have been approved by their NOCs are subject to the rules foreseen in the Bye-Law to this Rule.
- 4 The organization of the Olympic Games shall not be entrusted to a city unless the latter has submitted to the IOC a document drawn up by the Government of the country under consideration, in which the said Government guarantees to the IOC that the country will respect the Olympic Charter.
- 5 Any city applying for the organization of the Olympic Games must undertake in writing to respect the conditions prescribed for candidate cities issued by the IOC Executive Board, as well as the technical norms laid down by the IF of each sport included in the programme of the Olympic Games. The IOC Executive Board shall determine the procedure to be followed by the candidate cities.
- 6 Any candidate city shall offer such financial guarantees as considered satisfactory by the IOC Executive Board. Such guarantees may be



given by the city itself, local, regional or national public collectivities, the State or other third parties. At least six months before the start of the IOC Session at which such Olympic Games will be awarded, the IOC shall make known the nature, form and exact contents of the guarantees required.

- 7 The election relating to the designation of the host city takes place in a country having no candidate city for the organization of such Olympic Games, after due consideration of the report by the evaluation commission for candidate cities. Save in exceptional circumstances, such election must take place seven years before the holding of the Olympic Games.
- 8 The IOC enters into a written agreement with the host city and the NOC of its country, which agreement specifies in detail the obligations incumbent upon them. Such agreement is signed immediately upon the election of the host city.

Bye-law to Rule 37

- 1 From the day the application for candidature is submitted to the IOC, the NOC shall supervise and shall be jointly responsible for the actions and conduct of its city in relation to the city's candidature to host the Olympic Games.
- 2 All cities applying to become candidate cities to host the Olympic Games shall be subject to a candidature acceptance procedure, conducted under the authority of the IOC Executive Board, which shall determine the details of such procedure. The IOC Executive Board shall determine which cities shall be accepted as candidate cities.



- 3 The candidatures of cities applying to host the Olympic Games shall be examined by an evaluation commission for candidate cities.
- 4 Two evaluation commissions for candidate cities are appointed by the IOC President. They are composed of, inter alia:
 - for the Games of the Olympiad, three members representing the IFs, three members representing the NOCs, four IOC members, one member proposed by the Athletes' Commission, one member representing the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) as well as specialists whose advice may be helpful; and
 - for the Olympic Winter Games, two members representing the IFs, two members representing the NOCs, three IOC members, one member proposed by the Athletes' Commission, one member representing the IPC as well as specialists whose advice may be helpful.

The Chairman of each evaluation commission for candidate cities shall be one of the IOC members. These commissions shall study the candidatures of all candidate cities, inspect the sites and submit a written report on all candidatures to the IOC not later than two months before the opening date of the Session which shall elect the host city of the Olympic Games.

No member of such commissions may be a national of a country which has a candidate city for such Olympic Games.

- 5 The IOC Executive Board, based upon the report of such evaluation commission, shall draw up the list of candidate cities to be submitted to the IOC Session for election.

38 Site of the Olympic Games

- 1 All sports must take place in the host city of the Olympic Games, unless it obtains from the IOC the right to organize certain events in other cities or in sites situated in the same country. Any request to such effect must



be presented in writing to the IOC at the latest prior to the visit of the evaluation commission for candidate cities. The opening and closing ceremonies must be organized in the host city itself.

- 2 For the Olympic Winter Games, when for geographical or topographical reasons it is impossible to organize certain events or disciplines of a sport in the country of the host city, the IOC may, on an exceptional basis, authorize the holding of these in a bordering country.
- 3 The NOC, OCOG and host city shall ensure that no other important meeting or event, national or international, takes place in the host city itself, or its neighbourhood or in the other competition sites, during the Olympic Games or during the preceding or following week, without the consent of the IOC Executive Board.

39 Organizing Committee

- 1 The organization 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 form, for that purpose, an Organizing Committee (OCOG) which, from the time it is constituted, communicates directly with the IOC, from which it receives instructions.
- 2 The OCOG shall have the status of a legal person.
- 3 The executive body of the OCOG shall include:
 - the IOC member or members in the country;
 - the President and Secretary General of the NOC;
 - at least one member representing, and designated by, the host city.

The executive body may also include representatives of the public authorities and other leading figures.



- 4 From the time of its constitution to the end of its liquidation, the OCOG shall conduct all its activities in accordance with the Olympic Charter, with the contract entered into between the IOC, the NOC and the host city and with the instructions of the IOC Executive Board.
- 5 In the event of a violation of the prescribed rules or breach of the commitments entered into, the IOC is entitled to withdraw - at any time and with immediate effect - the organization of the Olympic Games from the host city, the OCOG and the NOC without prejudice to compensation for the damage thereby caused to the IOC.

40 Liabilities

The NOC, the OCOG and the host city are jointly and severally liable for all commitments entered into individually or collectively concerning the organization and staging of the Olympic Games, excluding the financial responsibility for the organization and staging of such Games, which shall be entirely assumed jointly and severally by the host city and the OCOG, without prejudice to any liability of any other party, particularly as may result from any guarantee given pursuant to Rule 37, paragraph 6. The IOC shall have no financial responsibility whatsoever in respect thereof.

41 Liaison between the NOCs and the OCOG*

1 Attachés

- 1.1 In order to facilitate co-operation between the OCOG and the NOCs, an attaché may be appointed by each NOC after consultation with the OCOG.
- 1.2 The attaché acts as an intermediary between the OCOG and his NOC and must be in permanent contact with both such committees in order to assist in solving travel, accommodation and other problems.



1.3 During the period of the Olympic Games, the attaché must be accredited as a member of his NOC delegation in addition to the quota. The attaché need not be a national of the host country.

2 Chefs de Mission

2.1 During the period of the Olympic Games, the competitors, officials and other team personnel of an NOC are placed under the responsibility of a chef de mission, appointed by his NOC and whose task - in addition to any other functions assigned to him by his NOC - is to liaise with the IOC, the IFs and the OCOG.

2.2 The chef de mission stays in the Olympic Village and has access to the medical, training and competition facilities, as well as to the media centres and the Olympic Family hotel.

3 Coordination Commission

3.1 In order to improve the organization of the Olympic Games and cooperation amongst the IOC, the OCOG, the IFs and the NOC's, the President shall, as soon as practicable following the designation of the host city to organize the Olympic Games, establish a Coordination Commission to manage and implement the working relationship between such parties. Such commission, which shall include representatives of the IOC, the IFs, the NOCs and an athlete representative, shall monitor the progress of the OCOG, review and examine all major portfolios relating to the organization of the Olympic Games, provide assistance to the OCOG, help liaise between, on the one hand, the OCOG and, on the other hand, the IOC, the IFs and the NOCs, resolve any differences of opinion which may arise between any of the parties and exercise and additional authority conferred upon it by the IOC Executive Board.

3.2 In the case of any matter which the Coordination Commission determines that it is unable to resolve, or in respect of which any



parties refuses to act in accordance with its decision, it shall forthwith report such matter and the full circumstances thereof to the IOC Executive Board, which shall make the final decision.

- 3.3 At the Olympic Games, the duties of the Coordination Commission shall revert to the IOC Executive Board and the Chairman of the Coordination Commission may be invited to attend the daily coordination meetings with the OCOG.

Bye-law to Rule 41

The mandate of the Coordination Commission include the following:

- 1 To ensure that all IFs and NOCs are kept fully informed, either through the OCOG or by the Coordination Commission on its own initiative, of all developments in connection with the Olympic Games.
- 2 To ensure that the IOC Executive Board is kept fully informed of opinions expressed by the OCOG, IFs and NOCs on matters pertaining to the Olympic Games.
- 3 To examine, after consultation with the IOC Executive Board and the OCOG, the areas in which a beneficial cooperation between NOCs can be established, in particular with regard to air transportation, freight, rental of accommodation for additional officials, procedures for allocating tickets to IFs, to NOCs and to appointed travel agencies.
- 4 To suggest to the OCOG and to determine, subject to approval by the IOC Executive Board:
 - 4.1 arrangements for accommodation and facilities in the Olympic Village and at the competition and training venues;



- 4.2 costs of participation, accommodation and related services to be provided by the OCOG;
- 4.3 provisions for transportation and accommodation of participants and officials and other matters which, in its opinion, concern the well-being of competitors and officials and their ability to perform the necessary functions at the Olympic Games.
- 5 To inspect competition, training and other facilities, and to report thereon in respect of any matters it may be unable to resolve to the IOC Executive Board.
- 6 To ensure that the OCOG responds appropriately to the views of the chefs de mission.
- 7 To establish, subject to approval of the IOC Executive Board, specialized working groups which will deal with specific areas of the organization of the Olympic Games and report to the Coordination Commission with recommendations as to improvements which should be implemented by the Coordination Commission.
- 8 After the Olympic Games, to carry out an analysis relating to the organization of the Games and to report on such matters to the IOC Executive Board.

42 Olympic Village*

- 1 With the objective of bringing together all competitors, team officials and other team personnel in one place, the OCOG shall provide an Olympic Village for a period determined by the IOC Executive Board.

The Olympic Village shall meet the requirements of the "Olympic Village Guide" adopted by the IOC Executive Board.



- 2 The quotas for team officials and other team personnel accommodated in the Olympic Village are contained in the "Entries for Sports Competitions and Accreditation Guide", adopted by the IOC Executive Board.

Bye-law to Rule 42

- 1 Should the IOC authorize the OCOG to hold events in any location other than in the host city, the IOC Executive Board may require that the OCOG provide appropriate accommodations, services and facilities equivalent to those described in the "Olympic Village Guide".
- 2 The OCOG shall bear all expenses for board and lodging of competitors, team officials and other team personnel in the Olympic Village and other accommodations as required above, as well as their local transportation expenses.

43 Premises and Facilities for the IFs governing a sport included in the Programme of the Olympic Games

On the occasion of the Olympic Games, the OCOG shall provide, at its expense, the IFs governing the sports included in the programme of such Games with the premises and facilities necessary for the processing of matters of a technical nature.

Moreover, the OCOG shall provide the IFs, at their request, at their expense, and subject to the approval of the IOC Executive Board, with the administrative and technical facilities and accommodation enabling them to hold their congresses and other meetings in the host city of the Olympic Games.

44 Cultural Programme*

- 1 The OCOG must organize a programme of cultural events which shall be submitted to the IOC Executive Board for its prior approval.



- 2 This programme must serve to promote harmonious relations, mutual understanding and friendship among the participants and others attending the Olympic Games.

Bye-law to Rule 44

- 1 The cultural programme must include:
 - 1.1 cultural events organized in the Olympic Village and symbolizing the universality and the diversity of human culture;
 - 1.2 other events with the same purpose held mainly in the host city, with a certain number of seats being reserved free of charge for participants accredited by the IOC.
- 2 The cultural programme must cover at least the entire period during which the Olympic Village is open.

II PARTICIPATION IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

45 Eligibility Code*

To be eligible for participation in the Olympic Games a competitor, coach, trainer or official must comply with the Olympic Charter as well as with the rules of the IF concerned as approved by the IOC, and the competitor, coach or trainer must be entered by his NOC. The above-noted persons must notably:

- respect the spirit of fair play and non violence, and behave accordingly on the sportsfield; and
- respect and comply in all aspects with the World Anti-Doping Code.



Bye-law to Rule 45

- 1 Each IF establishes its sport's own eligibility criteria in accordance with the Olympic Charter. Such criteria must be submitted to the IOC Executive Board for approval.
- 2 The application of the eligibility criteria lies with the IFs, their affiliated national federations and the NOCs in the fields of their respective responsibilities.
- 3 Except as permitted by the IOC Executive Board, no competitor, coach, trainer or official who participates in the Olympic Games may allow his person, name, picture or sports performances to be used for advertising purposes during the Olympic Games.
- 4 The entry or participation of a competitor in the Olympic Games shall not be conditional on any financial consideration.

46 Nationality of Competitors*

- 1 Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the NOC which is entering him.
- 2 All disputes relating to the determination of the country which a competitor may represent in the Olympic Games shall be resolved by the IOC Executive Board.

Bye-law to Rule 46

- 1 A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having



represented one country in the Olympic Games, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognized by the relevant IF, he may not represent another country unless he meets the conditions set forth in paragraph 2 below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.

- 2 A competitor who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognized by the relevant IF, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the Olympic Games to represent his new country provided that at least three years have passed since the competitor last represented his former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the NOCs and IF concerned, by the IOC Executive Board, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.
- 3 If an associated State, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, or if a new NOC is recognized by the IOC, a competitor may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, choose to represent his country or be entered in the Olympic Games by his new NOC if one exists. This particular choice may be made only once.
- 4 In all cases not expressly addressed in this Bye-law, in particular in those cases in which a competitor would be in a position to represent a country other than that of which he is a national, or to have a choice as to the country which he intends to represent, the IOC Executive Board may take all decisions of a general or individual nature, and in particular issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of the competitors, including the duration of any waiting period.



47 Age limit

There may be no age limit for competitors in the Olympic Games other than as prescribed for health reasons in the competition rules of an IF.

48 World Anti-Doping Code and Medical Commission

1 World Anti-Doping Code

The World Anti-Doping Code is obligatory for the whole Olympic Movement.

2 Medical Commission

2.1 The President of the IOC appoints a Medical Commission, the terms of reference of which shall include the following duties, in accordance with the instructions of the IOC Executive Board:

2.1.1 to implement the World Anti-Doping Code, in particular, upon the occasion of the Olympic Games; and

2.1.2 to elaborate guidelines relating to the medical care and health of the athletes.

2.2 Members of the Medical Commission shall not act in any medical capacity whatsoever for the delegation of an NOC at the Olympic Games nor participate in the discussions relating to noncompliance of the World Anti-Doping Code by members of their respective NOC's delegation.

49 Entries*

1 Only NOCs recognized by the IOC may enter competitors in the Olympic Games. The right of final acceptance of entries rests with the IOC Executive Board.



- 2 An NOC shall only exercise such attributions upon the recommendations for entries given by national federations. If the NOC approves thereof, it shall transmit such entries to the OCOG. The OCOG must acknowledge their receipt. NOCs must investigate the validity of the entries proposed by the national federations and ensure that no one has been excluded for racial, religious or political reasons or by reason of other forms of discrimination.
- 3 The NOCs shall send to the Olympic Games only those competitors adequately prepared for high level international competition. Through its IF, a national federation may appeal to the IOC Executive Board against a decision by a NOC on the matter of entries.

Bye-law to Rule 49

- 1 The procedures and the deadlines for the entries of competitors for sports competitions at the Olympic Games are contained in the "Entries for Sports Competitions and Accreditation Guide", adopted by the IOC Executive Board.
- 2 All entries must be printed on a special form approved by the IOC Executive Board and sent in such number of copies as determined by the OCOG.
- 3 As a condition precedent to participation in the Olympic Games, every competitor shall comply with all provisions contained in the Olympic Charter and the rules of the IF governing his sport. Such competitor must be duly qualified by such IF. The NOC which enters the competitor ensures under its own responsibility that such competitor is fully aware of and complies with the Olympic Charter and the World Anti-Doping Code.
- 4 Should there be no national federation for a particular sport in a country which has a recognized NOC, the latter may enter competitors



individually in such sport in the Olympic Games subject to the approval of the IOC Executive Board and the IF governing such sport.

5

- 5.1 The entry form must include the text of the eligibility conditions and the following declaration to be signed by the competitors:
- “Understanding that as a competitor in the Olympic Games I am participating in an event which has ongoing international and historical significance, and in consideration of the acceptance of my participation therein, I agree to be filmed, televised, photographed, identified and otherwise recorded during the Olympic Games under the conditions and for the purposes now or hereafter authorized by the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”) in relation to the promotion of the Olympic Games and Olympic Movement.*

I also agree to comply with the Olympic Charter currently in force and, in particular, with the provisions of the Olympic Charter regarding the World Anti-Doping Code (Rule 48), the mass media (Rule 59 and its Bye-law), concerning the allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used at the Olympic Games (Paragraph 1 of the Bye-law to Rule 61), and arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Rule 74).

The relevant provisions and rules have been brought to my attention by my National Olympic Committee and/or my National Sports Federation.”

- 5.2 The relevant NOC shall also sign such form to confirm and guarantee that all the relevant rules have been brought to the notice of the competitor and that the NOC has been authorized by the National Sports Federation concerned to sign this entry form on its behalf.



- 5.3 The entry form must include the text of the eligibility conditions and the following declaration to be signed by the coaches, trainers, and officials: *“Understanding that as a coach/trainer/official in the Olympic Games I am participating in an event which has ongoing international and historical significance, and in consideration of the acceptance of my participation therein, I agree to be filmed, televised, photographed, identified and otherwise recorded during the Olympic Games under the conditions and for the purposes now or hereafter authorized by the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”) in relation to the promotion of the Olympic Games and Olympic Movement.*

I also agree to comply with the Olympic Charter currently in force and, in particular, with the provisions of the Olympic Charter regarding the eligibility for the Olympic Games (including Rule 45 and its Bye-law), the World Anti-Doping Code (Rule 48), the mass media (Rule 59 and its Bye-law), concerning the allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used at the Olympic Games (Paragraph 1 of the Bye-law to Rule 61), and arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Rule 74).

The relevant provisions and rules have been brought to my attention by my National Olympic Committee and/or my National Sports Federation.”

- 6 No entry shall be valid unless the above provisions have been observed.
- 7 The withdrawal of a duly entered delegation, team or individual shall, if effected without the consent of the IOC Executive Board, constitute an infringement of the Olympic Charter and shall be the subject of disciplinary action.
- 8 In the absence of a decision to the contrary taken by the Executive Board and written into the Host City Contract, the number of athletes competing in the Games of the Olympiad shall be limited to ten thousand (10'000) and the numbers of officials shall be limited to five thousand (5'000).



50 Infringement of the Olympic Charter

The IOC Executive Board may take measures and sanctions against any person or organisation who infringes the Olympic Charter.

III PROGRAMME OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

51 Olympic Sports

The sports governed by the following IFs are considered as Olympic sports:

- 1 Games of the Olympiad:
 - International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF);
 - International Rowing Federation (FISA);
 - International Badminton Federation (IBF);
 - International Baseball Federation (IBAF);
 - International Basketball Federation (FIBA);
 - International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA);
 - International Canoe Federation (ICF);
 - International Cycling Union (UCI);
 - International Equestrian Federation (FEI);
 - International Fencing Federation (FIE);



- International Association Football Federation (FIFA);
- International Gymnastics Federation (FIG);
- International Weightlifting Federation (IWF);
- International Handball Federation (IHF);
- International Hockey Federation (FIH);
- International Judo Federation (IJF);
- International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA);
- International Swimming Federation (FINA);
- International Union of the Modern Pentathlon (UIPM);
- International Softball Federation (ISF);
- World Taekwondo Federation (WTF);
- International Tennis Federation (ITF);
- International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF);
- International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF);
- International Archery Federation (FITA);
- International Triathlon Union (ITU);
- International Sailing Federation (ISAF);
- International Volleyball Federation (FIVB);



2 Olympic Winter Games:

- International Biathlon Union (IBU);
- International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation (FIBT);
- World Curling Federation (WCF);
- International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF);
- International Luge Federation (FIL);
- International Skating Union (ISU);
- International Ski Federation (FIS).

52 Sports Programme, Admission of Sports, Disciplines and Events

The IOC establishes the programme of the Olympic Games, which only includes Olympic Sports.

1 Olympic Sports included in the Programme of the Olympic Games

1.1 To be included in the programme of the Olympic Games, an Olympic sport must conform to the following criteria:

1.1.1 only sports widely practised by men in at least seventy-five countries and on four continents, and by women in at least forty countries and on three continents, may be included in the programme of the Games of the Olympiad;

1.1.2 only sports widely practised in at least twenty-five countries and on three continents may be included in the programme of the Olympic Winter Games;



- 1.1.3 only sports that adopt and implement the World Anti-Doping Code can be included and remain in the programme of the Olympic Games.
- 1.1.4 sports are admitted to the programme of the Olympic Games at least seven years before specific Olympic Games in respect of which no change shall thereafter be permitted.

2 Disciplines

- 2.1 A discipline, being a branch of an Olympic sport comprising one or several events, must have a recognized international standing to be included in the programme of the Olympic Games.
- 2.2 The standards for the admission of disciplines are the same as those required for the admission of Olympic sports.
- 2.3 A discipline is admitted to the programme at least seven years before specific Olympic Games in respect of which no change shall thereafter be permitted.

3 Events

- 3.1 An event, being a competition in an Olympic sport or in one of its disciplines and resulting in a ranking, gives rise to the award of medals and diplomas.
- 3.2 To be included in the programme of the Olympic Games, events must have a recognized international standing both numerically and geographically, and have been included at least twice in world or continental championships.
- 3.3 Only events practised by men in at least fifty countries and on three continents, and by women in at least thirty-five countries and on three continents, may be included in the programme of the Olympic Games.



3.4 Events are admitted four years before specific Olympic Games in respect of which no change shall thereafter be permitted.

4 Criteria for Admission of Sports, Disciplines and Events

4.1 To be included in the programme of the Olympic Games any sport, discipline or event must satisfy the conditions specified by this rule.

4.2 Sports, disciplines or events in which performance depends essentially on mechanical propulsion are not acceptable.

4.3 Unless the IOC decides to the contrary, a single event cannot simultaneously give rise to both an individual and a team ranking.

4.4 Sports, disciplines or events included in the programme of the Olympic Games which no longer satisfy the criteria of this rule may nevertheless, in certain exceptional cases, be maintained therein by decision of the IOC for the sake of Olympic tradition.

5 IFs' Notice of Participation in the Olympic Games

The IFs governing the sports included in the programme of the Olympic Games must confirm to the IOC their participation in the respective Olympic Games not later than at the time of the IOC Session which elects the host city for such Games.

6 Exceptional Admission of a Discipline or Event

In exceptional cases, and subject to the agreement of the IF concerned and the OCOG, the IOC may depart from the time limits laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, in order to include a discipline or event in the programme of the Olympic Games of one specific Olympiad.

7 Competence as to the Admission or Exclusion of a Sport, Discipline or Event



The admission or exclusion of a sport falls within the competence of the IOC Session. A decision to include or exclude a discipline or event falls within the competence of the IOC Executive Board.

53 Programme of the Olympic Games

- 1 The programme of the Games of the Olympiad must include at least fifteen Olympic sports. Such required minimum does not exist for the programme of the Olympic Winter Games.
- 2 After each Olympic Games, the IOC reviews the programme of the Olympic Games.
- 3 On the occasion of each review, the standards for the admission of sports, disciplines or events may be reviewed and the admission or exclusion of sports, disciplines or events determined by the competent IOC organs.

54 Qualifying Events Organized by the IFs

- 1 For certain sports, the IFs may organize qualifying events or otherwise establish a limited participation in order to designate the competitors, particularly teams in team sports, who will take part in the Olympic Games.
- 2 The systems of restrictions and of qualifying events are subject to the provisions of the Olympic Charter to the extent decided upon by the IOC Executive Board. The formula for qualification must be submitted to the IOC Executive Board for approval. The NOCs will be informed by the IOC of all matters relating to qualifying events organized by the IFs.
- 3 Rules 59, 69 and 70 are not applicable to the qualifying events.



55 Pre-Olympic Events Organized by the OCOG

- 1 In accordance with a formula submitted to the IOC Executive Board for approval, the OCOG, after consultation with the IFs, may organize pre-Olympic events for the purpose of testing the facilities to be used during the Olympic Games.
- 2 In each sport, the pre-Olympic events must take place under the technical supervision of the relevant IF.
- 3 The pre-Olympic events are subject to the provisions of the Olympic Charter to the extent determined by the IOC Executive Board.

56 Participation in the Olympic Games*

The number of entries is fixed by the IOC Executive Board, following consultation with the relevant IFs, two years before the Olympic Games.

Bye-law to Rule 56

- 1 The number of entries in the individual events shall not exceed that provided for in the World Championships and shall, in no event, exceed three per country. The IOC Executive Board may grant exceptions for certain winter sports.
- 2 For team sports, the number of teams shall not exceed twelve teams for each gender and not be less than eight teams, unless the IOC Executive Board decides otherwise.
- 3 In order to obtain an equitable breakdown in the number of substitutes in certain sports, both individual and team, and taking into account the fact that in certain other sports a single entry per event and per country is allowed



without any substitute, the IOC Executive Board, following consultation with the IFs concerned, may increase or reduce the number of substitutes.

57 Technical Arrangements*

- 1 For all technical arrangements of the Olympic Games, including the schedule, the OCOG must consult the relevant IFs. It must ensure that the various Olympic sports are treated and integrated equitably.
- 2 As to the schedule and daily timetable of events, the final decision lies with the IOC Executive Board. The holding of all events in each sport is placed under the direct responsibility of the IF concerned, after consultation with the OCOG.
- 3 Each IF is responsible for the technical control and direction of its sport; all competition and training sites and all equipment must comply with its rules.
- 4 At the latest three years before the opening of the Olympic Games, the IFs must inform the OCOG, the IOC and the NOCs about the characteristics of the required technical installations and the sports equipment to be used to equip the venues during the Olympic Games. The respective IF(s) may require that, subject to the guidelines established by the IOC Executive Board, such sports equipment be furnished by a particular company or companies.
- 5 The necessary technical officials (referees, judges, timekeepers, inspectors) and a jury of appeal for each sport are appointed by the IF concerned, within the limit of the total number set by the IOC Executive Board upon the recommendation of the IF concerned. They perform their tasks in accordance with the directions of such IF and in coordination with the OCOG.
- 6 No official who has participated in a decision may be a member of the jury responsible for making a ruling on the resulting dispute.



- 7 The findings of the juries must be communicated to the IOC Executive Board as soon as possible.
- 8 Juries make a ruling on all technical questions concerning their respective sports, and their decisions, including any related sanctions, are without appeal, without prejudice to further measures and sanctions which may be decided by the IOC Executive Board or Session.
- 9 The OCOG must provide facilities separate from the Olympic Village for the accommodation of all technical officials appointed by the IFs. Technical officials and members of the juries may not be accommodated in the Olympic Village. They do not belong to the NOCs' delegations and answer only to their respective IFs.

Bye-law to Rule 57

- 1 Technical provisions relating to the IFs at the Olympic Games:

The IFs have the following rights and responsibilities:

- 1.1 To establish the technical rules of their own sports, disciplines and events, including, but not limited to, results standards, technical specifications of equipment, installations and facilities, rules of technical movements, exercises or games, rules of technical disqualification and rules of judging and timing.
- 1.2 To establish the final results and ranking of Olympic competitions.
- 1.3 Subject to the IOC's authority, to exercise technical jurisdiction over the competition and training venues of their respective sports during the competition and training sessions at the Olympic Games.
- 1.4 To select judges, referees and other technical officials from the host country and from abroad within the total number adopted by the



IOC Executive Board upon proposal of the IF concerned. The expenses for accommodation, transportation and uniforms of such judges, referees and other technical officials coming from countries other than the host country shall be paid by the OCOG.

- 1.5 To delegate, in coordination with the OCOG, two representatives during the setting up of the facilities for their sports in order to ensure that their rules are complied with and to check the conditions regarding accommodation, food and transportation provided for the technical officials and judges.
 - 1.5.1 Two delegates from each IF must be present at the site at least five days prior to the start of the first event in their sport, in order to make all necessary arrangements regarding entries.
 - 1.5.2 The reasonable expenses of such delegates during such period and until the Olympic Games are over (business class air fares if the journey exceeds 2500 km or economy class if the journey does not exceed 2500 km, board and lodging) are to be paid by the OCOG.
 - 1.5.3 In exceptional cases when, for technical reasons, the presence of delegates or the organization of extra visits are necessary, suitable arrangements are to be made by the OCOG, after it has informed the IOC thereof. In case of disagreement, the IOC Executive Board shall decide.
- 1.6 To ensure that all competitors comply with the provisions of Rules 59 and 61 of the Olympic Charter.
- 1.7 To enforce, under the authority of the IOC and the NOCs, the IOC's rules in regard to the eligibility of the participants before the Olympic Games (preliminaries) and during the Olympic Games.



- 1.8 To prepare and revise the “technical questionnaires” for the candidate cities.
- 2 Technical provisions requiring the agreement of the IFs and of the OCOG before being submitted to the IOC Executive Board for approval:
 - 2.1 Daily timetable of the programme for a sport at the Olympic Games.
 - 2.2 Itineraries of events taking place outside the Olympic venues (e.g. sailing, marathon, walking, road cycle race, equestrian three-day event).
 - 2.3 Training facilities requirements before and during the Olympic Games.
 - 2.4 Technical equipment at the venues which is neither defined nor listed in the technical rules of the IFs.
 - 2.5 Technical installations for establishing results.
 - 2.6 Uniforms of IF officials (such as judges and referees) necessary during the Olympic Games.
- 3 IF proposals requiring the approval of the IOC Executive Board:
 - 3.1 Establishment of the programme of the Olympic Games in their respective sports, including or deleting events, in accordance with the rules, criteria and conditions determined by the IOC.
 - 3.2 Establishment of the number of competitors per event and per country, and of the number of teams participating in the Olympic Games.
 - 3.3 Establishment, three years before the Olympic Games, of the system for qualifying preliminaries.



- 3.4 Establishment of the system of grouping and selecting the athletes in qualifying heats (or teams in preliminary groups) for the Olympic Games.
- 3.5 Establishment of the number of substitutes in individual or team sports or events.
- 3.6 Establishment of the number of, and selection of competitors for doping tests.
- 3.7 Establishment of the list of competitors to whom the IF has issued femininity certificates at World and Continental Championships, which will be valid for the Olympic Games, in addition to the certificates issued by the IOC at previous Olympic Games.
- 3.8 Delegation of more than two technical delegates to supervise the preparations for the Olympic Games or the organization of additional visits, other than those provided for in the Olympic Charter.
- 3.9 Production by the IFs, in any medium, of any visual or audiovisual recordings of the Olympic competitions, any use of such recordings for commercial purposes being prohibited.

58 Youth Camp

With the authorization of the IOC Executive Board, the OCOG may, under its own responsibility, organize an international youth camp on the occasion of the Olympic Games.

59 Media Coverage of the Olympic Games*

- 1 It should be an objective of the Olympic Movement that the media coverage of the Olympic Games, by its content, spread and promote the principles of Olympism.



- 2 In order to ensure the fullest news coverage by the different media and the widest possible audience for the Olympic Games, all necessary steps shall be determined by the IOC Executive Board and implemented by the OCOG.
- 3 All questions concerning the mass media at the Olympic Games, including the granting and the withdrawal of Olympic identity and accreditation cards, rest within the competence of the IOC Executive Board.

Bye-law to Rule 59

- 1 The IOC Executive Board shall establish a document entitled “Media Guide”.
- 2 The Media Guide is an integral part of the contract entered into between the IOC, the NOC and the host city when the Olympic Games are conferred.
- 3 All persons reporting on the Olympic Games shall be accredited according to the conditions laid down in the Media Guide. Applications for accreditation shall be sent by the NOCs to the IOC within the stipulated deadline, except for contracting broadcasters and recognized international agencies, whose applications shall be sent directly to the IOC.
- 4 Accreditation guarantees access to Olympic events. If restrictions appear necessary, the IOC will make every effort to satisfy the reasonable requests of the accredited media.
- 5 Under no circumstances, throughout the duration of the Olympic Games, may any athlete, coach, official, press attaché or any other accredited participant be accredited or act as a journalist or in any other media capacity.



60 Publications*

The publications required by the IOC are made available and distributed, at the expense of the OCOG, in printed or such other format as may be requested by the IOC Executive Board.

Bye-law to Rule 60

- 1 For each sport, an explanatory brochure containing the general programme and arrangements, in French, English and the language of the host country, shall be distributed by the OCOG to the IOC, to the relevant IFs and to all NOCs, not later than one year before the opening of the Olympic Games.
- 2 A medical brochure shall be distributed by the OCOG, in accordance with the instructions of the IOC Executive Board, not later than six months before the Olympic Winter Games and one year before the Games of the Olympiad.
- 3
 - 3.1 All documents (such as invitations, lists of entries, entrance tickets, programmes) printed for the Games of the Olympiad as well as the badges issued, must be marked with the number of the Olympiad and the name of the city where it is celebrated.
 - 3.2 In the case of the Olympic Winter Games, the name of the city and the number of the Games must be indicated.
- 4 A full and complete official report on the celebration of the Olympic Games shall be printed by the OCOG for the IOC, at least in French and English, within two years of the closing of the Olympic Games.



- 5 The IOC Executive Board will determine the matters to be dealt with in the official report by the OCOG. One copy of such report shall be sent free of charge to each member, Honorary President for life, honorary member and honour member of the IOC, as well as to each participating IF and NOC, and 100 copies shall be sent to the Secretariat of the IOC.
- 6 Proofs of all documents and publications referred to in this Bye-law shall be submitted to the IOC Executive Board for prior approval.

6I Propaganda and Advertising*

- 1 No kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in the Olympic areas. No form of publicity shall be allowed in and above the stadia and other competition areas which are considered as part of the Olympic sites. Commercial installations and advertising signs shall not be allowed in the stadia, nor in the other sports grounds.
- 2 The IOC Executive Board alone has the competence to determine the principles and conditions under which any form of publicity may be authorized.

Bye-law to Rule 6I

- 1 No form of publicity or propaganda, commercial or otherwise, may appear on persons, on sportswear, accessories or, more generally, on any article of clothing or equipment whatsoever worn or used by the athletes or other participants in the Olympic Games, except for the identification – as defined in paragraph 8 below – of the manufacturer of the article or equipment concerned, provided that such identification shall not be marked conspicuously for advertising purposes.



- 1.1 The identification of the manufacturer shall not appear more than once per item of clothing and equipment.
- 1.2 Equipment: any manufacturer's identification that is greater than 10% of the surface area of the equipment that is exposed during competition shall be deemed to be marked conspicuously. However, there shall be no manufacturer's identification greater than 60 cm².
- 1.3 Headgear (e.g. hats, helmets, sunglasses, goggles) and gloves: any identification of manufacturer over 6 cm² shall be deemed to be marked conspicuously.
- 1.4 Clothing (e.g. T-shirts, shorts, sweat tops and sweat pants): any manufacturer's identification which is greater than 12 cm² shall be deemed to be marked conspicuously.
- 1.5 Shoes: it is acceptable that there appear the normal distinctive design pattern of the manufacturer. The manufacturer's name and/or logo may also appear, up to a maximum of 6 cm², either as part of the normal distinctive design pattern or independent of the normal distinctive design pattern.
- 1.6 In case of special rules adopted by an International Sports Federation, exceptions to the rules mentioned above can be approved by the Executive Board of the IOC.

Any violation of the provisions of the present clause shall result in disqualification or withdrawal of the accreditation of the person concerned. The decisions of the IOC Executive Board regarding this matter shall be final.

The numbers worn by competitors may not display publicity of any kind and must bear the Olympic emblem of the OCOG.



- 2 To be valid, all contracts of the OCOG containing any element whatsoever of advertising, including the right or licence to use the emblem or the mascot of the Olympic Games, must be in conformity with the Olympic Charter and must comply with the instructions given by the IOC Executive Board. The same shall apply to contracts relating to the timing equipment, the scoreboards, and to the injection of any identification signal in television programmes. Breaches of these regulations come under the authority of the IOC Executive Board.
- 3 Any mascot created for the Olympic Games shall be considered to be an Olympic emblem, the design of which must be submitted by the OCOG to the IOC Executive Board for its approval. Such mascot may not be used for commercial purposes in the country of an NOC without the latter's prior written approval.
- 4 The OCOG shall ensure the protection of the property of the emblem and the mascot of the Olympic Games for the benefit of the IOC, both nationally and internationally. However, the OCOG alone and, after the OCOG has been wound up, the NOC of the host country, may exploit such emblem and mascot, as well as other marks, designs, badges, posters, objects and documents connected with the Olympic Games during their preparation, during their holding and during a period terminating not later than the end of the calendar year during which such Olympic Games are held. Upon the expiry of this period, all rights in or relating to such emblem, mascot and other marks, designs, badges, posters, objects and documents shall thereafter belong entirely to the IOC. The OCOG and/or the NOC, as the case may be and to the extent necessary, shall act as trustees (in a fiduciary capacity) for the sole benefit of the IOC in this respect.
- 5 The provisions of this bye-law also apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to all contracts signed by the organizing committee of an IOC Session or an Olympic Congress.
- 6 The uniforms of the competitors and of all persons holding an official position may include the flag or Olympic emblem of their NOC or, with



the consent of the OCOG, the OCOG Olympic emblem. The IF officials may wear the uniform and the emblem of their federations.

- 7 The identification on all technical gear, installations and other apparatus, which are neither worn nor used by athletes or other participants at the Olympic Games, including timing equipment and scoreboards, may on no account be larger than 1/10th of the height of the equipment, installation or apparatus in question, and shall not be greater than 10 centimetres high.
- 8 The word “identification” means the normal display of the name, designation, trademark, logo or any other distinctive sign of the manufacturer of the item, appearing not more than once per item.

62 Musical Works*

The IOC must be designated owner of the copyright on any musical work commissioned specifically in connection with the Olympic Games. The OCOG and NOC concerned shall ensure that such procedure occurs to the satisfaction of the IOC.

Bye-law to Rule 62

The IOC Executive Board may grant to the OCOG all rights for the exploitation of musical works, and then to the NOC of the host country, for a period of four years dating from the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games, in return for a payment of a royalty on the gross receipts. The IOC Executive Board shall authorize the OCOG to make non-exclusive use of the Olympic anthem during the period of the Olympic Games, without payment of any royalty.



63 Commercial Advertising by the OCOG before the Olympic Games

Unless the IOC Executive Board otherwise decides, every OCOG shall ensure that, up to the start of a period of two years preceding the opening of the Olympic Games for which it is responsible, all physical or juridical persons with whom it executes contracts shall abstain from all forms of advertising relating to such Olympic Games.

IV PROTOCOL

64 Invitations*

The invitations to take part in the Olympic Games shall be sent out by the IOC one year before the opening ceremony. They shall be sent to all recognized NOCs.

Bye-law to Rule 64

- 1 The invitations to take part in the Olympic Games shall be expressed in the following terms: *“The International Olympic Committee has the honour of inviting you to participate in the Games of the ... Olympiad (or the ... Olympic Winter Games) which will take place at ... from ... to ...”*
- 2 Invitations must all be sent simultaneously by registered air mail or by special courier. The NOCs shall reply to the invitation in writing and the replies must be received by the IOC within four months after the date on which the invitations were sent.
- 3 The receipt of each invitation to take part in the Olympic Games must be acknowledged to the IOC by the NOC, upon receipt and in writing.



- 4 Not later than two months before the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, each NOC shall inform the OCOG in writing of the approximate number of members in its delegation.

65 Olympic Identity and Accreditation Card

- 1 The Olympic identity and accreditation card is a document which confers on its holder the right to take part in the Olympic Games.
- 2 The Olympic identity and accreditation card establishes the identity of its holder and constitutes a document which, together with the passport or other official travel document of the holder, authorizes entry into the country in which the city organizing the Olympic Games is situated. It allows the holder to stay and to perform his Olympic function there for the duration of the Olympic Games and for a period not exceeding one month before and one month after the Olympic Games.
- 3 The Olympic identity and accreditation card is granted by the IOC to persons eligible for accreditation. The IOC Executive Board may delegate all or part of this authority to the OCOG which shall, in such event, make the Olympic identity and accreditation card available to all persons designated by the IOC.
- 4 Details relating to the Olympic identity and accreditation card, including specifications, categories and populations, privileges, procedures and deadlines, are contained in the “Entries for Sports Competitions and Accreditation Guide”, adopted by the IOC Executive Board.

66 Rights Attached to the Olympic Identity and Accreditation Card

The Olympic identity and accreditation card gives, to the degree necessary in each case and as indicated thereon, access to the sites and events placed, by the IOC, under the responsibility of the OCOG. The IOC determines the



persons entitled to such cards and sets the conditions of their granting and procedures for their issuance. It is the duty of the OCOG to deliver the cards to the persons entitled to them.

67 Use of the Olympic Flag

- 1 An Olympic flag of large dimensions must fly for the entire duration of the Olympic Games from a flagpole placed in a prominent position in the main stadium, where it is hoisted at the opening ceremony and lowered at the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games.
- 2 The Olympic Village as well as the competition and training venues and all other places that are under the responsibility of the OCOG must be decked with a large number of Olympic flags.
- 3 A large number of Olympic flags shall be flown along with the other flags in the host city.

68 Use of the Olympic Flame

- 1 The OCOG is responsible for bringing the Olympic flame to the Olympic stadium. The celebrations to which the crossing or arrival of the Olympic flame gives rise, under the auspices of the relevant NOC, must respect Olympic protocol. The IOC Executive Board shall approve all arrangements for any torch relay relating to the Olympic flame.
- 2 The Olympic flame must be placed in a prominent position, clearly visible and, where the structure of the stadium permits, visible also from outside the stadium.



69 Opening and Closing Ceremonies*

- 1 The opening and closing ceremonies shall be held in accordance with the protocol decided by the IOC. They should reflect and portray the humanistic principles of Olympism and contribute to their spread.
- 2 The Opening Ceremony shall take place not earlier than one day before the competitions of the Games of the Olympiad and of the Olympic Winter Games. The Closing Ceremony shall take place on the last day of the competitions of the Games of the Olympiad and of the Olympic Winter Games.
- 3 The detailed programme of such ceremonies shall be put forward by the OCOG and submitted to the approval of the IOC Executive Board.

Bye-law to Rule 69

- 1 Opening Ceremony
 - 1.1 The Olympic Games shall be proclaimed open by the Head of State of the host country.
 - 1.2 The Head of State is received at the entrance of the stadium by the President of the IOC and by the President of the OCOG. The two Presidents then show the Head of State into his box in the official stand.
 - 1.3 The parade of the participants then follows. Each delegation, dressed in its official uniform, must be preceded by a name-board bearing its name and must be accompanied by its flag, to be carried by a member of the delegation. The flags of the participating delegations, as well as the name-boards, shall be provided by the OCOG and shall all be of equal size. The name-board-bearers shall be designated by the OCOG.



- 1.4 No participant in the parade is permitted to carry flags, banners, banderoles, cameras or other visible accessories or objects which are not part of his uniform.
- 1.5 The delegations parade in alphabetical order according to the language of the host country, except for Greece, which leads the parade, and for the host country, which brings up the rear. Only those athletes participating in the Olympic Games with the right to accommodation in the Olympic Village may take part in the parade, led by a maximum of six officials per delegation.
- 1.6 The delegations salute the Head of State and the President of the IOC as they walk past their box. Each delegation, after completing its march, proceeds to the seats which have been reserved for it in order to watch the ceremony, with the exception of its flag bearer who remains on the field.
- 1.7 The President of the IOC, accompanied by the President of the OCOG, proceeds to the rostrum positioned on the field in front of the official stand. The President of the OCOG gives an address lasting a maximum of three minutes, then adds these words:
“I have the honour of inviting ..., President of the International Olympic Committee, to speak.”
- 1.8 The President of the IOC then gives a speech in which he makes a reference to Pierre de Coubertin and further declares: *“I have the honour of inviting ... (the Head of State) to proclaim open the Games of the... Olympiad of the modern era (or the... Olympic Winter Games).”*
- 1.9 The Head of State proclaims the Games open by saying: *“I declare open the Games of... (name of City) celebrating the ... Olympiad of the modern era (or the ... Olympic Winter Games).”*



- 1.10 While the Olympic anthem is being played, the Olympic flag, unfurled horizontally, is brought into the stadium and hoisted on the flagpole erected in the arena.
- 1.11 The Olympic torch is brought into the stadium by runners relaying each other. The last runner circles the track before lighting the Olympic flame which shall not be extinguished until the closing of the Olympic Games. The lighting of the Olympic flame shall be followed by a symbolic release of pigeons.
- 1.12 The flag bearers of all the delegations form a semicircle around the rostrum. A competitor of the host country mounts the rostrum. Holding a corner of the Olympic flag in his left hand, and raising his right hand, he takes the following solemn oath: *“In the name of all the competitors I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, committing ourselves to a sport without doping and without drugs, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honour of our teams”*.
- 1.13 Immediately afterwards, a judge from the host country mounts the rostrum and, in the same manner, takes the following oath: *“In the name of all the judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate in these Olympic Games with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship.”*
- 1.14 The national anthem of the host country is then played or sung. The flag bearers then proceed to the seats which have been reserved to enable them to attend the artistic programme.
- 1.15 In the event of the IOC authorizing a secondary opening ceremony to take place at another Olympic venue, the IOC Executive Board shall determine its protocol, on the proposal of the OCOG.



2 Closing Ceremony

- 2.1 The closing ceremony must take place in the stadium after the end of all the events. The participants in the Olympic Games having the right to accommodation in the Olympic Village take the seats reserved for them in the stands. The flag bearers of the participating delegations and the name-board-bearers enter the stadium in single file in the same order and take up the same positions as for the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. Behind them march the athletes, without distinction of nationality.
- 2.2 The flag bearers then form a semi-circle behind the rostrum.
- 2.3 The President of the IOC and the President of the OCOG mount the rostrum. To the sounds of the Greek national anthem, the Greek flag is hoisted on the flagpole that stands to the right of the central flagpole used for the winners' flags. The flag of the host country is then hoisted on the central flagpole, while its anthem is played. Finally, the flag of the host country of the next Olympic Games is hoisted on the lefthand flagpole to the strains of its anthem.
- 2.4 The mayor of the host city joins the President of the IOC on the rostrum and returns to him the Olympic flag. The president of the IOC then entrusts it to the mayor of the host city of the following Olympic Games. This flag must be displayed in the latter city's main municipal building.
- 2.5 After an address by the President of the OCOG, the President of the IOC gives the closing speech of the Olympic Games, which he ends with these words: *"I declare the Games of the ... Olympiad (or the ... Olympic Winter Games) closed and, in accordance with tradition, I call upon the youth of the world to assemble four years from now at ... (if the city has not yet been chosen, the name of the city is replaced by the words: "the place to be chosen"), to celebrate with us there the Games of the ... Olympiad (or the ... Olympic Winter Games)"*.



- 2.6 A fanfare then sounds; the Olympic flame is extinguished, and while the Olympic anthem is being played, the Olympic flag is slowly lowered from the flagpole and, unfurled horizontally, carried out of the arena, followed by the flag bearers. A farewell song resounds.

70 Victory, Medals and Diplomas Ceremony*

Victory ceremonies must be held in accordance with the protocol determined by the IOC. The medals and diplomas shall be provided by the OCOG for distribution by the IOC, to which they belong.

Bye-law to Rule 70

1 Victory Ceremony

- 1.1 The medals shall be presented during the Olympic Games by the President of the IOC (or a member selected by him), accompanied by the President of the IF concerned (or his deputy), if possible immediately after the event at the place where the competition was held and in the following manner: the competitors who are first, second and third, wearing their official or sports dress, take their places on a podium facing the official stand, with the winner slightly higher than the second-placed who is on his right, and the third-placed who is on his left. Their names, as well as those of the other diploma-winners, are announced. The flag of the winner's delegation shall be hoisted on the central flagpole, and those of the second and third on adjoining flagpoles to the right and to the left of the central flagpole, looking towards the arena. Whilst the (abbreviated) anthem of the winner's delegation is played, the medal-winners shall face the flags.



2 Medals and Diplomas

- 2.1 For the individual events, the first prize shall be a silver gilt medal and a diploma, the second prize a silver medal and a diploma, and the third prize a bronze medal and a diploma. The medals must mention the sport and the event for which they are awarded, and be fastened to a detachable chain or ribbon so as to be placed around the athlete's neck. Competitors who will have placed fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth shall also receive a diploma, but no medal. In the case of a tie for a first, second or third place, each competitor is entitled to a medal and a diploma.
- 2.2 The medals shall be at least 60mm in diameter and 3mm thick. The medals for first and second places shall be of silver of at least 925-1000 grade; the medal for first place shall be gilded with at least 6g of pure gold.
- 2.3 The designs of all medals and diplomas shall be submitted by the OCOG to the IOC Executive Board for prior written approval.
- 2.4 For team sports, and for team events in other sports, each athlete member of the winning team is entitled to a silver gilt medal and a diploma, each such member of the second team to a silver medal and a diploma, and each such member of the third team to a bronze medal and a diploma. Prior to the Olympic Games and after consultation with the IFs concerned, the IOC Executive Board shall decide the extent to which such athlete members shall include those athletes who have not taken part in at least one match or competition during such Olympic Games. The members of a team placed fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth shall receive a diploma.
- 2.5 All competitors, all team officials and other team personnel, the members of the IOC, and if they are present at the Olympic Games, the Presidents and Secretaries General of the IFs recognized by the IOC, and those of the NOCs as well as the judges, referees, timekeepers, inspectors, linesmen, etc. at the



Olympic Games officially appointed by the relevant IFs within the norms set by the IOC, shall receive a commemorative diploma and commemorative medal.

- 2.6 The medals and diplomas awarded on the occasion of the Olympic Winter Games must be different from those used for the Games of the Olympiad.
- 2.7 The commemorative diplomas and medals shall not be given to the members of a delegation which has withdrawn from the Olympic Games.
- 2.8 No prizes or awards other than those described above shall be given at the Olympic Games.
- 2.9 If an Olympic competitor is disqualified, his medal(s) and diploma(s) must be returned to the IOC.
- 2.10 The OCOG shall ensure that a valid assignment of the copyright is made by all the designers of the medals referred to in this rule in favour of the IOC, which shall automatically be recognized owner of the copyright. If the law of the country requires that an assignment must be made in writing, the OCOG is obliged to draw up the necessary document and to submit it for signature to the IOC, which shall thereupon be the sole holder of such copyright.
- 2.11 At the conclusion of the Olympic Games, the OCOG shall hand over to the IOC the moulds of all the medals struck and all surplus medals and diplomas. The OCOG shall also account to the IOC for all medals and proofs thereof which have been struck.

3 Commemorative Pins

Every athlete entitled to a medal shall receive a commemorative pin as determined by the IOC Executive Board.



71 Roll of Honour

- 1 The IOC shall not draw up any global ranking per country. A roll of honour bearing the names of medal winners and those awarded diplomas in each event shall be established by the OCOG which will deliver it to the IOC.
- 2 The names of the medal winners in each event shall be featured prominently and be on permanent display in the main stadium.
- 3 All athletes having participated in any Olympic Games shall receive a commemorative pin from the IOC.

72 Protocol

- 1 Throughout the period of the Olympic Games, the IOC alone has the authority to determine the protocol applicable at all the venues placed under the responsibility of the OCOG.
- 2 At all Olympic functions during the Olympic Games, the members, Honorary President for life, honorary members and honour members of the IOC in their order of seniority, the President, the Honorary President for life and the Vice-Presidents leading, take precedence followed by the members of the OCOG, the Presidents of the IFs and the Presidents of the NOCs.

73 Programme of Ceremonies

- 1 Details of all programmes of all the ceremonies shall be submitted to the IOC Executive Board for approval at least six months before the Olympic Games.
- 2 Details of the cultural programmes shall be communicated to it at the same time.



V ARBITRATION

74 Arbitration

Any dispute arising on the occasion of, or in connection with, the Olympic Games shall be submitted exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, in accordance with the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration.

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