



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET

THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

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ORIGIN

The brainchild of Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Olympic Movement and they were officially established on 23 June 1894 at the Paris International Congress that was organised by Coubertin at the Sorbonne.

Coubertin's vision for the Olympic Games may be summarised as follows: *"Why did I restore the Olympic Games? To ennoble and strengthen sports, to ensure their independence and duration, and thus to enable them better to fulfil the educational role incumbent upon them in the modern world."* Coubertin is also the author of the famous phrase which characterises the Olympic Games: *"The important thing in life is not the triumph, but the fight; the essential thing is not to have won, but to have fought well."* Pierre de Coubertin, London, 1908,

The host cities for both the first and second editions of the modern Olympic Games were quickly agreed upon during this Congress: Athens for 1896 and Paris for 1900.

THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

The goal of the Olympic Movement is clearly defined in the Olympic Charter: *"The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practised in accordance with Olympism and its values."* [Olympic Charter, 2015](#), Rule 1.1.

The Olympic Movement is the concerted, organised, universal and permanent action, carried out under the supreme authority of the IOC, of all individuals and entities who are inspired by the values of Olympism. It covers the five continents. It reaches its peak with the bringing together of the world's athletes at the great sports festival, the Olympic Games.

"Belonging to the Olympic Movement requires compliance with the Olympic Charter and recognition by the IOC". (Olympic Charter, 2015, Fundamental Principles)

In addition to the IOC, the Olympic Movement therefore includes the International Sports Federations (IFs), the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs), all other recognised federations, institutions and organisations, as well as athletes, judges/referees, coaches and other sports technicians.

OLYMPIC AGENDA 2020

Olympic Agenda 2020 is strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement. It was unanimously agreed at the 127th IOC Session in Monaco on 8th December 2014. It was the result of a year of discussions and consultation with all stakeholders of the Olympic Movement, as well as external experts and the public. The 40 recommendations were finalised by 14 Working Groups. The aim of Olympic agenda 2020 is to safeguard the uniqueness of the Olympic Games and strengthen sport in society.

By the end of 2015, almost 70% of the expected deliverables for 2015 had been fully delivered, more than 20% were on-going and less 10% had not started or been postponed due to management changes.

The key achievements of 2015 include, but are not limited to:

- New Invitation Phase for the Olympic Games 2024.
- Rewriting of all candidature documents, including the Host City Contract.
- First OCOG proposal for additional events made by Tokyo 2020.
- Identification of potential turnkey solutions for OCOGs.



- A newly defined role for the International Federations in the planning and delivery of the Olympic competitions.
- Use of the USD 20 million fund to protect clean athletes.
- A new athletes' engagement strategy, to better support athletes on and off the field of play.
- Structure and concept of the Olympic Channel, due to be launched in 2016.
- Inclusion of sport in the UN post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and strengthened relationships with key NGOs.
- Identification of additional cultural projects to take place around the Olympic Games Rio 2016.
- Publication of the IOC's annual report, including IFRS audited accounts and indemnity policy for IOC Members.
- Creation of an IOC Ethics and Compliance Office and the update of all ethics documentation.
- Delivery of three NOC Marketing Seminars.

One example of recommendations of the Olympic Agenda already implemented is the new Olympic Candidature Process that has been re-shaped. In the past, bidding for the Olympic Games could be likened to applying for a franchise. Cities were asked how they would adapt their cities to the requirements of hosting the Olympic Games.

Today, the IOC asks cities how the Olympic Games can best serve as a catalyst for their long-term sustainable development. At the same time, the IOC is investigating how the Olympic Games can best be adapted to the needs of the different cities and regions. There is a greater dialogue between the IOC and the Candidate Cities and progressive information exchange increase. Cities are encouraged to better shape their value propositions and to discuss and present proposals and potential solutions that will deliver excellent Games, without compromising the field of play for the athletes and also meeting the needs of the city and region to ensure a positive, long-term, sustainable legacy.

"We respect that there is no 'one size fits all' solution for the sustainability of the Olympic Games. Host city candidates strive for very different development goals and start from very different points of development. We embrace this diversity."

IOC President Thomas Bach at the 127th IOC Session

Another result of the recommendations of Olympic Agenda 2020 that significantly changed the host city selection process is the publication on the website of the IOC of Host City Contract (HCC). It was the first time that the HCC is being made public.

[Read Olympic Agenda 2020: 20+20 Recommendations here.](#)

[Read Olympic Agenda 2020: Context and Background here.](#)

THE IOC

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement. It acts as a catalyst for collaboration between all parties of the Olympic family, including the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), the International Sports Federations (IFs), the athletes, the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs), The Olympic Partner (TOP) programme sponsors and broadcast partners. It also fosters cooperation with public and private authorities, in particular the United Nations (UN), national governments and supranational organisations.

From a legal standpoint, the IOC is an international non-governmental non-profit organisation, of unlimited duration, in the form of an association with the status of a legal person, recognised by the Swiss Federal Council (decision of 17 September 1981). Its official languages are French and English. The



administrative headquarters of the IOC were originally based in Paris, but, since 10 April 1915, they have been based in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Although it has no legal obligation to do so and following a recommendation of the Olympic Agenda 2020, the IOC has voluntarily decided to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

THE MEMBERS

IOC Members are volunteers. They represent the IOC and the Olympic Movement in their country (they are not delegates of their country within the IOC). They include active and former Olympic athletes, as well as presidents or senior leaders of IFs, NOCs or other international organisations recognised by the IOC.

The first membership list of the IOC in 1894 included a total of 15 individuals. Today, there are 91 Members, including the President, four Vice-Presidents and ten members of the Executive Board. At present, the IOC also has 36 honorary members, one honour member and an Honorary President Jacques Rogge. The composition of the IOC's general membership today reflects the important part that is also played by the other segments of the Olympic family. This is demonstrated via the current Olympic Charter stipulation that representatives of the different Olympic family constituents (individuals holding leadership positions within an IF, NOC or athlete members of the Athletes' Commission) can become IOC members (Olympic Charter 2015 Rule 16). Thirty-five of the IOC's current members have taken part in the Olympic Games as athletes, of whom 27 are medallists. In more recent years, the IOC membership has become more gender balanced. In 1981, Pirjo Häggman and Flor Isava Fonseca were the first women to be elected as IOC members. Today the membership numbers 22 women, while there are three honorary members.

THE PRESIDENTS

It is a common misconception that, as the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin was also the first IOC President. Instead, following the original stipulation that the President should be from the country hosting the upcoming Games, it was the Greek Demetrius Vikelas who was the first IOC President. The original rule was quickly replaced, however, and modifications can be found in successive editions of the Olympic Charter. As a result, the number of individuals who have held the position of IOC President has been few, and the period of their presidency has varied considerably.

Today, in accordance with Rule 20 of the Olympic Charter, the President is elected by secret ballot for a period of eight years, with the possibility of a single extension of four years.

Figure A: The IOC presidents

Demetrius Vikelas (GRE)	1894 – 1896
Pierre de Coubertin (FRA)	1896 – 1925
Henri de Baillet-Latour (BEL)	1925 – 1942
J. Sigfrid Edström (SWE)	1946 – 1952
Avery Brundage (USA)	1952 – 1972
Lord Killanin (IRL)	1972 – 1980
Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP)	1980 – 2001
Jacques Rogge (BEL)	2001 – 2013
Thomas Bach (GER)	2013 –

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board has the general responsibility for the administration and management of the IOC's affairs.

Along with the President, it is the Executive Board members who are responsible for overseeing the IOC's administrative affairs. Created in 1921, the Executive Board is currently composed of the IOC President, four Vice-Presidents and ten other members, all elected by the Session by secret ballot, by a majority of votes cast, for a four-year term. Board members may serve no more than two consecutive terms, and must then wait two



years before being re-eligible for election to the Board.

THE SESSION

The general assembly of the members of the IOC is called a Session. The Session meets at least once a year. The Session is the supreme organ of the IOC. It adopts, modifies and interprets the Olympic Charter. Upon the proposal of the Executive Board, it elects the members of the IOC. The Session also elects the host cities of the Olympic Games. The quorum required for a Session is half the total membership of the IOC plus one. Decisions of the Session are taken by a majority of the votes cast; however, a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required for any modification of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, of the Rules of the Olympic Charter or if elsewhere provided in the Olympic Charter.

THE COMMISSIONS

The President nominates special commissions or working groups to study certain specific subjects and make recommendations to the Executive Board. The composition of some of the commissions is mixed, and includes IOC members, representatives of the IFs and NOCs, athletes, technical experts, advisers and sports specialists. In 2015, more than 30 commissions prepared recommendations for the Executive Board.

One of the most recent commissions, established in 1999 by President Juan Antonio Samaranch, is the Ethics Commission. Integrity within the Olympic Movement extends beyond the Fundamental Principles and the athletes' oath taken at the Games. Through the existence of commissions such as the Ethics or Medical Commissions, as well as via efforts to address problems such as the commercial abuse of athletes, the IOC is working to uphold its ethical and fundamental principles in a changing world. The IOC has established two USD 10 million

funds, the first to protect clean athletes in the fight against doping and the second to protect against match-fixing, manipulation of competition and related corruption.

THE OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY

The origins of Olympic Solidarity date back to the 1960s when the IOC decided to support National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in countries that had recently gained their independence. Olympic Solidarity offers financial assistance through relevant, targeted programmes specifically designed for NOCs, especially those with the greatest needs. Its activities are multi-faceted, prioritising athlete development; training for coaches and sports administrators; and promoting the Olympic values. Olympic Solidarity provides guidance to help NOCs implement programmes and properly manage the funds they have been allocated in a fully transparent manner. It relies on a global network of partners, including IFs, well-developed NOCs, and continental associations, to help establish, implement and monitor its programmes.

THE ADMINISTRATION

The IOC administration is placed under the responsibility of the Director General, Christophe De Kepper. He runs the administration under the authority and guidance of the President. He is assisted in this task by the directors. The main assignments of the administration include: preparation, implementation and follow-up of the decisions taken by the Session, the Executive Board and the President; preparation and follow-up of the work of all the commissions; and permanent liaison with the IFs, NOCs and OCOGs, including coordination of the preparations for all Olympic Games.



THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS (IFs)

The International Sports Federations are international non-governmental organisations recognised by the IOC as administering one or more sports at world level. When the IOC was established in 1894, only a very small number of IFs existed. Today, however, there are 28 Summer IFs, seven Winter IFs, and 35 Recognised Sports Federations affiliated to the Olympic Movement.

The IFs are responsible for overseeing the technical aspects and management of their sport at the Olympic Games. They also establish the eligibility criteria for the competitions of the Games, in accordance with the Olympic Charter. They likewise play an active role in the applicant and candidate city evaluation process. They join the IOC in the fight against doping in sport. In order to discuss common problems and decide on their events calendars, the Olympic Summer Sports IFs, the Olympic Winter Sports IFs and the Recognised IFs have formed associations: the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), the Association of International Olympic Winter Federations (AIOWF), the Association of Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF) and Sport Accord, which is the association of International Sports Federations.

THE NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES (NOCs)

Two hundred and six NOCs belonging to the Olympic family are essential “ambassadors” of the Olympic Movement in their respective countries, and the tasks assigned to them are clearly stipulated under Rule 27 of the Olympic Charter. The NOCs are responsible for sending participants to the Games and endorsing potential future Olympic host cities within their countries. Furthermore, they are assigned the task of promoting the Olympic Movement, its

work, and its fundamental principles in their day-to-day activities. The NOCs form five continental associations, which are represented within the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC).

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEES FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES (OCOGs)

The organisation of the Olympic Games is entrusted by the IOC to the NOC of the country of the host city as well as to the host city itself. The NOC forms, for that purpose, an Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, which, from the time it is constituted, communicates directly with the IOC, from which it receives instructions. The OCOG executive body includes: the IOC member or members in the country; the President and Secretary General of the NOC; and at least one member representing, and designated by the host city.

The OCOG must undertake its work in accordance with the Olympic Charter and the Host City Contract concluded between the IOC, the NOC and the city. Some of the aspects of an OCOG’s work include:

- to give equal treatment to every sport on the programme and ensure that competitions are held according to the rules of the IFs;
- to choose and, if necessary, create the required facilities, competition sites, stadiums and training halls, and to arrange for the equipment required;
- to accommodate the athletes, their entourage and the officials;
- to organise the cultural events that are an essential element of the celebration of the Olympic Games.

THE OLYMPIC PARTNERS

The IOC redistributes 90 per cent of its revenue to the wider sporting movement, which means that every day the equivalent of USD 3.25 million goes to help athletes and sports



organisations at all levels around the world. Commercial support for the Olympic Games can be traced back to the first modern Games in Athens, Greece, in 1896. Today, the success of the Olympic Movement is built on the strong and stable financial foundation provided by the IOC's commercial relationships. The IOC operates as a privately funded, independent organisation, with essential support from the global business community. The IOC's multi-faceted Olympic marketing programme plays a key role in staging and promoting the Games and Olympic values, while also generating revenue that is redistributed throughout the Olympic Movement. This revenue is essential for staging the Games and supporting National Olympic Committees (NOCs), International Federations (IFs), the Olympic Solidarity scholarship programme and other sports organisations. The success and global popularity of the Games is in large part due to the financial, technical and promotional support of our broadcast partners and our Worldwide Olympic Partners.

For more information please consult the [IOC Annual report 2014](#)

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