

IOC GUIDELINES RELATED TO THE CREATION OF AN IF ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Guidelines)

Pursuant to the recommendation of the IOC 2000 Reform Commission that “*athletes should be well represented at all levels of the sports movement: IOC, IFs, NOCs and NFs*” and the Basic Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic Movement, and in view of Rules 2.7 and 28.1.3 of the Olympic Charter, the IOC encourages International Federations (IFs) and National Federations (NFs) to form their own Athletes' Commissions.

The IOC's mission is to place athletes at the heart of the Olympic Movement, and the Olympic Agenda 2020 recommendations and the IOC Athletes' Commission Strategy further support the importance of having effective Athletes' Commissions.

In an effort to assist IFs, the IOC has prepared these Guidelines, which are intended to serve as minimum standards for IFs when establishing the terms of reference of their Athletes' Commissions.

1. MISSION

The mission of an IF Athletes' Commission (hereafter “Commission”) is to:

- a. Represent the views and opinions of the athletes and ensure their voice is heard within the IF;
- b. Inform athletes about the IF's activities (i.e. educational tools, rules and regulations); and
- c. Work with and support the IF in its mission to develop and promote the sport.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Commission are to:

- a. Consider issues related to athletes and provide advice to the IF;
- b. Engage actively with initiatives and projects that protect and support clean athletes on and off the field of play;
- c. Represent the rights and interests of athletes and make related recommendations, including recommending arbitrators to be appointed to the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS);
- d. Consult with athletes in the evaluation of the rules and regulations of their respective sport and subsequently provide feedback to the IF; and
- e. Maintain contact with the IOC Athletes' Commission.

3. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

- a. The Commission should have a minimum of five members. They must all be older than 16.
- b. Commission members must never have received any sanction in relation to the World Anti-Doping Code.
- c. The Commission should be composed of a majority of athletes who, at the time of their election/nomination, are participating at international level or have done so within the previous four years. The composition should reflect the disciplines of the IF.
- d. Both sexes should be represented within the Commission, and there should be a fair balance between genders.
- e. The majority of the members of the Commission must be elected by their peers.
- f. The IF may appoint additional members to the Commission in order to ensure a fair balance in terms of gender, sports discipline and geography. Appointed members must be a minority.
- g. The Commission members should elect their Chair from among those members who have been elected to the Commission by their peers, and the Chair may serve in this role for up to four years, after which the term of office may be renewed.

- h. The term of office of Commission members can be for up to four years, or less in the case of filling a casual vacancy. The Chair and members may be re-elected if they meet the conditions listed under paragraph 3 above.
- i. The timing of the Commission member and Chair elections is recommended to be within the same year as, or a year before or after, the election of the IF Executive Board (or equivalent highest decision-making body based on the IF's structure).

4. REPRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSION WITHIN THE IF

The Commission should be represented on the IF's Executive Board (or equivalent highest decision-making body based on the IF's structure) by its Chair or at least one other member who is also an athlete. They must be elected by the Commission and should have the right to vote within the Executive Board.

5. MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

- a. The Commission should meet at least once a year.
- b. The IF administration should be responsible for ensuring, within the means of the IF, that the Commission is able to meet.

6. ATHLETES' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DECLARATION

The Commission will work with its IF, including the IF's Executive Board, to adopt the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, which was presented to and adopted by the 133rd IOC Session in Buenos Aires in October 2018 on behalf of the Olympic Movement, and incorporate it into the IF's policies and procedures. In particular, the Commission will work with its IF to develop mechanisms for effective remedies related to these rights and responsibilities, and to encourage athletes to make use of these mechanisms.

7. REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTION TO THE IOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION

In order for NOCs to put forward a candidate for election to the IOC Athletes' Commission, the IF of the proposed candidate must have an Athletes' Commission that meets the conditions set out in these Guidelines.

In the event that an IF does not have a Commission that meets these Guidelines, this criterion may be waived, provided that the IF sends written confirmation to the IOC that it:

- (i) agrees to create a Commission, by a deadline to be agreed with the IOC, which satisfies the requirements of these Guidelines; and
- (ii) undertakes to work with the IOC on an implementation plan for creating a Commission.

These IOC Guidelines relating to the creation of an IF Athletes' Commission were approved by the IOC Executive Board on 26 March 2019 in Lausanne.