

## **IOC GUIDELINES RELATED TO THE CREATION OF AN NOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION**

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 Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement, and in view of Rules 2.7 and 28.1.3 of the Olympic Charter, an Athletes’ Commission should be established by, and within, each National Olympic Committee (“NOC”).

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 NOCs, the IOC has prepared these Guidelines, which are intended to serve as minimum standards for NOCs when establishing the terms of reference of their Athletes’ Commissions.

### **1. MISSION**

The mission of an NOC Athletes’ Commission (hereafter “Commission”) is to represent the views of the athletes and make their voice heard within the NOC.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Commission are to:

- a. Consider issues related to athletes and provide advice to the NOC;
- 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); and
- d. Maintain contact with the IOC Athletes’ Commission.

### **3. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION**

- a. The Commission has a minimum of five members who are nationals of the country of the NOC. They must be at least 16 years of age and have never received any sanction in relation to the World Anti-Doping Code.
- b. The Commission is composed of a majority of athletes who, at the time of their election/nomination, are participating at national level (at least) in a sport on the Olympic programme or have done so within the previous eight years.
- c. The Commission shall include at least two athletes who have participated in at least one of the last three editions of the Olympic Games.
- d. Both sexes must be represented within the Commission, and there should be a fair balance between genders.
- e. When applicable, there should be a reasonable balance between summer and winter sports practised in the country.
- f. The majority of the members of the Commission must be elected by their peers.
- g. The Chair of the Commission must be a member who has been elected to the Commission by his or her peers.
- h. The length of the term of office is four years. The term may be renewed.
- i. The NOC may appoint additional members to ensure a fair balance in the Commission in terms of gender or sports and/or to meet the conditions listed under paragraph 3b and 3c of these Guidelines, if necessary. Appointed members must be a minority.

- j. The following are ex officio members of the Commission in their respective NOCs and have the right to vote at the meetings of the Commission:
- Members of the IOC Athletes' Commission; and
  - Members of the Athletes' Commissions of the NOC Continental Associations.

#### **4. REPRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSION WITHIN THE NOC**

The Commission is represented at the NOC General Assembly by at least two of its members, including at least one athlete who has participated in at least one of the last three editions of the Olympic Games, elected by the Commission, each with a right to vote at the NOC General Assembly.

The Commission is represented within the NOC's Executive Body by at least one member, elected by the Commission and approved by the NOC General Assembly, with a right to vote within the NOC Executive Body. This person must be a member of the Commission who has been elected to the Commission by his or her peers.

#### **5. MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

- a. The Commission meets at least once a year;
- b. The NOC is responsible for ensuring, within its means, that the Commission is able to meet.
- c. It is best practice to send reports of the Commission's meetings to the IOC Athletes' Commission, including updates when new Commission members are appointed or elected.

#### **6. ATHLETES' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DECLARATION**

The Commission will work with the NOC, including the NOC's Executive Body, to adopt the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, which was presented to and adopted by the 133<sup>rd</sup> IOC Session in Buenos Aires in October 2018 on behalf of the Olympic Movement, and incorporate it into the NOC's policies and procedures. In particular, the Commission will work with the NOC 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 NOC of the proposed candidate must have an Athletes' Commission that meets the conditions set out in these Guidelines.

In the event that an NOC does not have a Commission that meets these Guidelines, this criterion may be waived, provided that the NOC 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 NOC Athletes' Commission were amended and approved by the IOC Executive Board on 26 March 2019 in Lausanne.