



# ATHLETES

**BULLETIN:** ISSUE 003 AUGUST 2004



## MESSAGE FROM THE IOC PRESIDENT JACQUES ROGGE

Dear Athletes,  
As an Olympian, I welcome you to Athens, where you will be experiencing a unique event for which you have spent the last few years preparing: the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad.

As IOC President, I can reaffirm that the IOC is listening to you more than ever! You are at the heart of the Olympic Movement, and its number one priority.

In Athens, there will be 10,500 of you from 202 National Olympic

Committees on five continents, experiencing for yourselves what was still just a dream a few months ago.

Back in their country of origin, these Games will bear the hallmark of tolerance, peace and friendship. Through your performances and the challenges you have met and overcome, you are not only champions but also, and above all, examples for the new generation. This special "Athens" edition of the *Athletes'*

*Bulletin* invites you to share and pass on the fundamental values of sport, which are generosity, respect for others and solidarity, and for which you yourselves are the ambassadors.

Athletes of the world, I look forward to seeing you on 13 August 2004 so that we can share together the emotion and passion of the Games!

**Jacques Rogge**  
President, International Olympic Committee



## ATHLETES' COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SERGEY BUBKA: INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Athens! All my congratulations for having achieved the ultimate goal of any athlete: participation in the Olympic Games. After so many years of hard work and sacrifices, you are going to have a unique experience, an experience that I was lucky enough to have on four occasions.

We, the athletes, are at the heart of the Olympic Games. Without us, they would not exist. So, all together, we have to play a more active role within the Olympic Movement, whether at a national or international level. This happens through the IOC Athletes' Commission, "your voice". In Athens, you will be able to elect your representatives on this Commission; they will defend your interests and your place within the Olympic Movement. Your

vote can make all the difference!

But if we have rights, we also have duties. In this edition of the *Athletes' Bulletin*, the Athletes' Commission wants to make you aware of the problems and responsibilities of us all and the possibilities of helping each other. Many of us already devote our time to sport or society by committing to a national federation, National Olympic Committee or humanitarian causes.... Whether donating clothes for refugees, raising awareness of the danger of HIV or participating in the endless fight against doping, we have messages of hope to pass on. As Nelson Mandela recalled, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does." Through strength of will, we

have managed to overcome the obstacles in order to achieve our aim, the Olympic Games. Through strength of will, we can bring improved well-being to thousands of people.

This exemplary nature must also be part of our attitude during the Games or any other sports event. For the first time, the IOC Code of Ethics will be applicable during the Olympic Games to all participants, and therefore to you athletes. An Ethics Commission office will be open to you at the Olympic Family hotel in Athens.

Continue to give the best of yourselves inside and outside the sports arena. Good luck to you all in Athens!

**Sergey Bubka**  
Chairman, IOC Athletes' Commission

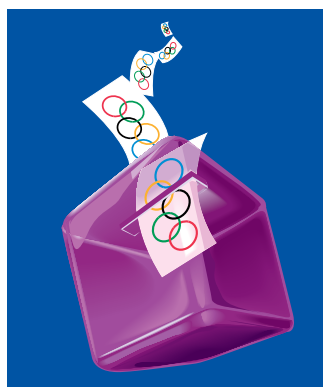
## VOTE FOR YOUR REPRESENTATIVES!

A total of 32 athletes representing as many countries are running for election to the IOC Athletes' Commission that will take place during the Olympic Games in Athens. Four of the 32 candidates will be elected by vote and will become members of the Athletes Commission and IOC members for a term of eight years.

Created in 1981, the IOC Athletes' Commission is the link between the Olympic athletes and the IOC and serves as the athletes' voice within the Olympic Movement. It includes 19 members composed of 12 athletes elected for eight years by the athletes competing in the Olympic Games and seven athletes appointed by the IOC President to ensure a balance between regions, sexes and sports.

An information package introducing the candidates and detailing their aims and ideas will be delivered to all athletes competing in Athens with their accreditation cards. This also includes a booklet that explains the role of the IOC Athletes' Commission.

By voting for those who you choose to represent you on the Commission you are



expressing your opinion within the Olympic movement. Your vote can make the difference! Voting takes place in the main restaurant in the Olympic Village from 11 to 25 August as well as at the Phevos and Athena Residents' Centre until 24 August.

The results of the vote will be announced at 2 p.m. on 26 August in the "Amphitheatre" of the international zone of the Olympic Village and the new IOC Athletes' Commission members will be officially introduced during the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## WELCOME TO ATHENS!





## GIVING IS WINNING!



Are you a team player? Then join the world-wide winning team by donating your clean sports and casual clothing to those that are in need. Your clothing will be donated to thousands of refugees around the world so that they too can be a part of the team.

Please deposit your donation in the receptacles in the Olympic Village.

## HIV CAN AFFECT ANYONE ANYWHERE!

You are all aware that the AIDS epidemic is still spreading fast and wide all over the world. More than 40 million people are infected with HIV. This includes many athletes and people who enjoy sports. Nearly 90% of all the infected people worldwide do not know they have the virus, though they can transmit it to others.

We must all adopt a responsible attitude



towards HIV/AIDS and contribute with all the means at our disposal in preventing its spread.

Olympians like you are role models, by your personal behaviour and also as an ambassador for the cause. Never forget: Faithful sexual partnership and safe sex using condoms offers the best protection.



*"HIV can affect anyone anywhere. As athletes we are in a unique position to help get messages through on how to avoid infection with the virus. While there may be no cure for AIDS, we must not forget that HIV can be prevented."*

Yaping Deng

## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CARL AND CATHY



What sports fan would not like to have a close-up look at the equipment that helped the world's best athletes make Olympic History? For example, the golden shoes that American Carl Lewis was wearing as he sprinted to gold in the 200-metre race in Los Angeles in 1984. Or the green and gold shoes that Australian Cathy Freeman was wearing for her victorious 400-metre race at the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000.

This is possible at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, just a few kilometres from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) along the scenic Lake Geneva. The Museum is the global depository for the written, visual and graphic history of the Olympic Games and allows visitors to relive the passion of these Games.

One of the permanent exhibitions

of the Museum highlights the achievements of top-level athletes through the display of numerous objects and items of sports equipment. Not only does it allow the visitor to get a close-up look at the clothing that the athlete was wearing when he or she made Olympic history, but it is also a display of the technical evolution and advances that have been made in the area of sporting equipment.

In addition to Lewis's and Freeman's shoes, the visitor can discover the modified ski boots that Jean-Claude Killy wore at the 1968 Winter Games when he achieved the remarkable feat of winning the downhill, giant slalom and slalom, Eric Heiden's record breaking skates worn in 1980 or the revolutionary bicycle with which Chris Boardman shattered cycling records in

Barcelona in 1992. Technical advances in equipment can be observed through the high-tech archery bow that Jay Barrs used to win gold in 1988, compared to those from the early 20th century or those used in the '60s and '70s.

Thanks to the generosity of athletes, coaches, teams and sponsors, the Olympic Museum now offers the public 430,000 photographs, 19,400 hours of film footage, over a linear kilometre of archives, and 50,000 items such as posters, sports equipment, torches, Games souvenirs, medals, works of art, etc.

The Olympic Museum museology department is sending a team of five people to the Olympic Games in Athens to meet athletes and collect those items that will become a part of the IOC heritage.

## THE FIGHT AGAINST DOPING: "ZERO TOLERANCE"

At the Sydney Games in 2000, 11 positive cases of doping were recorded. This was the highest number since the Los Angeles Games in 1984. Further to the eight positive cases in Salt Lake City, medals were withdrawn from the cross-country skiers Johann Muhlegg, Olga Danilova and Larissa Lazutina.

The IOC's message "Zero Tolerance!" is very clear. The IOC is taking measures to impose this message.

For the Athens Games, the IOC Medical Commission is making all the practical arrangements for doping control.

More than 3,000 tests will be performed, both before and after competitions, in the Olympic venues, at the Olympic Village, and throughout the world for those athletes who have not yet arrived at the Village. These will take place from 30 July 2004 onwards.

After the events, all the medallists, and some athletes drawn by lots, will be systematically tested. At the Athens Games, all the prohibited substances stipulated in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)'s list will be tested for, including EPO and synthetic haemoglobins (especially, but not exclusively, in endurance sports).

The fight against doping is the priority for the IOC, and its Medical and Athletes' Commissions. Besides the moral and ethical issues, the damage that doping can do to health must be highlighted in a major, radical way.

IOC President Jacques Rogge, a surgeon by profession, recently made this clear in no uncertain terms: "Doping is frightening. It frightens me for all athletes because I have seen in my profession many people's health destroyed by doping. I have seen people dying. It frightens me also because of the beliefs people have in sport and in the Olympic Games. The third reason why I'm afraid is that doping may dry up the recruitment of sport. For these three reasons we have to act. We have to act forcefully."