



ATHLETES BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION

ISSUE 012. SEPTEMBER 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN: **FRANK FREDERICKS**



Today, being an athlete does not stop at an athletics track, a pool or a court... Like any other citizen, athletes have the

right and the duty to voice their concerns and recommendations on the position they occupy within the sports movement and society in general. This is exactly the main purpose of the two-yearly International Athletes' Forum: to offer the athletes a platform for discussion and exchanges on topics of direct concern to them, as well as others which go beyond the confines of the stadium, within society in general. Last May in Marrakech, the 4th edition was no exception to this rule, thanks to the active and energetic contribution of all its participants on issues close to their hearts.

Whether on the relationship between the athletes, the clubs, federations and NOCs, health protection in training and competition, or the logically recurring theme on social and professional life of athletes during and after elite competition, the recommendations and the guidelines formulated in Marrakech are of primary importance for the athletes, the IOC, the NOCs, the IFs and for sport in general. Our recommendations will be presented to the Olympic Congress in Copenhagen which, by devoting one of its themes to the athletes, will be a further stage in promoting their role within the society.

People have to know what athletes think, what they feel and what they want. Athletes have to involve themselves and place their passion, experience and competence at the service of sport and society. Just like nine of your colleagues who have decided to translate words into action by being candidates for election to the IOC Athletes' Commission. They should be congratulated! To all those who will be in Vancouver next year, remember that voting for that person who represents you and defends your interests is very important. One athlete – one voice. That's our right and duty!

ENCOURAGE ATHLETE PARTICIPATION



After two editions in Lausanne and one in Dubai, the International Athletes' Forum chose Marrakech for its 4th edition, at the invitation of the Moroccan NOC on the initiative of Olympic champion Hicham El Guerrouj, a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission. At the end of May, almost 100 athletes from five continents, representatives of more than 30 International Federations (IFs) and the five Continental Associations of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) shared and exchanged opinions and experiences on the three themes of direct interest to them which go beyond the sports field itself. A series of recommendations, which

will be presented at the Olympic Congress in Copenhagen, were adopted.

1. Concerning the relationship between the athletes, clubs, federations and NOCs, the participants unanimously agreed that all the members of the sports movement have an important role and responsibilities vis-à-vis the athletes and vice-versa. The athletes thus have a central role to play in raising the profile of sport and recreation across communities. For their part, the sports organisations must ensure that all athletes can compete on a level playing field. The Forum also encouraged sports organisations to strengthen their

athletes' commissions, or if necessary create one.

2. With regard to health protection in training and competition, the IOC was urged to implement educational programmes on health protection and injury prevention at the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games, and to encourage the NOCs and IFs to do the same. As for the IFs' technical decisions, in particular relating to competition schedules and rule changes, these should be taken in consultation with the IFs' respective Athletes' and Medical Commission representatives.

3. On the key issue of the social and professional life of athletes during and after elite competition, the participants reminded the various Olympic Movement constituents – athletes and sports organisations – of the need to understand the importance of combining education and sport ("dual career"), and proposed the introduction of programmes to provide emotional support and management during the transition period.

IOC President Jacques Rogge, who was present for the closing session, recalled that the main priority for the Olympic Movement was always the athletes, and it was important that they made themselves heard and expressed their points of view. This was also the first time that the IOC Athletes' Commission and representatives of the IF and Continental Associations' athletes commissions had had the opportunity to meet and discuss topical issues, such as the athletes whereabouts procedure in connection with the World Anti-Doping Code.

Read the full text of the recommendations on www.olympic.org, "Olympic Movement/Athletes' Commission" section.

NINE CANDIDATES FOR THE IOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION



Nine athletes are candidates for the IOC Athletes' Commission elections which will be held during the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver in 2010. Two places will be available, to replace Pernilla Wiberg and Manuela di Centa.

Following the review of the IOC Athletes' Commission regulations, only NOCs whose athletes' commissions meet the standards set by the IOC can put forward a candidate. In addition, all candidates must have taken part in the Turin 2006 Games and/or be taking part in the Vancouver 2010 Games.

All accredited athletes (AA) will be able to vote, and will have to select two candidates from two different sports in order for their vote to be valid.

Each athlete will receive an election manual upon their arrival in Vancouver. This manual will explain the role of the IOC Athletes' Commission and give details of the nine candidates.

Voting centres will be open in the two Olympic Villages, in Vancouver and Whistler.

After acceptance by the IOC Session, the two elected athletes will become IOC members for the same duration as their term of office in the Commission, i.e. eight years.

THE NINE CANDIDATES ARE, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:

- Ms Jacqui COOPER (Australia – Freestyle skiing)
- Mr Antoine DÉNÉRIAZ (France – Alpine skiing)
- Ms Elene GEDEVANISHVILI (Georgia – Figure Skating)
- Mr Khurelbaatar KHASH-ERDENE (Mongolia – Cross-country skiing)
- Ms Petra MAJDIČ (Slovenia – Cross-country skiing)
- Mr Adam PENGILLY (Great Britain – Bobsleigh)
- Ms Angela Marie RUGGIERO (United States of America – Ice hockey)
- Mr Ippolito SANFRATELLO (Italy – Speed skating)
- Mr Miroslav ŠATAN (Slovakia – Ice hockey)

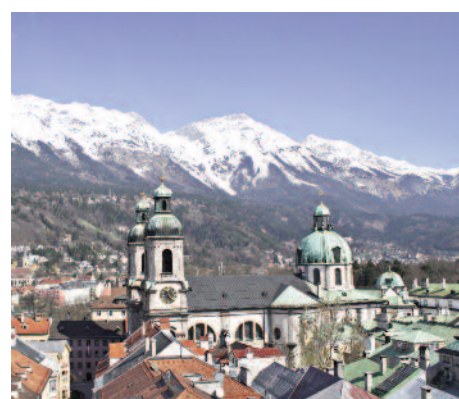
INNSBRUCK 2012

The Tyrolean capital city of Innsbruck was elected in December 2008 to host the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012, with approximately 1,000 athletes, aged 14 to 18, expected to compete. The competition schedule will be based on the seven sports included in the Vancouver 2010 programme (biathlon, bobsleigh, curling, ice hockey, luge, skating and skiing), with a limited number of disciplines and events.

Having organised memorable Olympic Winter Games on two occasions in the past, Innsbruck benefits from already existing first-class venues, as well as a high degree of competence in organising international sports events. Innsbruck has already built up its reputation as a young and dynamic city for sports by hosting the 2005 Winter Universiade and the famous Air & Style Snowboard Contest. The Austrian city can also boast of an enthusiastic population that has an excellent understanding of winter sports, and the full support of the local, regional and national authorities.

"We are glad to be going back to Innsbruck, where the extraordinary 1964 and 1976 Olympic Winter Games were staged", said IOC President Jacques Rogge.

The Innsbruck bid also excelled through its good understanding of the cultural and educational component of the Youth Olympic Games, and the city will offer an excellent learning and sharing experience for all participants.



Q&A WITH BECKIE SCOTT



Beckie Scott, a gold and silver medal-winning Olympian in cross-country skiing, has competed in three editions of the Olympic Games. During her career she has also won 17 medals in World Cup events and competed in five World Championships. In 2006, Beckie Scott became an Athletes' Commission member and an IOC member when she was elected to the IOC's Athletes' Commission. She currently serves on the Coordination Commissions for the XXII Olympic Winter Games, Sochi 2014 and for the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games, Innsbruck 2012.

Q: How do you see your role as a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission?

A: It is a tremendous honour to be representing the athletes of the Olympic Movement, who are, in my humble opinion, the best part! It is always at the forefront of my mind that I was elected by athletes, and that is who I am there to represent, and speak on behalf of. It is a big responsibility, but also a huge privilege.

Q: What is your involvement in the 2012 Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck?

A: I am serving on the Coordination Commission for the 2012 Youth Olympic Games and I will attend my first meeting in October 2009 in Innsbruck. I am looking forward to the meeting and to being a part of this exciting event!

Q: How is life after sport?

A: Busy! Initially I wondered what I was going to do with all my time but now, in between my work, IOC commitments and my involvement in a number of other committees and commissions and having a baby, I no longer wonder! Now I wonder when I'll ever have free time again! But I am enjoying every minute of it! I am getting the chance to see and do a variety of different things and I have made friends and acquaintances all over the world. I also love being a mum. It is the best part of life!

IOC ATHLETE CAREER PROGRAMME

Since its launch in partnership with Adecco in 2005, the programme has benefited more than 4,000 athletes from about 30 countries, offering assistance in the field of employment (preparation, training and job placement). Considering the recommendations and concerns of the athletes, the programme has evolved and now aims to offer assistance in two other fields: education and life skills. The IOC is currently developing a concept and a dedicated section on its new website. The yearly IOC Athlete Career Programme Forum will be held in Lausanne in September 2009 with the national programme managers.