

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) ATHLETES' COMMISSION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

DEFINITION

Recommendation 17 of the IOC 2000 Commission states that active athletes are only those Olympic athletes who are still competing in the Olympic Games or were participants in the most recent edition of the Olympic Games.

CREATION

Rule 24.5 of the IOC Olympic Charter states that: *An Athletes' Commission shall be constituted, the majority of whose members shall be elected by athletes participating in the Olympic Games. The election shall be held on the occasion of the Games of the Olympiad and the Olympic Winter Games, in accordance with regulations adopted by the IOC Executive Board in consultation with the Athletes' Commission, and communicated to the IFs and NOCs one year prior to the Olympic Games at which such election is to be held.*

OBJECTIVES/FUNCTIONING

The Athletes' Commission is a consultative body of the IOC and a link between the active Olympic athletes and the IOC.

It ensures that the athletes' points of view are taken into account in IOC decisions.

It ensures respect of the rights of the athletes within the Olympic Movement and draws up recommendations to that effect.

It puts forward nominations for representatives to sit on other IOC commissions or associated bodies and thus express the athletes' points of view.

It proposes to establish working groups responsible for liaison with Organising Committees for the Olympic Games, to help them to respond better to the needs of the athletes. These groups work in close collaboration with the Coordination Commission for the Games.

During the Olympic Games, the IOC Athletes' Commission is present in the Olympic Village and is at the athletes' disposal.

The Athletes' Commission forwards its recommendations/proposals to the IOC Executive Board subject to the approval, after discussion within the Athletes' Commission, of the majority of the members present.

The IOC provides the Commission with an annual operating budget; expenses are subject to IOC approval. In addition, secretarial assistance is provided by the IOC.

COMPOSITION

The Athletes' Commission is composed of no more than 19 members, including:

- eight summer sports athletes, elected during the Games of the Olympiad by the athletes competing in these Games for a term of eight years (four athletes at each edition of the Games);
- four winter sports athletes, elected at the Olympic Winter Games by the athletes competing in these Games for a term of eight years (two athletes at each edition of the Games);
- seven athletes appointed by the IOC President in order to guarantee a balance between regions, the sexes and sports.

Only athletes who meet the term of being "active" may stand for election to the Athletes' Commission.

The 12 athletes elected by their peers to the Athletes' Commission are proposed to the Session for election to IOC membership. The same procedure is followed for three of the athletes who are appointed by the IOC President.

MEETINGS

The Athletes' Commission may hold up to two meetings per year. It also meets annually with the IOC Executive Board in order to submit its recommendations.

The meetings are convened by the Chairman of the Commission through the IOC secretariat.

The agenda and the working documents, as well as the minutes of the meeting, are prepared by the secretariat, at the request of the Chairman.