



PIUS-ALTIUS-FORTIUS

Model Constitution for a National Olympic Committee



CITIUS-ALTIUS-FORTIUS

Model Constitution for a National Olympic Committee

"This model constitution has been prepared and compiled
as a guide for National Olympic Committees"

"Château de Vidy, Lausanne" 1968

Article I

Title and Headquarters

The organisation, with its headquarters in
(town) will hereafter be referred to as the
(country) Olympic Committee.

Article II

1. The general object of the Olympic Committee is the fostering and the development of the Olympic Movement and its high ideals throughout the country, based principally on the provisions laid down in this constitution.

a) Fundamental Principles

1. The Olympic Games are held every four years. They assemble amateurs of all nations in fair and equal competition. No discrimination is allowed against any country or person on grounds of race, religion or political affiliation.
2. The Olympic Games celebrate an Olympiad or period of four successive years.
3. The aims of the Olympic Movement are to promote the development of those fine physical and moral qualities that come from contests on the friendly fields of amateur sport and to bring together the youth of the world in a great quadriennial sport festival, thereby creating international respect and goodwill, and helping to construct a better and more peaceful world.

4. A separate cycle of Olympic Winter Games is held, comprising competitions in Winter Sports. The Olympic Winter Games are held in the same calendar year as the Olympic Games. The term Olympiad is not used in connection with the Winter Games.
5. Only persons who are amateurs within the definition laid down by the IOC may compete in the Olympic Games.
6. Citizens of this country are qualified to participate in the Olympic Games only under their national colours.
7. All profits derived from the holding of the Olympic Games are paid to the International Olympic Committee and are necessarily applied to the promotion of the Olympic Movement or to the development of amateur sport.
8. This Olympic Committee must be completely independent and autonomous and in a position to resist all political, religious or commercial pressure.

b) Objectives of the Olympic Movement

The Olympic Games were not revived by the Baron de Coubertin merely to give contestants a chance to win medals and to break records, not to entertain the public, nor to provide for the participants a stepping-stone to a career in professional sport, nor certainly to demonstrate the superiority of one political system over another.

His idea was they would :

1. bring to the attention of the world the fact that a national program of physical training and competitive sport will not only develop stronger and healthier boys and girls but also and perhaps more important will make better and happier citizens through the character building that follows participation in properly administered amateur sport.

2. demonstrate the principles of fair play and good sportsmanship, which could be adopted with great advantage in many other spheres of activity.
3. stimulate interest in the fine arts through exhibitions and demonstrations, and thus contribute to a broader and more well rounded life.
4. teach that sport is play for fun and enjoyment and not to make money, and that with devotion to the task at hand, the reward will take care of itself - the philosophy of the amateur is contrasted to that of materialism.
5. create international amity and good will, thus leading a happier and more peaceful world.

c) Olympic Day

The International Olympic Committee has suggested that all National Olympic Committees should celebrate the revival of the Olympic Games each year during the month of June in observing an "Olympic Day" or "Olympic Week".

In this connection, special competitions in the various sports on the Olympic Program should be held and speeches on the Olympic Movement and its philosophy should be made in schools and clubs.

Also a ceremony on the day of the opening of the Olympic Games, at which an Olympic flag is raised in a prominent location and a flame is lit to burn during the period of the Games to serve as a reminder of the friendly contests in which their teams are engaged in the greatest Festival of Sport.

d) The Role of the Government

For the benefit and welfare of citizens, this committee will assist the government to initiate and carry out a program of physical culture, recreation and health for the youth of its country. Completely independent control of competitive amateur sport in both its national and international phases must be left however to the National Federations and this committee.

Teaching Olympic Principles in the public schools is recommended. This committee will provide the necessary documentation.

e) Olympic Spirit

The Olympic Committee will encourage the development of Olympic spirit among the youth of this country and will promote a program of education for the public and the press on the philosophy of amateurism. The Olympic Committee will keep in mind not to concentrate too much on performance and new records but more the social, educational, aesthetic, ethical and spiritual values of amateur sports.

f) Cities which desire to stage the Olympic Games

The honour of holding the Olympic Games is entrusted to a city and not to a country. But the choice of a city for the celebration of an Olympiad lies solely with the International Olympic Committee.

Application to hold the Games is made by the Mayor or other chief authority of the city concerned. This Olympic Committee will eventually choose a city if there is more than one candidate in the country to stage the Games, and has to guarantee that the games will be organized to the satisfaction and the requirements of the International Olympic Committee.

The selection, except in exceptional circumstances, has to be made six years in advance.

The invitation to stage the Olympic Games must come from the highest city authority, be endorsed by this Olympic Committee and be submitted in writing to the International Olympic Committee, Château de Vidy, Lausanne, Switzerland. The candidature must be supported by the government of this country in order to ensure its co-operation in staging the games successfully. In case a definite choice has been made, and the city selected, the organization of the Games is entrusted by the International Olympic Committee to the Olympic Committee of this country which may delegate the duties with which it has been entrusted, to a special Organizing Committee which shall thenceforth correspond directly with the International Olympic Committee. The powers of this Organizing Committee then expire at the end of the Games.

The duties of the Organizing Committee are described in detail in a booklet "Suggestions to the Organizing Committee of Olympic Games", which can be obtained at the Secretariat of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne.

2. Powers and Competences of this Olympic Committee

1. To be recognized by the International Olympic Committee this committee shall be composed of the representatives of at least five National Federations which in turn must be active members of the International Federations governing their sport on the Olympic program. Furthermore, this committee shall conduct its activities in accordance with the Olympic Rules and Regulations and the high ideas of the Olympic Movement.

Only this Olympic Committee can enter competitors in the Olympic Games according to the I.O.C. Eligibility Code and sign the Entry forms together with the National Federation concerned.

2. This Olympic Committee has as its purpose the development and protection of the Olympic Movement and of Amateur Sport. It shall co-operate with the National Amateur Sport Governing bodies (National Federations) affiliated to the International Federations recognized by the International Olympic Committee in guarding and enforcing amateur rules.
3. This committee has the exclusive right to use the Olympic Flag and Olympic Emblems and shall confine its use and that of the words "Olympic" and "Olympiad" to activities concerned with the Olympic Games taking into account that all commercial use is strictly forbidden.
4. This Olympic Committee in co-operation with the National Federations shall organize and control the representatives of this country at the Olympic Games. It arranges to equip, transport and house these representatives.

5. This Olympic Committee is not formed for pecuniary profit, but is devoted to the promotion and the encouragement of the physical, moral and cultural education of the youth of our nation, for the development of character, good health and good citizenship.
6. This Olympic Committee will refrain from affairs of a political and commercial nature.
7. The Rules and Regulations of the International Olympic Committee are incorporated in this constitution and shall be enforced in this country.

Article III

Membership

- a) The members of this Olympic Committee shall be citizens of this country and men of good standing, of upright character, sound judgement and independent mind with a knowledge of and a belief in Olympic principles.
- b) This Olympic Committee must include in its membership :
 1. the members of the International Olympic Committee in this country, if any, who shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Executive Board, unless they have already been elected to membership thereon.
 2. representatives of the National Federations affiliated to the International Federations whose sport is included in the Olympic program; these representatives shall be of their own choice and must constitute a voting majority of this Olympic Committee.
- c) The following are not eligible to serve on this Committee :
 1. A person who has ever competed as a professional.
 2. A person engaged in or connected with sport for personal profit (it is not intended to exclude individuals occupying purely administrative positions in connection with amateur sport).

3. A person who has ever coached sport competitors for payment.

Exceptions may be made in the above categories by the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee in special circumstances on the recommendation of this Olympic Committee.

- d) This Olympic Committee does not recognize more than one National Federation in each sport and that Federation must be affiliated to the International Federation concerned, recognized by the International Olympic Committee.
- e) Officers or members of this Olympic Committee or the members of its Executive Board shall be elected every four years at a meeting of this Committee.
- f) This Olympic Committee may co-opt delegates of other amateur sport organizations or persons who have rendered, or can render exceptional service to the Olympic Movement, subject to the restrictions in paragraph b2 (above).

Members of this Committee shall accept no salary or fee of any kind in respect of their position. They may, however, accept reimbursement for transportation, lodging and other proper expenses incurred by them in connection with their duties.

Annexe IV

Organisation

1. The General Assembly is the highest authority and consists of all members meeting at least every four years, after the Olympic Games are held.
2. This General Assembly elects an Executive Board consisting of :
 - a President
 - one or more Vice-Presidents
 - a Secretary General
 - one or more members at large (taking into account Article III, f).

3. During the period between the assemblies, this Board will be the highest body.

Article V

Finance

1. The finances of the committee shall be derived from :
 - a) annual subscriptions
 - b) donations
 - c) fund raising.
2. If financial assistance comes from public authorities, it should not interfere with the independence of this Olympic Committee.

Article VI

General Provisions

1. This Committee is responsible for the behaviour of all members of its delegation, and makes all the arrangements for taking part in the Olympic Games.

All communications on such matters shall be addressed to this committee.
2. A certified copy of this constitution and by-laws if any, (if necessary with an English or French translation) has been submitted to (and approved by) the International Olympic Committee on (date). Subsequent changes shall be reported to the International Olympic Committee for approval.
3. Certified minutes of this Committee's meetings, at which the members and officers are elected or changed, must be submitted to the International Olympic Committee on request.

4. It is the duty of the members of this Olympic Committee, when there is no member of the International Olympic Committee in the country, the report to the International Olympic Committee, in the event of any regulation on actions of this Committee, conflicting with International Olympic Committee Rules or of any political interference in its operations.

The President of the International Olympic Committee has the power to appoint a member from another country to investigate and report.

5. This Olympic Committee is, and must remain, completely independent and autonomous and must resist all political, religious or commercial pressures and pledges to conform to the Rules and Regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

It accepts the Ruling of the International Olympic Committee that if this Committee does not conform to the Rules and Regulations of the International Olympic Committee, it forfeits its recognition and its right to send participants to the Olympic Games.

6. The Executive Board has the power to pass by-laws to deal with all matters not covered by this constitution which have to be approved by the general assembly during its next session.
7. The requirements of the International Olympic Committee shall apply there where there are no provisions in this constitution (or by-laws) on any matters whatever relating to the composition and proper functioning of the committee and shall supercede them when they seem at variance or in conflict.

