

FACTSHEET

IOC Sessions

23 July 2021

The mission

The IOC Session is the general meeting of the members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It is the supreme organ of the IOC. The IOC Session adopts, modifies and interprets the [Olympic Charter](#) and its decisions are final. While the IOC Session may delegate powers to the IOC Executive Board (EB), all important decisions are taken by the IOC Session, which votes on proposals put forward by the EB. If the IOC EB can be considered the “government” of the IOC, the IOC Session is the “parliament”.

The IOC Session is held at least once a year, often over a two- or three-day period. In the years when Olympic Games take place, the IOC Session traditionally precedes them. An extraordinary IOC Session can be convened upon the initiative of the IOC President, or on the written request of at least one third of the IOC members.

The main prerogatives of the IOC Session are the following:

- It elects the host of the Olympic Games;
- It elects the IOC President, Vice-Presidents, the other members of the IOC EB and – on the latter’s proposal – IOC members;
- It decides or amends the Olympic Charter;
- It decides on the inclusion or exclusion of a sport on the programme of the Olympic Games;
- It decides on the recognition (or exclusion) of International Sports Federations (IFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs) or any other sports organisation which submits a request;
- It decides on the cities which will host forthcoming IOC Sessions (the IOC President decides on the location of Extraordinary IOC Sessions);
- It approves the reports and accounts of the IOC.

Procedures

The following main procedures are applicable for the decisions taken by the IOC Session:

- The IOC President, or, in his absence, the longest-serving IOC Vice-President present chairs the IOC Session;
- The quorum required for an IOC Session is half the total membership of the IOC, plus one;
- Each member has a vote, and voting by proxy is not allowed. Abstentions and spoiled or blank votes are not counted;
- In general, an IOC member must abstain from participating in a vote when it concerns a city (Olympic Games, IOC Session, Olympic Congress), a person (IOC member) or any other matter from his or her country / NOC;
- The decisions are taken by the majority of votes cast. However, a majority of two-thirds of the members present at the IOC Session is required for any modification to the Fundamental Principles and Rules of the Olympic Charter;
- The election of a host must take place in a country not having a candidate for the Olympic Games in question;
- A host is declared elected when it obtains the majority of the votes cast. If there is no majority, the host with the fewest votes is eliminated, and IOC members proceed to another round of voting. The procedure is repeated until an absolute majority is obtained;
- The IOC President, the IOC Vice-Presidents and the IOC EB members are elected by the IOC Session, in a secret ballot, by the majority of the votes cast. If there is no majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and the IOC members proceed to another round of voting. Abstentions are not taken into account, nor are spoiled or blank votes. The procedure is repeated until an absolute majority is obtained.



Upcoming IOC Session

138th IOC Session, Tokyo, July 2021

Some decisions taken by the IOC session over the last years

137th IOC Session, Lausanne (online), March 2021

- Election of the IOC President Thomas Bach for another term of office;
- Approval of the [Closing Report of Olympic Agenda 2020](#);
- Approval of [Olympic Agenda 2020+5](#), the strategic roadmap for the IOC and the Olympic Movement to 2025.

136th IOC Session, Lausanne (online), July 2020

- Approval of the 2019 IOC Annual Report and Audited Accounts;
- The IOC Session approved amendments to the Olympic Charter;
- Senegal and the IOC agree to postpone the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2022 to 2026;
- Election of five new IOC members: Maria de la Caridad Colón Ruenes, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Reema Bandar Al-Saud, Battushig Batbold, and Sebastian Coe.

135th IOC Session, Lausanne, January 2020

- Election of Gangwon as host of the fourth Youth Olympic Winter Games in 2024;
- Election of three new IOC members: Yasuhiro Yamashita, David Haggerty, and Gianni Infantino.

134th IOC Session, Lausanne, June 2019

- Election of Milano Cortina as host of the XXV Olympic Winter Games in 2026;
- Election of ten new IOC members: Odette Assembe Engoulou, Filomena Fortes, Matlohang Moiloa-Ramoqopo, Tidjane Thiam, Laura Chinchilla, Erick Thohir, Spyros Capralos, Mustapha Berraf, Narinder Dhruv Batra, and Kee Heung Lee.

133rd IOC Session, Buenos Aires, October 2018

- Election of Dakar as host of the fourth Summer Youth Olympic Games;
- Election of nine new members: Giovanni Malagò, Felicite Rwemarikwa, Camilo Pérez López Moreira, Daina Gudzineviciute, Samira Asghari, HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, William Frederick Blick, Morinari Watanabe, and Andrew Parsons.

132nd IOC Session, PyeongChang, February 2018

- The date of the fourth Summer Youth Olympic Games was reverted from 2023 to 2022;
- Election of one new IOC member: Jiří Kejval;
- Election of three new members of the IOC Ethics Committee: Danka Bartekova, Pierre Olivier Beckers, and Auvita Rapilla.

IOC Session Lima, September 2017

- Election of Paris as host of the XXXIII Olympic Games in 2024;
- Election of Los Angeles as host of the XXXIV Olympic Games in 2028;
- Election of eight new IOC members: Baklai Temengil, Kristin Kloster Aasen, Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul, Luis Mejia Oviedo, Neven Ivan Ilic Alvarez, Khalid Muhammad Al Zubair, Jean-Christophe Rolland, and Ingmar de Vos.

130th IOC Session, Lausanne, July 2017

- The IOC Session unanimously agreed in principle to award both the Olympic Games 2024 and 2028 simultaneously in Lima, paving the way for a “win-win-win” situation for the Olympic Movement, Los Angeles and Paris.

129th IOC Session, Rio de Janeiro, July 2016

- Decision on the new sports added to the Olympic programme for the Games of the Olympiad Tokyo 2020;
- Election of eight new members: Nita Ambani, Sari Essayah, Ivo Ferriani, Luis Moreno, Auvita Rapilla, Anant Singh, Tricia Smith, and Karl Stoss.



128th IOC Session, Kuala Lumpur, July 2015

- Election of Beijing as host of the XXIV Olympic Winter Games in 2022;
- Election of Lausanne as host of the third Youth Olympic Winter Games in 2020;
- Full recognition granted to the NOC of South Sudan;
- Election of two new IOC members: Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye and Nenad Lalovic.

127th IOC Session, Monaco, December 2014

- Unanimous approval of the [40 recommendations](#) that make up [Olympic Agenda 2020](#), the strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement;
- Full recognition granted to the NOC of Kosovo;
- Election of the city of Lima (Peru) to host the 130th IOC Session in 2017;
- Election of Jean-Claude Killy, Raja Randhir Singh, HRH Prince Nawaf Faisal Fahd Abdulaziz, Leo Wallner and Melitón Sánchez Rivas as IOC honorary member;
- Approval of the planned consolidation of the IOC headquarters.

126th IOC Session, Sochi, February 2014

- Election of Zaiqing Yu as IOC Vice-President (position that became available following the election of Thomas Bach as IOC President) and Ugur Erdener to the IOC EB (the mandate of Sam Ramsamy coming to an end);
- Election of a new IOC member: Poul-Erik Høyer;
- Re-election of three IOC members: Beatrice Allen, Nicole Hovertsz and HRH Prince Tunku Imran.

125th IOC Session, Buenos Aires, September 2013

- Election of Thomas Bach as the new IOC President;
- Jacques Rogge nominated as IOC Honorary President;
- Election of Tokyo as host of the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in 2020;
- Election of John Coates as a new IOC Vice-President;
- Election of Anita L. DeFrantz to the IOC EB;
- Election of nine new IOC members: Octavian Morariu, Bernard Rajzman, Mikaela Maria Antonia Cojuangco-Jaworski, Alexander Zhukov, Paul Kibii

Tergat, Lawrence Probst III, Dagmawit Girmay Berhane, Camiel Eurlings, Stefan Holm;

- Kevan Gosper and Lamine Diack were appointed to become IOC honorary members;
- Wrestling was elected in the programme for the Olympic Games of 2020 and 2024.

Extraordinary IOC Session, Lausanne July 2013

- Election of Buenos Aires as host of the third Youth Olympic Games in 2018;
- Election of four new IOC members: Danka Bartekova, James Tomkins, Kirsty Coventry and Tony Estanguet (members of the IOC Athletes' Commission).

124th IOC Session, London, July 2012

- Election of five new IOC members: Aisha Garad Ali, Pierre-Olivier Beckers, Tsunekazu Takeda, Frank Fredericks, and Lingwei Li;
- Election of Nawal El Moutawakel and Craig Reedie as IOC Vice-Presidents;
- Three new IOC members elected to the IOC EB: Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr., Sergey Bubka and Willi Kaltschmitt Luján;
- Ching-Kuo Wu (ASOIF), René Fasel (re-elected, AIOWF), Patrick Hickey (ANOC), Claudia Bokel (Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission) were elected or re-elected to the IOC EB due to their functions;
- Election of three IOC honorary members: Francisco Elizalde, Alpha Ibrahim Diallo and Carlos Nuzman.

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