IF Sustainability Project

SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES FOR EVENT ORGANISERS
NOC AND IF SUSTAINABILITY CASE STUDIES

The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs.

One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contributes to the holistic integration of sustainability and should be continued. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given to the Olympic Movement through the IOC Sustainability Strategy.

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. They are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

“Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”

Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Each NOC/IF sustainability project contributes to one or more of the IOC’s sustainability focus areas and one or more of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WORLD TRIATHLON INVITES EVENT ORGANISERS TO ENGAGE IN SUSTAINABILITY TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF TRIATHLON

World Triathlon, part of UNEP and IOC Clean Seas since 2018 and signatory of the UN Sports for Climate Action framework, has now taken a step further by creating guidelines aimed at its Local Organising Committees (LOCs). The goal is to provide guidance on best sustainable practices to be taken into consideration during the planning, and staging, of an event.

World Triathlon encourages organisers of all sizes to start with an assessment of their carbon footprint to establish a baseline and identify areas that might need to be prioritised. Regardless of their level of experience, organisers can then access a step by step guide to develop their own sustainability plans through a comprehensive approach across fifteen categories.

The proposed strategic areas cover a broad range of topics such as governance, staffing, mobility, waste and water management and biodiversity, among others. Each of them has then been linked to specific action points that event organisers can set in motion including eighteen must have items, thirty-three recommended actions and seven aspirational elements.

The new guidelines also serve as a framework to their newly launched World Triathlon Sustainability certification system for 2021. Through the development of a sustainability plan and later execution, LOCs can achieve three levels of recognition which they will have to validate on a yearly basis.

OBJECTIVES
World Triathlon has introduced new guidelines for event organisers in order to:
- Raise awareness of the need for action against climate change and global warming.
- Encourage organisations of all sizes to plan and act consciously.
- Provide event organisers with a framework for sustainable best practices.
- Inspire global stakeholders in a collective effort to secure the future of the sport.
Certification will gradually become a requirement with provisions within the bid criteria already in place within their flagship events including the 2021 World Triathlon Series and the 2021 Paratriathlon Series.

While World Triathlon provides organisers with a broad list of initiatives, it recognises that each LOC will have different contextual needs. It is encouraged that organisers raise and discuss additional initiatives to maximise the potential for positive impact as they individually establish their own goals.

EVALUATION
Building on the experience of other federations, World Triathlon has proposed a comprehensive framework for event organisers and other stakeholders to consciously push forward, and secure, the future of the Triathlon. Social, economic and environmental considerations are proposed in a tiered approach that is now introduced as a guideline but will also become a requirement as the certification process evolves.

BENEFITS
- Many initiatives can be done at no cost or could provide access to further public/private funding.
- Setting different levels of certification allows for organisations to be recognised for their approaches regardless of their baseline and/or available resources.
- The broad nature of the guidelines provides an equal number of ways to mitigate emissions and minimise the environmental footprint and give room for local adaptations.

“IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE DECISIONS AND TAKE ACTIONS THAT CAN HALT THE DAMAGE DONE TO OUR ENVIRONMENT AND STEM THE TIDE OF GLOBAL WARMING.”
MRS MARISOL CASADO, WORLD TRIATHLON PRESIDENT AND IOC MEMBER