International Olympic Committee

IOC RECOGNITION PROCEDURE FOR CONSTITUENTS OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

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Ethics and Compliance, Legal Affairs, Sports, NOC Relations, Corporate Communication and Public Affairs, Finance and Corporate and Sustainable Development

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1. Preamble

This document describes the procedure and criteria for constituents of the Olympic Movement to be granted formal recognition by the IOC, pursuant to Rule 3 of the Olympic Charter, as well as the effects of such recognition.

2. Framework

Rule 3 of the Olympic Charter determines the scope of application and principles regarding the IOC granting formal recognition to a constituent of the Olympic Movement (as defined in Rule 1 of the Olympic Charter).

The IOC may grant formal recognition to the constituents of the Olympic Movement, such as NOCs, associations of NOCs, associations of NOCs formed at continental or world level, IFs, associations of IFs, non-governmental organisations connected with sport, operating on an international level, the statutes and activities of which are in conformity with the Olympic Charter and the IOC Code of Ethics, including the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance (BUPGG) and all other implementing provisions.

In each case, the effects of recognition are determined by the IOC Executive Board as described in this document. Pursuant to Rule 3.7 of the Olympic Charter, the recognition by the IOC may be provisional or full. Provisional recognition, or its withdrawal, is decided by the IOC Executive Board for a specific or an indefinite period. The IOC Executive Board may determine the conditions according to which provisional recognition may lapse. Full recognition, or its withdrawal, is decided by the IOC Session.

In addition, following the implementation of Recommendation 14 of the Olympic Agenda 2020+5, the IOC has upgraded the text of the BUPGG, which is an implementing provision of the IOC Code of Ethics. Such Recommendation also urges the IOC to foster compliance of all the constituents of the Olympic Movement with the BUPGG.

3. Recognition Process

3.1. General principles

Pursuant to Rule 3.7 of the Olympic Charter, recognition by the IOC may be provisional or full and all details of recognition procedures are determined by the IOC Executive Board. Such procedures include:

- Provisional recognition by the IOC Executive Board as defined in Rule 3.7 of the Olympic Charter
- Full recognition by the IOC Session as defined in Rule 3.7 of the Olympic Charter
- Ongoing compliance monitoring with the recognition procedure and criteria
- Potential suspension or withdrawal of the recognition as defined in Rule 3.7 of the Olympic Charter

All requests for recognition are assessed by the IOC as described below in the step-by-step processes for provisional and full recognition.

A constituent must first be provisionally recognised before it can be considered for full recognition by the IOC.

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee of the IOC shall prepare recommendations pertaining to provisional recognition, full recognition, compliance monitoring and potential suspension or withdrawal of provisional or full recognition.

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives of various IOC departments, including the Ethics and Compliance Office, Legal Affairs, Sports, Corporate Communication and Public Affairs, Finance, Corporate and Sustainable Development, and any other department to which the constituent organisation concerned is linked to (i.e. Medical and Scientific, Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage, etc.).

3.2. Criteria for recognition

Common criteria

As part of a request for IOC recognition (whether provisional or full), a constituent that applies for IOC recognition must, as part of their request, provide documentary evidence establishing, to the satisfaction of the IOC, compliance with a set of general criteria, including compliance with the Olympic Charter and the IOC Code of Ethics.

Specific criteria

Depending on the constituent seeking IOC recognition, a set of specific criteria will be defined for each type of organisation (e.g., International Federation, non-governmental organisations connected with sport).

Constituents seeking IOC recognition must complete a compliance questionnaire prepared by the IOC administration, which focuses on their scope and actual activities to ensure the effectiveness of the link with sport, pursuant to Rule 3 of the Olympic Charter. Regarding constituents governing a sport at international level, the questionnaire will also include specific criteria, in particular, but not limited to, regarding the sport itself, gender equity within the sport, clean sport.

4. Provisional Recognition by the IOC

In order to assess a request for IOC recognition from a constituent, constituents must follow the process below, which includes submitting an expression of interest and a questionnaire with the corresponding supporting documentation. After the assessment of the questionnaire, the Steering Committee of the IOC will prepare a report regarding the constituent's request for IOC recognition which will be presented to the IOC Executive Board (see Sections 4.1. and 4.2. below).

4.1. Step-by-step process for Provisional Recognition

Step 1:

All constituents of the Olympic Movement seeking IOC provisional recognition must:

- submit an expression of interest to be recognised by the IOC, and
- complete and submit the questionnaire.

The constituent completes the questionnaire and sends it to the IOC with accompanying justification.

Once the IOC has acknowledged that the constituent organisation meets the criteria for starting the recognition process, it will be known as an "Applicant Organisation".

Step 2:

Monitoring/Provisional Recognition Assessment Period

During a provisional recognition assessment period that will be defined by the IOC (the "Provisional Recognition Assessment Period"), the IOC may request information from the Applicant Organisation or pose relevant questions to the Organisation's representative.

The length of the Provisional Recognition Assessment Period may be adapted to include one or more important events, such as an international competition or a general assembly.

If an Applicant Organisation does not meet a recognition criterion, the Steering Committee may, during the assessment period, setup a roadmap for the Applicant Organisation to implement in order to fulfil all the criteria to the IOC's satisfaction. Sufficient progress made by the Applicant Organisation may be considered and taken into consideration by the Steering Committee.

The IOC may choose to consult other organisations, such as Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport (AIMS), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the International Testing Agency (ITA), the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and SportAccord to obtain feedback on the Applicant Organisation.

The assessment will be carried out by the relevant IOC departments which will update the Steering Committee on a regular basis.

Step 3:

At the end of the Provisional Recognition Assessment Period, the Steering Committee will prepare a report regarding the Applicant Organisation's request for IOC recognition. Based on this report, the Steering Committee will submit either:

- A proposal to the IOC Executive Board with a recommendation to grant Provisional Recognition, in the event the Applicant Organisation has met the criteria for Provisional Recognition. In such case, the IOC Executive Board will decide whether to grant provisional recognition to the Applicant Organisation. If granted, the Applicant Organisation will be known as the newly "Provisionally Recognised Organisation"; or
- A proposal to the IOC Executive Board with a recommendation to not grant provisional recognition and/or to continue the Provisional Recognition Assessment Period of the Applicant Organisation, in the event it does not meet the criteria for a provisional recognition. In such case, the IOC Executive Board will decide whether to deny provisional recognition to the Applicant Organisation or to extend the Provisional Recognition Assessment Period of the Applicant Organisation.

Step 4:

The Applicant Organisation will be informed in writing of the decision taken by the IOC Executive Board.

4.2. Effects of Provisional Recognition

The effects of provisional recognition of the newly Provisionally Recognised Organisations, if any, are determined by the IOC Executive Board. At minimum, provisional recognition is necessary to be on the Olympic Programme.

5. Full Recognition by the IOC

To be granted full recognition by the IOC, newly Provisionally Recognised Organisations must, to the satisfaction of the IOC, remain in compliance with the Olympic Charter, IOC Code of Ethics and all relevant recognition criteria, such as the effectiveness of the organisation's governance, as well as of the rules of sport, for the duration of a full recognition assessment period that will be defined by the IOC (the "Full Recognition Assessment Period").

Compared to the Provisional Recognition phase, the questionnaire and accompanying new documentation for Full Recognition might require an increased level of maturity of some or all of the criteria. Newly Provisionally Recognised Organisations will be monitored and assessed during a Full Recognition Assessment Period, during which the IOC may request information from the newly Provisionally Recognised Organisations or pose relevant questions to the Organisation's representative.

5.1. Step-by-step process for Full Recognition

Step 1:

Newly Provisionally Recognised Organisations seeking IOC full recognition must:

- submit an expression of interest to be fully recognised by the IOC, and
- complete and submit a questionnaire.

The newly Provisionally Recognised Organisation completes the questionnaire and sends it to the IOC with accompanying justification.

Step 2:

Monitoring/Full Recognition Assessment Period

The same assessment process will be followed as for the Provisional Recognition Assessment Period (see Section 4.1, step 2) during the Full Recognition Assessment Period for the newly Provisionally Recognised Organisation.

Step 3:

At the end of the Full Recognition Assessment Period, the Steering Committee will prepare a report regarding the newly Provisionally Recognised Organisation's request for IOC full recognition. Based on this report, the Steering Committee will submit either:

- A proposal to the IOC Executive Board with a recommendation for the IOC Executive Board to recommend to the IOC Session to grant full recognition, in the event the newly Provisionally Recognised Organisation has met the criteria for full recognition. In such case, the IOC Executive Board will decide whether to recommend to the IOC Session to grant full recognition to the newly Provisionally Recognised Organisation and the IOC Session will decide whether to grant full recognition; or
- A proposal to the IOC Executive Board with a recommendation to maintain provisional recognition status (and not grant full recognition) and/or to continue the Full Recognition Assessment Period of the newly Provisionally Recognised Organisation, in the event it does not meet the criteria for a full recognition. In such case, the IOC Executive Board will decide whether to maintain provisional recognition status (and deny full recognition to the newly Provisionally Recognised Organisation) or to extend the assessment period of the newly Provisionally Recognised Organisation.

Step 4:

The newly Provisionally Recognised Organisation will be informed in writing of the decision taken by the IOC Executive Board or IOC Session, as the case may be.

6. Effects of IOC Recognition (for fully Recognised Organisations)

The rights, and possibilities of cooperation with the IOC, as well as obligations of a Recognised Organisation, are the following:

6.1. Rights and Possibilities of Cooperation

- At the discretion of the IOC President, be invited to attend the IOC Session as an observer;
- Accreditation for the president of the Recognised Organisation during the Olympic Games;
- Right to be included in the Olympic Movement Directory;
- At the discretion of the IOC, possibility to receive annual development funding;
- Following the IOC's approval, the Recognised Organisation may host their Board / Council meeting at the Olympic House once every Olympic cycle;
- Right to use and contribute to the Olympic Channel platform in a way to be determined by the IOC;
- Right to benefit from Olympic Movement educational, medical, scientific, and Anti-Doping initiatives;
- Right to be linked with the IBIS mechanism regarding manipulations of competitions;
- Upon request of a Recognised Organisation, the possibility, at the IOC's discretion, to grant its support for sports event(s);
- Possibility of the national federations being affiliated to or recognised by their country's NOC (National Olympic Committee), at the latter's discretion.

6.2. Obligations

- Continue to comply with the BUPGG in its practice and activities;
- To continue to comply with the recognition criteria at all time;
- To provide the IOC with an annual activity and financial report, specifically explaining the usage of the funds allocated by the IOC, with a separate indication of the use of the development funds. Such reports must meet the requirements for information specified by the IOC;
- To continue to comply with and respect the Olympic Charter, in particular Rule 7 regarding the use of Olympic properties;
- To ensure the continued development of their sports or of their activities linked to sports globally through youth development and participation.

7. Compliance Monitoring

The organisation that has been granted provisional or full recognition must continue to comply with the Olympic Charter, in particular with all the criteria described above, such as good governance of the organisation and/or of the sport.

The IOC may, at any time, conduct a review of the provisionally or fully recognised organisation to monitor the organisation's compliance with the Olympic Charter, IOC Code of Ethics and/or recognition criteria.

In the event of non-compliance, provisional recognition could be maintained or withdrawn until all criteria are met. Suspension or withdrawal of provisional or full recognition may occur following the process described below in Section 8.

8. Suspension or Withdrawal of Recognition

If a recognised organisation no longer meets the criteria for provisional or full recognition, the Steering Committee will prepare a report to the IOC Executive Board with a roadmap enabling the recognised organisation to regain an acceptable level of compliance with the criteria for the provisional or full recognition.

The Steering Committee will assess the implementation of such a roadmap. If the roadmap is implemented to the full satisfaction of the IOC, the Steering Committee will prepare a follow-up report for the IOC Executive Board to acknowledge the compliance with the roadmap.

If the roadmap has not been fully implemented, the Steering Committee will prepare a report for the IOC Executive Board in view of either suspending or withdrawing the recognition of the organisation by the IOC Session.

Lausanne, 24 October 2024.