International Olympic Committee

FACTSHEET

IOC Members and IOC Session

09 March 2026

Roles and responsibilities

The IOC is currently composed of 106 members, including IOC President Kirsty Coventry, all of whom are elected by the IOC Session by a majority of the votes cast.

The IOC Members

The IOC Members, natural persons, are representatives of the IOC in their respective countries, and not their country's delegate within the IOC. As stated in the Olympic Charter: "*Members of the IOC represent and promote the interests of the IOC and of the Olympic Movement in their countries and in the organisations of the Olympic Movement in which they serve*." (Olympic Charter, Chapter 2, Rule 16, §1.4).

The IOC Members meet at the general assembly, or Session, which is the organisation's supreme organ, and whose decisions are final. The IOC Members are elected for a period of eight years, and their mandate can be renewed.

The age limit fixed is 70 years old, except for members co-opted between 1966 and 1999, for whom the age limit is 80. The IOC Session may, on the proposal of the IOC Executive Board (EB), extend the age limit for any IOC Member for a period a four-year maximum. There may be no more than ten such IOC members for whom the age limit is extended at any time.

The members meet every year at the IOC Session in order to take decisions concerning the institution and the Olympic Games, such as the election of the hosts of the Games, changes to the Olympic Charter, election of the IOC President, Vice-Presidents, and members of the IOC EB, as well as the election of new members.

The IOC President

The IOC President is elected by the members of the organisation by a secret ballot. Only one IOC Member can be elected to the presidency. Their mandate is of eight years, renewable once for four years. The IOC President is the IOC's permanent representative and presides over all its activities.

During the 144th IOC Session held from 18 to 21 March 2025 in Greece the IOC Members elected the new IOC President. Seven candidates competed in the election for the presidency. They presented their programmes, *in camera*, to the full IOC membership during a meeting held in Lausanne (Switzerland) on 30 January 2025.
Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe was elected as the 10th President of the IOC, and the first female President in IOC history.

Table A: IOC Presidents

Demetrius Vikelas (GRE)	1894 – 1896
Pierre de Coubertin (FRA)	1896 – 1925
Henri de Baillet-Latour (BEL)	1925 – 1942
J. Sigfrid Edström (SWE) Vice President and Acting President.	1942 – 1946
J. Sigfrid Edström (SWE)	1946 – 1952
Avery Brundage (USA)	1952 – 1972
Lord Killanin (IRL)	1972 – 1980
Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP)	1980 – 2001
Jacques Rogge (BEL)	2001 – 2013
Thomas Bach (GER)	2013 – 2025
Kirsty Coventry (ZIM)	2025 -

The IOC Vice-Presidents and IOC Executive Board (EB) Members

All ten members of the IOC EB (including the four Vice-Presidents) are elected by the IOC Session in a secret ballot by a majority of the votes cast. The duration of the terms of office of the Vice-Presidents and of the ten other members of the IOC EB is four

years. A member may serve for a maximum of two successive terms; they may be elected again as member of the IOC EB after a minimum period of two years. To date, the four IOC Vice-Presidents are:

- Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP);
- Nawal El Moutawakel (MAR);
- Dr Gerardo Werthein (ARG);
- Baron Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant (BEL).

The IOC EB manages the affairs of the IOC. It:

- conducts the procedure for acceptance and selection of candidatures for the organisation of the Olympic Games;
- enacts, in the form it deems most appropriate, all regulations necessary to ensure the proper implementation of the Olympic Charter and the organisation of the Olympic Games;
- presents a report to the IOC Session on any proposed change of the Olympic Charter, one of its Rules or bye-laws;
- is responsible for the management of the IOC's finances and prepares an annual report;
- assumes the general overall responsibility for the administration of the IOC.

IOC Honorary Members and IOC Honour Members

An IOC Member may be elected as Honorary President if they have rendered exceptional services as President of the IOC.

Equally, any member who retires after serving the IOC for at least 10 years and having rendered exceptional services to it may be elected as an IOC Honorary Member. There are currently 38 IOC Honorary Members and one IOC Honorary President.

Finally, the IOC Session can elect IOC Honour Members from personalities outside the IOC who have rendered particularly special services to it. There are currently two IOC Honour Members. The IOC Honorary Members and the IOC Honour Members do not have the right to vote at the IOC Session.

Current composition

The members are elected as independent individuals, active athletes or presidents or persons with an executive or leadership function within an International Sports Federation (IF) or National Olympic Committee (NOC).

Rule 16 of the Olympic Charter defines the composition of the IOC, including member eligibility and numbers. For the representatives of IFs and NOCs, there can be no more than 15 members for each of these stakeholders.

The IOC Members elected as active athletes are also members of the Athletes' Commission. There cannot be more than 15 of these members. The majority of the members of this Commission are elected by the athletes taking part in the Olympic Games.

A sporting past

Forty-two current IOC Members have competed at the Olympic Games, and 30 of them have won medals.

IOC President Kirsty Coventry competed in five editions of the Games in swimming and won two gold medals, four silver medals and one bronze.

Election criteria for members – co-optation

The IOC Members Election Commission, comprising of at least one representative of the IOC Ethics Commission and one representative of the IOC Athletes' Commission, examines each candidature file and forwards it in the form of a report to the IOC EB, which is the only competent organ to propose a candidate to the IOC Session.

The IOC Session is the only competent organ to elect an IOC Member. Elections are held by secret ballot, and the decisions are taken according to the majority of the votes cast. This type of appointment of members by other members is known as co-optation.

Voting methods

So that a vote can take place, the quorum is set at half the total number of IOC Members, plus one. Each IOC Member can cast one vote in a ballot during the IOC Session. Except in the event of a modification to the fundamental principles of Olympism or the Olympic Charter, the decisions are taken by the majority of votes cast.

Election of new IOC Members at the last IOC Sessions

During the 145th IOC Session held from the 3rd to the 5th of February 2026 in Milan, Soraya Aghaei Haji Agha (IRI), a badminton Olympian, was elected as an IOC Member. She became the first female IOC Member from Iran and the youngest member currently serving. Her election as an Independent Individual was held in accordance with Rule 16.1.1. of the Olympic Charter. Further information on the IOC Members is available at this link.

IOC Executive Board (EB) last election

During its proceedings, the 145th IOC Session re-elected Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP) as an IOC Vice-President for a second four-year term. The Session also elected three new members to the IOC Executive Board: Ingmar De Vos (BEL), Kim Jae Youl (KOR), and Neven Ilic (CHI), whose mandates will begin after the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. De Vos and Kim replace Nenad Lalovic (SRB) and Ivo Ferriani (ITA), whose terms had concluded, while Ilic will take the seat vacated by the IOC President after her election in March 2025.

Athletes' elections

Created in 1981, the Athletes' Commission (AC) is the link between the Olympic athletes and the IOC. It also enables the athletes to have their voice heard within the Olympic Movement.

The four Commission members, elected by their peers at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, are: Allyson Felix (Athletics, USA), Kim Bui (Gymnastics, Germany), Jessica Fox (Canoe, Australia), and Marcus Daniell (Tennis, New Zealand). They will each serve eight-year terms that will end at the Olympic Games Brisbane 2032.

The athletes competing at the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games have elected Yunjong Won (Bobsleigh, Korea) and Johanna Talihärm (Biathlon, Estonia) to the Athletes' Commission (AC), for a term of eight years ending at the Utah 2034 Olympic Winter Games.

Selection criteria

Only NOCs with an athletes' commission may put forward a candidate. In order to be eligible, the candidates must have participated in the previous edition of the Olympic Games, and/or must have taken part in the Games in which they are candidates. The candidates must be 18 years or older and to have never been found guilty of a doping offence during their sports career.

The voice of the athletes

The IOC Athletes' Commission is chaired by Pau Gasol (Spain), who was elected to this position by the Commission members in February 2026. Maja Włoszczowska (Cycling, Poland), Humphrey Kayange (Rugby, Kenya), and Oluseyi Smith (Athletics and Bobsleigh, Canada) are Vice-Chairs.

During each edition of the Olympic Games (Summer and Winter), participating athletes are invited to vote to elect the majority of the members of the Athletes' Commission. The Commission currently has 18 members:

- Eight athletes from summer sports, elected during the Games of the Olympiad (four at each edition of the Games);
- Four athletes from winter sports, elected during the Olympic Winter Games (two at each edition of the Games); and
- Up to eleven athletes, appointed by the IOC President.

In addition, a representative of the World Olympians Association (WOA) and a representative of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) are ex-officio members.

Further information on the IOC Athletes' Commission can be found **here.**

The mission of the IOC Session

The IOC Session is the general meeting of the members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and serves as its supreme organ. It adopts, amends, and interprets the Olympic Charter, and its decisions are final. While the Session may delegate powers to the IOC Executive Board (EB), all major decisions are taken by the Session, which votes on proposals submitted by the EB. If the EB can be

considered the 'government' of the IOC, then the Session acts as its 'parliament.'

The IOC Session is held at least once a year, typically over a two- or three-day period. In the years when Olympic Games take place, the Session traditionally precedes them. An Extraordinary Session may be convened either at the initiative of the IOC President or upon 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 hosts 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 adopts or amends the Olympic Charter;
- It decides on the inclusion or exclusion of sports in the Olympic Games programme;
- 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 which cities will host forthcoming IOC Sessions (the IOC President determines 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/her absence, the longest-serving IOC Vice-President present, chairs the Session;
- The quorum required for a Session is half of the total number of IOC Members with voting rights;
- Each member has one vote, and voting by proxy is not permitted. Abstentions, as well as spoiled or blank ballots, are not counted;
- In general, an IOC Member must abstain from voting on matters concerning a city (Olympic Games, IOC Session, Olympic Congress), a person (IOC Member) or any issue relating to their own country or NOC;
- Decisions are taken by the majority of votes cast. However, a two-thirds majority 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 be held in a country that does not have a candidate city for the Olympic Games in question;
- A host is declared elected once it obtains a majority of the votes cast. If no majority is reached, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and IOC Members proceed to another round of voting. This 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 a majority of the votes cast. If no majority is reached, 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. This procedure continues until an absolute majority is obtained.

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