IOC
Ethics
Commission

All IOC Members

Lausanne, 9 September 2024

Directives Concerning the Election of the IOC President

Following their approval by the IOC Executive Board, the Directives Concerning the Election of the IOC President were published on the IOC website and sent to all the IOC Members.

Since then, various questions have been sent to the IOC Ethics Commission secretariat. The Commission would like to reiterate and further clarify the message that was presented during the IOC Session in Mumbai in 2023 and the Session in Paris in 2024.

The Olympic Charter (2024 edition) makes no exceptions for the President, who is an IOC member under the same conditions as all the other IOC members.

Pursuant to the Olympic Charter, the IOC President must be a member of the IOC at the time of the election and during the entire duration of their term as IOC President.

The Olympic Charter does not grant the IOC President any exception regarding the end of their IOC membership because of either the age limit or the loss of the function for which the member was elected, namely as an active athlete, or as a president or holding an executive or senior leadership position within an NOC or IF.

An IOC member reaching the age limit of 70 will lose their IOC membership, unless the member is proposed by the Executive Board and elected by the IOC Session for a four year extension; the Olympic Charter provides for such an extension only once.

Similarly, an IOC member elected in relation to a function who loses this function during their term as an IOC member, including as IOC President, will automatically lose their IOC membership, and as such end their term of office.

In addition, all IOC members, including the IOC President, must respect the IOC Code of Ethics, specifically the Rules Concerning Conflict of Interest.

Within this framework, the IOC Ethics Commission would like to highlight the issue of the conflict of interest between the mission of the IOC President to represent the IOC as the leader of the Olympic Movement and the mission of a president of an NOC or an IF, which are individual constituents of the Olympic Movement. The individual interest of such a second position will conflict with the general interest of the IOC, which the IOC President represents. This conflict could be resolved only if, after the election of the IOC President, the IOC Session held another vote for a change of membership status.

Please do not hesitate to contact the IOC Ethics Commission secretariat for any other question with regard to the Directives Concerning the Election of the IOC President.

Yours sincerely,

Ban Ki Moon
IOC Ethics Commission Chair