

## **IOA ATHLETES' COMMISSION REGULATIONS**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the IOC 2000 Reform Commission that “athletes should be well represented at all levels of the sports movement: IOC, IFs, NOCs and NFs” and the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement, and in view of Rules 2.7 and 28.1.3 of the Olympic Charter, an Athletes' Commission is established by, and within the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

The IOA's mission is to place athletes at the heart of the Olympic Movement, and the IOA Athletes' Commission is established to further support represent, advocate and communicate on behalf of the plethora of athletes within the IOA as they lead, govern and develop Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games and any other games included in the purview of IOA.

### **1. MISSION, ROLE AND OBJECTIVES**

- 1.1. The mission, role and objectives of the IOA's Athletes' Commission (hereafter “Commission”) are to:
  - a. represent the views of the athletes and make their voice heard within the IOA;
  - b. consider issues related to athletes and provide advice to the IOA;
  - c. Represent the rights and interests of athletes and make related recommendations.
  - d. provide a forum for IOA to communicate with the athletes regarding its programs and policies;
  - e. work with and support IOA's mission to develop and promote the principles of Olympic Movement as given within the IOA Constitution;
  - f. Engage actively with initiatives and projects that protect and support clean athletes on and off the field of play;
  - g. Establishing an effective communication strategy to disseminate information to athletes and to educate and advise them on matters relating to their sport;
  - h. aid and advise on the issues pertaining to:
    - i. inclusion of the athletes' perspective in the decision-making processes within the IOA;
    - ii. ensuring a link between the athletes and the IOA to convey the needs and demands as well as the views of the athletes and vice versa;
  - i. Be a part of the other functions allocated to it under the IOA's Constitution and by the Executive Body of the IOA;

- j. Elect its representatives (a male and a female athlete) as members of the IOA General Assembly and Executive Council in accordance with Articles 3.6 and 11.1.1.7 of the IOA Constitution;
- k. Select sportspersons of outstanding merit for membership in the IOA's General Assembly as per article 3.7 of the IOA Constitution;
- l. Maintain contact with the IOC Athletes' Commission and the OCA Athletes' Commission.

1.2 The Commission will work with the IOA, including the IOA's Executive Council, to adopt the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, which was presented to and adopted by the 133rd IOC Session in Buenos Aires in October 2018 on behalf of the Olympic Movement, and incorporate it into the IOA's policies and procedures. In particular, the Commission will work with the IOA to develop mechanisms for effective remedies related to these rights and responsibilities, and to encourage athletes to make use of these mechanisms.

1.3 The Commission aspires to promote the ability and opportunity of athletes to:

- 1.3.1 Practise sport and compete without being subject to discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other immutable status.
- 1.3.2 Be part of a transparent, fair and clean sporting environment, particularly one that fights against doping and competition manipulation, and provides for transparent judging/refereeing, selection and qualification processes, and appropriate competition schedules, including training schedules at such competitions.
- 1.3.3 Access general information on athlete and competition-related matters in a timely and clear manner.
- 1.3.4 Access education on sports-related matters as well as to work or study while actively training and competing, should the athlete choose to do so and where practicable.
- 1.3.5 Leverage opportunities to generate income in relation to their sporting career, name and likeness, while recognising the intellectual property or other rights, regulations of the respective events and of IOA as well as the Olympic Charter.
- 1.3.6 Fair and equal gender representation.
- 1.3.7 The protection of mental and physical health, including a safe competition and training environment and protection from abuse and harassment.
- 1.3.8 Report unethical behaviour without fear of retaliation.

- 1.3.9 Protect privacy of athletes, including protection of personal information.
- 1.3.10 Uphold freedom of expression.
- 1.3.11 Due process, including the right to a fair hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial panel, the right to request a public hearing and the right to an effective remedy.

1.4 The Commission is an independent body represented by athletes of outstanding merit. However, it is not a separate legal entity and therefore has no authority to act on behalf of IOA or to represent it towards any third parties. The Athletes Commission has no authority to legally bind or commit IOA in any way.

## **2. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION, ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS AND ELECTION PROCESS**

The Commission should comprise of:

- I. Representative(s) from India who is/are a part of the IOC's or OCA's Athletes Commission, as ex-officio members each with a right to vote; and
- II. 10 (ten) athletes elected by their peers, i.e., 5 male members and 5 female members as follows:
  - a. Six (6) athletes (3 males, including at least one from an individual sport and at least one from a team sport, and 3 females, including at least one from an individual sport and at least one from a team sport), who, at the time of their election, have participated in at least one of the last three (3) editions of the Olympic Games. At least one (1) of these six athletes shall be an athlete who has participated in the last three (3) editions of the Olympic Winter Games. If no athlete is available fulfilling this criteria then an athlete who has participated in the last three (3) editions of the Asian Winter Games;
  - b. Four (4) athletes (2 males and 2 females), who, at the time of their election, have won at least one (1) medal in any of the last three (3) editions of the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, National Games or the Senior National Championship.

Provided that out of the ten (10) athletes forming a part of Athletes Commission, an effort should be made to have maximum representation from all sports and as a guiding principle, there should not be more than one Athlete from a sport.

- c. To be eligible as a member of the Athletes Commission, a candidate must:
  - i. Be at least 18 years of age at the time of election;
  - ii. Never have received any sanction in relation to the World Anti-Doping Code;
  - iii. Never have been sanctioned for a breach (except for minor breaches and / or breaches not related to sports administration or a breach occurring with no fault or with a very light negligence) of the IOA Constitution and its bye-laws, rules and regulations;
- d. Any member of the Athletes' Commission shall be elected by and from among a pool of athletes constituted as follows:
  - i. Two athletes' representatives (one male and one female) appointed by each Member Federation affiliated to the IOA from among their athletes who fulfil the eligibility criteria mentioned in Clause 2 of the present Regulations.
  - ii. Such appointment should be made through the athletes' commission of the Member Federation. If the athletes' commission has not yet been established within a Member Federation, the appointment shall exceptionally be made by decision of the executive body of the Member Federation. This exception shall be valid only for the 2022 elections of the IOA Athletes' Commission, after which only those Member Federations which have established an athletes' commission will be allowed to appoint their athletes' representatives through their respective athletes' commissions.
  - iii. Anyone from among this pool of athletes seeking election as member of the Athletes' Commission shall submit his/her application as per the process provided in the notice.
  - iv. The election shall be conducted within this pool of athletes from among the candidates who have submitted their application as per subparagraph iii above until five (5) male athletes and five (5) female athletes are elected and fill the categories mentioned in this Clause 2, subparagraphs a) and b) above.
- e. Once elected, the members of the Athletes' Commission together with the ex-officio members, shall meet and elect their Chairperson and their Vice Chairperson from among the members. The Chairperson of the Athletes Commission shall be an Olympic sports representative elected from among the six (6) Olympic sports representatives elected under Clause 2 paragraph a) above. If the person so appointed as Chairperson is male, then the Vice Chairperson must be elected from

among the remaining female members of the Commission. If the person so appointed as Chairperson is female, then the Vice Chairperson must be elected from among the remaining male members of the Commission.

- f. Members of the Athletes Commission shall always be bound by the IOA's Constitution and all Regulations.
- g. Any dispute or issue relating to the eligibility of a member of the Athletes Commission, or of a candidate to become a member of the Athletes Commission, shall be referred to the Ethics Committee.

### **3. TERM OF THE COMMISSION**

The length of the term of office is four years and a person shall not be eligible to hold office for more than 2 (two) terms.

### **4. VACANCIES**

- 4.1 In the event of any vacancy occurring on the Athletes' Commission through death, removal or resignation, the person(s) who received the next highest number of votes in the last election corresponding to each category mentioned in Clause 2 of the present Regulations shall be appointed by the Athletes' Commission to fill the vacant position(s) for the remainder of the initial term.

### **5. REMOVAL**

- 5.1 In the event of any failure by a member of the Athletes Commission to perform the duties set forth in the present Regulations, or if a member of the Commission no longer meets the eligibility criteria provided for in Clause 2; or
- 5.2 In the event of any other serious violation of the IOA Constitution or the IOA Code of Ethics, the matter shall be referred to the IOA's Ethics Commission. If the IOA's Ethics Commission finds that such a person is in breach, such a member may be removed from the Athletes Commission.
- 5.3 The removal shall enter into force immediately.
- 5.4 The replacement of such member shall occur in accordance with the provisions applicable to vacancies set forth above.

## **6. REPRESENTATION OF THE COMMISSION WITHIN THE IOA**

- 6.1 The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Athletes Commission shall be voting members of the IOA's Executive Council in accordance with article 11.1.1.7 of the IOA Constitution.
- 6.2 The Athletes Commission shall elect amongst its members two (2) other persons to be voting members at the IOA's General Assembly, provided that one person so elected shall be a male and one person so elected shall be a female, and provided further that these two athletes have participated in at least one of the last three (3) editions of the Olympic Games, in accordance with article 3.6 of the IOA Constitution.

## **7. SELECTION PROCEDURE OF SPORTSPERSONS OF OUTSTANDING MERIT**

- 7.1 The Athletes Commission is responsible for selecting eight (8) Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit, four (4) males and four (4) females, [as defined under the IOA Constitution and in accordance with article 3.7 of the IOA Constitution] who shall be voting members at the General Assembly of IOA, provided that the names are ratified by the IOA's General Assembly.
- 7.2 A public notice shall be issued at least 30 days prior to the IOA General Assembly meeting where elections are to be conducted, calling for applications from 'Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit' for membership into the IOA's General Assembly.
- 7.3 The Athletes Commission shall adopt a fair and just method of evaluating the applications received from Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit, while giving due weightage to their performance in the Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in such order. The Athletes Commission shall also consider any professional experience and educational qualification of such person(s) and their ability to contribute to the administration of sports.

## **8 MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

- 8.1 The Commission must meet at least four (4) times during a calendar year, wherein such meetings may be held in person, hybrid or virtually over the internet;
- 8.2 The Chairperson will set the meeting schedule and agendas in consultation with the CEO of IOA;
- 8.3 Commission members will be given at least 14 days' notice of the date and venue of meetings to be held in person and at least 7 days' notice for meetings using technology, unless exceptional circumstances and/or an urgent matter arise;
- 8.4 The IOA is responsible for ensuring, within its means, that the Commission is able to meet and for providing secretariat/technical support upon request from the Chairperson of the Commission;
- 8.5 The Chairperson or any person designated by the Chairperson in his absence will chair all meetings;

- 8.6** The quorum for meetings and decisions of the Athletes' Commission will be a majority of the total number of members of the Commission;
- 8.7** The decisions of the Commission should be made by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached and a vote is required, each member of the Commission will have one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted. A majority of the votes in favour of an action by those members of the Commission present at the meeting, is required to be passed. In the event of equal votes, the Chairperson will have both a deliberative and a casting vote.
- 8.8** A rapporteur may be appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission who shall be responsible for taking the minutes for each meeting of the Commission. The minutes shall be finalised in consultation with the Chairperson and sent to the members of the Commission within a maximum of one (1) month from the date of meeting. Any amendments to the minutes will be agreed at the next meeting of the Commission and will be noted accordingly.
- 8.9** All meetings and work of the Athletes' Commission are confidential unless specified otherwise. No documents, information, discussion and decisions made at a Commission meeting or otherwise exchanged or agreed in connection with the work of the Commission, shall be disclosed to any person before it is disclosed to the CEO and the Executive Council of the IOA. The Commission should then be given an opportunity by the IOA to publish its report and regular communications on the IOA Website and through other communication channels for the benefit of the athlete community.

CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION FORM IF THE ATHLETE SEEKS TO BE ELECTED TO THE  
ATHLETES COMMISSION

**Personal Information**

First Name

Last Name

Nationality

Government ID number (alongwith self-attested photo copy):

Date of Birth

Gender

Sporting Discipline:

Have you served any term as an executive council member of IOA?

**Contact Information**

Email

Phone number (with international code):

State/UT of Residence

Brief statement on why the candidate seeks to be a part of the Athletes Commission [not more than 500 words]:

Details of the participation/medal won, which entitles the Athlete to be a part of Athletes Commission:



Any other achievement/experience that the candidate seeks to highlight:

**Athlete's Signature**

Date and place:

(A digital signature is acceptable)

#### DECLARATION

I declare that I am a citizen of India (Indian passport holder)

I declare that I have gone through the eligibility criteria for Athletes Commission and that I satisfy each condition.

I declare that my medal has not been rescinded.

I declare that I have never been convicted by a court of law.

I declare that I am less than 70 years of age on the date of submitting this application.

I declare that I do not have charges framed against me by any court of law in India.