



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

## FACTSHEET IOC MEMBERS UPDATE - JULY 2012

The IOC is currently composed of 106 members, including President Jacques Rogge, each being elected by the IOC Session by the majority of the votes cast.

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### THE 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 2011](#), Rule 16).

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 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 host cities of the Games, changes to the Olympic Charter, election of the IOC President, Vice-Presidents, and members of the Executive Board, as well as the cooptation of new members.

#### THE 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. Since 16 July 2001, the IOC President has been Jacques Rogge (Belgium).

Demetrius Vikelas (GRE)	1894 – 1896
Pierre de Coubertin (FRA)	1896 – 1925
Henri de Baillet-Latour (BEL)	1925 – 1942
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 –

#### THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The four IOC Vice-Presidents are elected by the Session. The duration of their mandate is limited to four years. The four Vice-Presidents are:

Dr Thomas Bach  
Mr Zaiqing Yu  
Mr Mario Pescante  
Mr Ser Miang Ng

#### HONORARY PRESIDENT, HONORARY MEMBERS AND 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 honorary member of the IOC. There are currently 32 honorary members of the IOC.

Finally, the Session can elect honour members from personalities outside the IOC who have rendered particularly special services to it. There is currently one honour member.

The honorary members and the honour member 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 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 families.

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 current IOC members have competed at the Olympic Games, and 20 of them have won medals.

IOC President Jacques Rogge competed in three editions of the Games in sailing (Finn – one person dinghy) (Mexico City 1968, Munich 1972 and Montreal 1976). Many other IOC members have competed in the Olympic Games and World Championships.

## ELECTION CRITERIA FOR MEMBERS - COOPTATION

The IOC Nominations 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 them in the form of a report to the IOC Executive Board, the only competent organ to propose a candidate to the Session.

The Session is the only competent organ to elect an IOC member. The election is held by secret ballot, and the decisions are taken according to the majority of the votes cast. This type of appointment of members by members is known as cooptation.

## 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 vote during the 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 MEMBERS AT THE LAST IOC SESSIONS

The **123<sup>rd</sup> IOC Session** elected three new members: José Perurena López (Spain), from the International Canoe Federation; individual member Gerardo Werthein (Argentina); and active athlete Barbara Kendall (New Zealand).

The **122<sup>nd</sup> IOC Session** held in Vancouver elected six new members from four different continents.

These were:

- HRH Prince Faisal bin Al-Hussein of Jordan (Jordan)
- Maria de la Soledad Casado Estupiñan (Spain), President of the International Triathlon Union (ITU)
- Barry John Maister (New Zealand)
- Dagmawit Girmay Berhane (Ethiopia)
- Patrick McQuaid (Ireland), President of the International Cycling Union (UCI)
- Yang Yang (China).

The **121<sup>st</sup> IOC Session** elected six new members from four different continents. In other decisions, Mario Pescante and Ser Miang Ng became IOC Vice-Presidents, and Craig Reedie and John Coates joined the IOC Executive



Board. The Session also elected five honorary members. The new IOC members elected were:

- Richard Peterkin (St Lucia)
- HRH Frederik, the Crown Prince of Denmark
- Habu Ahmed Gumel (Nigeria)
- Habib Abdul Nabi Macki (Oman)
- Lydia Nsekera (Burundi)
- Göran Petersson (Sweden), President of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF)

At the **120<sup>th</sup> Session**, held in August 2008 in Beijing, two new members were elected. Sergey Bubka, Olympic champion and President of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, was re-elected as an IOC member. His previous IOC membership was connected to his function as Chairman of the IOC Athletes' Commission. Dr Ugur Erdener, President of World Archery (WA), was elected as a new IOC member.

At the **119<sup>th</sup> Session**, four new members were elected, Gerhard Heiberg was re-elected to the Executive Board, and three members became honorary members.

- HRH Princess Haya bint Al-Hussein (United Arab Emirates), President of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI)
- Rita Subowo (Indonesia), President of the Indonesian Olympic Committee
- Patrick Baumann (Switzerland), Secretary General of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA)
- Andrés Botero (Colombia), President of the Colombian Olympic Committee.

### **Executive Board elections**

During the **123<sup>rd</sup> Session** Gunilla Lindberg was elected to the EB to replace Gerhard Heiberg, who had reached the end of his term on the EB. Lindberg has been an IOC member since 1996. This is her second stint on the EB, after she previously served on the Board from 2000 to 2004.

During the **122<sup>nd</sup> Session**, Thomas Bach, who was previously an IOC Vice-President, was re-elected to this position for another four years. Sam Ramsamy was re-elected as an Executive Board member, also for another four years.

### **TWO IOC HONORARY MEMBERS**

At the Durban Session, six members who ended their terms of office at the end of 2011 were granted honorary membership status as of 1 January 2012. Those members are: Phillip Walter Coles, Chiharu Igaya, Shun-ichiro Okano, Arne Ljungqvist, Antun Vrdoljak and Lassana Palenfo.

The Session in Vancouver also elected Manuela Di Centa and Kipchoge Keino, both Olympic champions, as honorary members. Manuela Di Centa, an IOC member from 1999 and elected to the Athletes' Commission at the Games in Salt Lake City in 2002, had come to the end of her term of office. She has been an IOC honorary member since 1 March 2010. Kipchoge Keino was an IOC member for 10 years, and his term of office expired at the end of 2010 due to the rules concerning age limits. He has been an honorary member since 1 January 2011.

### **ATHLETES' ELECTIONS**

The IOC Athletes' Commission election in Vancouver saw the participation of 1,965 athletes – 75.3% of all eligible voters. They submitted their voting forms in the two Olympic villages of the 2010 Games. Among the nine candidates from as many countries, they chose two different athletes from two different sports. The members, elected for a term of eight years, were:

- Adam Pengilly (Great Britain - bobsleigh)
- Angela Marie Ruggiero (USA - ice hockey)

The two were elected as IOC members. They replaced Pernilla Wiberg and Manuela Di Centa,



who were elected to the Athletes' Commission at the Games in Salt Lake City in 2002, and came to the end of their term of office.

The next election to the IOC Athletes' Commission is scheduled for the 2012 London Olympic Games, where four new members will be elected in the same way as in Beijing.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Only NOCs with an athletes' commission may put forward a candidate. In order to be eligible, the candidates have to have participated in the previous edition of the Olympic Games, and/or have to have taken part in the Games in which they are candidates.

### THE VOICE OF THE ATHLETES

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

During the meeting held on the occasion of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in August 2010, Frank Fredericks (Namibia - athletics), a quadruple Olympic medallist and IOC Executive Board member, was re-elected as Chairman of the Commission, while Claudia Bokel (Germany - fencing) was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

At each edition of the Olympic Games (summer and winter), the athletes taking part are invited to vote to elect the majority of the members of the Athletes' Commission. Following the reforms adopted by the 110<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in December 1999, the Commission has comprised 19 members:

- eight summer sports athletes, elected during the Games of the Olympiad (four at each edition of the Games);
- four winter sports athletes, elected during the Olympic Winter Games (two at each edition of the Games); and

- up to seven athletes, appointed by the IOC President to ensure an equal balance of gender, sport and region.

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

Learn more about the IOC Athletes' Commission [here](#)

### Further information

[IOC members](#)

---

### IMPRINT

#### IOC MEMBERS

July 2012

---

A publication of the

For further information, please contact



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

Château de Vidy,  
1007 Lausanne,  
Switzerland

Olympic Studies Centre  
Tel. +41 21 621 63 18  
Fax +41 21 621 65 12  
[studies\\_centre@olympic.org](mailto:studies_centre@olympic.org)