

IOC Session 2005

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is the role of the IOC Sessions and how often do they occur?

Answer: A general meeting of the members of the IOC, called a Session, is held at least once a year. The Session is the supreme organ of the IOC. It adopts, modifies and interprets the Olympic Charter. Its decisions are final.

Q: Who participates in the Sessions?

A: The IOC members, honorary members and honour members. Only IOC members have the right to vote.

Q: How many IOC members are there? What is the spread across continents?

A: There are currently 122 IOC members. The spread across continents is the following:

- Africa: 15 members
- America: 24 members
- Asia: 20 members
- Europe: 58 members
- Oceania: 5 members

Q: How do you become an IOC member and how long do you serve?

A: The IOC includes among its members active athletes and presidents or senior leaders of the International Federations and National Olympic Committees. The IOC recruits and elects its members from among such persons as it considers qualified.

Any person aged 18 or over is eligible for IOC membership, provided that the candidature is submitted by an IOC member, the IOC Athletes' Commission, an International Federation, or a National Olympic Committee. The candidature is then examined by the Nominations Commission; and the election is then proposed to the Session by the IOC Executive Board.

All candidatures for election to IOC membership proposed by the Executive Board are submitted to a vote by the Session; votes are taken by secret ballot; decisions are taken by a majority of the votes cast.

IOC members are elected for a period of 8 years. They may be re-elected.

Q: What are the obligations of the members?

A: Each IOC member has the following obligations:

- to participate in IOC Sessions;
- to participate in the work of the IOC Commissions to which he has been appointed;
- to help in the development of the Olympic Movement;
- to follow, at local level, the implementation of the IOC's programmes, including those of Olympic Solidarity;
- to inform the IOC President, without delay, of all events liable to hinder the application of the Olympic Charter or otherwise affect the Olympic Movement;
- to comply in all circumstances with the IOC Code of Ethics;
- to perform other tasks assigned to him by the President, including, when needed, the representation of the IOC in any country, territory or organisation.