

## **WN Position Statement Regarding Netball and the Olympic Games**

WN is often asked whether netball is in the Olympic Games. The paper sets out:

- background information regarding the **Olympic Games**, **IOC Recognition**, and how the **Sports Programme** for each edition is determined;
- **WN's position** with respect to the Olympic Movement and inclusion in the programme of the Games.

### **The Olympic Games**

The IOC (International Olympic Committee) 'owns' the Olympic Games. The honour and responsibility of hosting the Olympic Games are entrusted by the IOC to a city, which is elected as the host city of the Olympic Games. The Games of the Olympiad (4-year period) are celebrated during the first year of an Olympiad, and the Olympic Winter Games during its third year.

The Olympic Charter sets forth and recalls the Fundamental Principles and essential values of Olympism and is an excellent guide to how the Olympic movement works.

It defines the three main constituents of the Olympic Movement, namely the International Olympic Committee, the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees, as well as the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games, all of which are required to comply with the Olympic Charter.

### **IOC Recognition**

In order to develop and promote the Olympic Movement, the IOC may recognise as 'International Federations' (IF's) international non-governmental organisations administering one or several sports at world level and encompassing organisations administering such sports at national level.

The statutes, practice and activities of the IFs within the Olympic Movement must be in conformity with the Olympic Charter, including the adoption and implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code.

IOC recognition does not mean automatic inclusion in the Olympic Games but it forms an important step in the pathway to inclusion.

### **The Programme of the Olympic Games**

There are many sports that wish to be involved in the Olympics. There were 26 sports for London 2012, 28 sports at Rio 2016 and 33 at Tokyo 2020 . Some sports have more than one discipline, such as track and road cycling or canoe sprint and slalom.

The criteria for inclusion in the Games were reviewed by the IOC as part of the **IOC Agenda 2020** programme of reforms and this included a move from a sport-based, to an **event-based programme** as follows:

1. Regular reviews of the programme based on events rather than sports, with the involvement of the International Federations, and with the following restrictions to be respected:
  - a. For the **Summer Games of the Olympiad**: approximately **10,500 athletes**, 5,000 accredited coaches and athletes' support personnel, and **310 events**,
  - b. For the Winter Games, approximately 2,900 athletes, 2,000 accredited coaches and athletes' support personnel, and 100 events.
2. The **IOC Session** (the general assembly of the IOC's members) **to decide on the inclusion of any sport/discipline** (IF) in the programme.
3. The IOC to allow the **Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (OCOGs) to make a proposal for the inclusion of one or more additional events** on the Olympic programme for that edition of the Olympic Games.
  - a. For Tokyo 2020 the OCOG proposed the inclusion of 5 additional sports (18 events and 474 athletes): surfing, skateboarding, sport climbing, karate, baseball (men) & softball (women) taking the total number to 33.
  - b. For Paris 2024 the OCOG proposed the inclusion of 4 additional sports: skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing and breaking and all have been confirmed for the 2024 Games so there will be 32 in total.
  - c. For Los Angeles 2028 the OCOG proposed the inclusion of 5 additional sports Baseball/softball, cricket (T20), flag football, lacrosse (sixes) and squash and these have all been accepted so the total will be 33.
  - d. The process to select the OCOG proposed additional sports for Brisbane has not yet been launched.

The IOC has committed to changes that ensures the **Games is sustainable** and the programme of sports and events **remains relevant to society** and to young people of today:

- attracting **younger audiences**;
- **fostering gender equality** (one measure being the % of male and female athletes and the number of mixed gender events);
- **limiting the size of the Games** and the number of events, athletes, accredited coaches and support personnel.

The **IOC has published 35 criteria to guide the evaluation of their Programme Commission**. These include items such as universality, global spread of excellence, venue requirements, number of days of competition, athlete quota, worldwide media interest, digital followers and volume of ticket sales. There is no published weighting to the criteria.

Recent decisions appear to have favoured events in which a significant number of countries can be represented by individual athletes and events that can take place in temporary facilities in urban locations or the natural environment.

Campaigning to be a part of the Olympic Games requires considerable financial investment by a sport and many hours lobbying IOC Members and OCOGS.

**The World Games** is a multi-sport games held every 4 years which features about 35 sports/disciplines that are not in the Olympic Games. The IOC has a cooperative relationship with the World Games regarding programme composition and their respective evaluations. Inclusion in the World Games can enable an IF to showcase their sport in a multi-sport setting.

### **WN's Position**

World Netball is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). This status was earned because of netball's global popularity, our strong and effective governance structures and our compliance with the Olympic Charter.

WN's Articles of Association state clearly the fundamental purposes of the company. One of these purposes is stated as:

*to maintain Netball on the Commonwealth Games programme and to strive for the addition of Netball to the Olympic programme;*

In accordance with this WN applied to the OCOG for netball to be a part of the OG Tokyo 2020 but was unsuccessful.

Netball is a core sport in the Commonwealth Games, reflecting the strong heritage of netball in Commonwealth countries.

WN shall continue to develop our sport in a way that is right for Netball, while wherever possible improving our prospects of meeting the criteria for Olympic Games inclusion. WN meets regularly with the IOC and their representatives have attended, and will continue to be invited to attend, the Netball World Cup and the netball competition at the Commonwealth Games.

WN aims to grow our sport, to increase global participation, reach, revenue and capacity and to increase the impact and the awareness of our sport worldwide. We are actively working to gain involvement in more multi-sport games. Netball has been on the programme of The World Games, is included in the South East Asia Games, Mini-Pacific Games, the Central American and Caribbean Games and will join the Asian Indoor Games in 2024.

For more details please refer to the IOC and WN websites:

<https://www.olympic.org/olympic-programme-commission>

<http://netball.sport>

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