



# Olympic Council of Ireland

## Athletes' Commission – Terms of Reference

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### 1) DEFINITION

The Olympic Council of Ireland Athletes' Commission represents the active eligible athletes of the member National Federations of the Olympic Council of Ireland.

An active eligible athlete is an athlete who participated in the Summer or Winter Olympic Games previous to the General Meeting which elects him/her.

### 2) AIMS AND TASKS

The OCI Athletes' Commission is a consultative body of the OCI and acts as a mediator between the active Irish athletes and the OCI Executive Committee.

It ensures that the athletes' points of view are taken into account in the OCI decisions.

It ensures the respect of the rights of the athletes within the Olympic Movement and draws up recommendations to that effect.

It puts forward nominations for representatives to sit on other OCI commissions and working groups and thus expresses the athletes' point of view.

The OCI Executive Committee may entrust the OCI Athletes' Commission with matters pertinent to athletes.

### 3) COMPOSITION:

The OCI Athletes' Commission is composed of 5 members. as follows:

All members must be representatives of Sports currently on the Olympic Games programme.

All members must be active athletes who competed in the previous Olympic Summer or Winter Games.

A member may represent one sport only.

No sport may have more than one member on the Commission.

5 (Five) Commission Members will be elected by the eligible members.

The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson shall be chosen by the Commission from among its members.

The Chairperson chooses the Commission secretary from among the members of the commission.

The Chairperson of the OCI Athletes' Commission shall be a member ex-officio of the OCI Executive Committee.

A representative from the OCI Executive Committee shall be a member ex-officio of the Athletes Commission.

#### **4) ELECTION AND MEMBERSHIP**

The elected members of the OCI Athletes' Commission are elected by the General Meeting of the eligible Irish athletes called for that purpose.

The General Meeting of the Irish athletes is composed of all eligible athletes.

The OCI Athletes' Commission members are elected or appointed for a period of four years. If eligible an athlete may seek re-election for one further term of four years.

#### **CANDIDATURES**

Each National Federation, which has an eligible athlete(s), is entitled to submit one candidature from their list of eligible athletes.

Each candidate must meet the criteria for the elective members:

- be an active athlete, who participated in the previous Olympic Summer Games or in the previous Olympic Winter Games
- be at least 18 (eighteen) years old;
- never have been found guilty of a doping offence during his/her sports career.

Eligible Members will be contacted by using the OCI Database – all eligible members are individually responsible for keeping the OCI Office up to date, in writing, of their address.

An application - duly signed by the Candidate and the President of the National Federation - shall be sent to the Honorary General Secretary of the OCI at least 2 (two) months prior the election, the exact date will be issued at the time of notification of the meeting.

An application shall include:

- the duly filled application form issued by the OCI,
- the curriculum vitae and photograph of the candidate.
- a detailed report of the candidate’s sport career and a letter setting out the reasons for seeking election.

All applications and their appendices shall be circulated immediately after the closing date for the submission of applications.

## **5) VOTING CONDITIONS**

Before the vote at the Athletes’ General Meeting, each Candidate may make an oral presentation of no more than 3 (three) minutes.

Each Eligible Athlete has one vote

The vote to elect members of the OCI Athletes’ Commission shall be supervised by a three-member Board appointed by the OCI President. Such Board shall comprise a Chairperson, a secretary and one other member.

The 5 athletes who obtain the highest number of votes shall be elected as members of the OCI Athletes’ Commission.

In the event of a tie, the result will be decided by lot.

There shall not be more than one member of the Commission from the same sport.

## **6) MEETINGS:**

The OCI Athletes’ Commission shall hold at least one meeting a year.

In the event of a member's death, resignation, impediment or any cause of inability to perform his/her function as a member of the OCI Athletes' Commission, any such elected member shall be replaced for the duration of his/her remaining term of office, by the unsuccessful athlete who had the next highest number of votes in the election in which the member to be replaced was elected.

If a member fails to attend 2 (two) consecutive meetings, such member is required to submit a letter to the OCI Athletes' Commission within 2 (two) weeks from the last meeting, specifying and explaining the reasons for failure to attend the meetings.

After receiving such letter, the OCI Athletes' Commission shall decide by e-mail vote whether to replace the member who failed to attend the meetings.

The member shall be replaced provided that more than half of the members of the OCI Athletes' Commission, excluding the member who failed to attend the meetings, vote in favour of the relevant decision.

Where an athlete has failed to attend 3 (three) consecutive meetings of the OCI Athletes' Commission, or where an athlete who had failed to attend 2 (two) consecutive meetings fails to submit the letter referred to above within the specified term, the member concerned shall be replaced.

## **7) BUDGET**

The OCI Executive Committee may decide on a special budget to be allocated to the OCI Athletes' Commission.

## **8) INTERPRETATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The sole authority for the interpretation or clarification of these terms of reference shall be vested in the OCI Executive Committee.

Any amendment of or addition to these terms of reference shall be vested in the OCI Executive Committee.

The OCI Athletes' Commission may submit proposals to amend this text.