



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Confidential

Mr. Jean-Christophe
Rolland
President
World Rowing Federation

Office of the Director General

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By e-mail only

Lausanne, 7 December 2020

Olympic Games Paris 2024 event programme and athlete quotas

Dear President, Dear Jean-Christophe,

I hope you are well and would like to thank you for the great partnership in regard to the upcoming Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024. The strong partnership in planning for these Olympic Games and in all other common projects is greatly appreciated.

The IOC Executive Board met today to finalise the event programme and athlete quotas of the Olympic Games Paris 2024. As you know, these considerations were based on the recommendations received from the Olympic Programme Commission which, in turn, conducted a thorough analysis on the requests for new events and/or additional quota received by all Olympic International Federations, the Games-time popularity data collected at an event level in Rio 2016 and the cost and complexity assessment of new and current events.

It should be noted that the framework of the Paris 2024 event programme and athlete quotas reflects the Olympic Charter, Olympic Agenda 2020 and the New Norm. With the change to an event-based Olympic programme through Olympic Agenda 2020, Rule 45 of the Olympic Charter states that the programme of the Olympic Games shall comprise of approximately 10,500 athletes and 310 events. Olympic Agenda 2020 also clearly lays out the need to embrace gender balance, introduce innovation with a youth focus, promote sustainability, and reduce overall Games cost and complexity.

This framework was further reflected in the following key principles established by the IOC Executive Board on 18 July 2018 upon recommendation of the Olympic Programme Commission and included in the IF questionnaire distributed in November 2019:

- Reducing the overall athlete quota (including for all new sports) to 10,500;
- Achieving 50 per cent female participation across the Olympic Games at event and discipline level where possible (currently 48.8% for Tokyo 2020);
- Prioritising proposals for new events that do not require additional athletes for the IF, and instead accommodate the athletes within the sport's existing quota allocation; and
- Using existing venues for any proposed new events.

In addition to this, the exceptional situation caused by COVID-19 pandemic led both the IOC Executive Board and the Paris 2024 Organising Committee to commit to further strengthening the sustainability reforms of Olympic Agenda 2020 with a strong emphasis of the New Norm and reduction of the cost and complexity of hosting the Olympic Games.

This priority was established by the IOC Executive Board on 10 June 2020 and reiterated in my letter sent on the same day to all Olympic International Federations. In this regard we would like to thank you and your Federation for the very open discussion towards this shared objective.

Within this framework, in order to avoid the growth of the Olympic programme in the current landscape, the IOC Executive Board decided upon recommendation of the Olympic Programme Commission not to increase the number of events or athlete quotas from Tokyo 2020 across any of the 28 Olympic sports.

This fair and consistent approach also included a proportionate quota reduction across the programme in order to reach the goal of the 10,500 athletes (including new sports), focusing on those sports that could best absorb the athlete quota reduction without significantly reducing their universality, value and standards of competition.

In this context, the IOC Executive Board has finalised the following Paris 2024 event programme in the sport of Rowing, which includes the confirmation of the same events as in Tokyo 2020 and a reduction of 24 athlete quotas.

ROWING										
QUOTAS			MEN'S EVENTS				WOMEN'S EVENTS		MIXED/OPEN EVENTS	TOTAL
M	W	T								
251	251	502	7			7			14	
				Single Sculls (M1x)		Single Sculls (W1x)				
				Pair (M2-)		Pair (W2-)				
				Double Sculls (M2x)		Double Sculls (W2x)				
				Four (M4-)		Four (W4-)				
				Quadruple Sculls (M4x)		Quadruple Sculls (W4x)				
				Eight (M8+)		Eight (W8+)				
				Lightweight Double Sculls (M2x)		Lightweight Double Sculls (W2x)				

It should be noted that the IOC Executive Board reviewed the request from World Rowing to change the event programme for Paris 2024 to include the new discipline of Coastal Rowing to replace the Lightweight Rowing events.

The IOC Executive Board praised the strong case put forward by World Rowing regarding the added value of this discipline to the Olympic programme, flexibly adapting to most coastal and open water areas and adding a new accessible development opportunity for island and coastal nations around the world. These strong arguments were indeed the basis for its successful introduction to the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026.

However, in light of the impact of the COVID19 pandemic and the need to reduce costs and complexity for Paris 2024 specifically highlighted by IOC Executive Board, the Commission concluded that no new disciplines could be added across any sport. Therefore, for Paris 2024, the Commission proposed to continue with the existing rowing programme of 14 events.

In view of Los Angeles 2028, the Olympic Programme Commission and the IOC Executive Board highlighted how the beach nature of the Coastal Rowing events could represent a very strong fit with the vision and venue landscape of Los Angeles and, following the definition of the LA2028 Sport Programme due in 2021, look forward to positively considering the inclusion of Coastal Rowing in the event programme for Los Angeles 2028.

Finally, please note that the Qualification System Principles for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 will be approved by the IOC Executive Board and published by September 2021 and following this, we will work with you to define your qualification systems. These will be submitted to the IOC Executive Board for their approval in February 2022.

We thank you for your continued partnership and look forward to ensuring the outstanding success of Rowing at Paris 2024 and beyond.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized cursive 'C' followed by a horizontal line and a final flourish.

Christophe De Kepper
Director General