



**CALMUN'25
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE (IOC)
STUDY GUIDE**



Agenda Item: Open Agenda
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1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Esteemed Participants,

As the Secretary-General of Çağaloğlu Model United Nations, it is my distinct honor to welcome you all to the 7th edition of CALMUN, which will take place on May 16th, 17th, and 18th, 2025. It is with great pleasure that we present the study guide for IOC, which aims to equip you with the essential knowledge and context for the upcoming three days.

After months of preparation and dedicated effort, I am proud to say that we are now just one step away from CALMUN 2025. We hope that, by reading this guide, you will feel as ready and enthusiastic as we are.

Without a doubt, this conference would not be possible without the contributions of our remarkable academic team. I extend my gratitude to our Head of Academy, Özge Öztürk; our Co-Heads of Crisis, Meryem Sultan Çok and Akay Engin; our devoted and hardworking team members; and our motivated trainees. Their commitment and passion have brought this vision to life and elevated CALMUN's academic quality to its peak.

Furthermore, I would also like to extend my best wishes to all delegates participating in CALMUN 2025. Whether this is your first conference or you are a seasoned MUNer, I thank each of you for taking a step forward and joining us. We truly hope that CALMUN will be a special experience that you will remember warmly in the future. From my perspective, MUN is about motivation, enjoyment, meaningful discussion, and connection. I wish each delegate an inspiring, engaging, and memorable experience.

Warm regards,

Ceylin Gürsoy

Secretary-General

2. Glossary

Racism: Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.

Biological Passport: A digital record of an athlete's biological markers over time, used to detect doping by identifying abnormal variations rather than relying solely on direct detection of banned substances.

Doping: The use of prohibited substances or methods to unfairly enhance athletic performance, in violation of anti-doping codes.

Structural Doping: A concept referring not to individual cheating, but to systemic or state-sponsored manipulation of sports systems, laboratories, or regulatory bodies to avoid doping detection.

Eligibility Regulations: Rules set by sports federations and organizing committees defining who can compete in specific categories, often covering gender, age, nationality, and medical criteria.

Disqualification: The ejection or removal of an athlete from a contest due to a violation of the sport's rules. Violations include but are not limited to harassment towards another athlete, doping or actions against sportsmanship.

Bidding: The term "bid" expresses the process and time period in which a nation declares its candidacy for host elections. It is expected for a country to use the bidding period to reach mandatory requirements for host countries, if there are any that they do not fulfill.

Rule 50 (Olympic Charter): A rule prohibiting political, religious, or racial demonstrations during the Olympic Games, intended to maintain neutrality but increasingly contested over athletes' rights to free expression.

Secularism: A worldview or political principle that separates religion from other realms of human existence, often putting greater emphasis on nonreligious aspects of human life and supporting the separation of religion from the political realm.

3. Introduction to the Committee

In the world of sports, few events are as iconic and unifying as the Olympic Games. Every two years, approximately 10,500 athletes gather to represent their countries across a wide range of disciplines. These Games are organized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), a civil, non-profit organization responsible for overseeing the Olympic Movement.

The IOC serves as the governing body for the Summer, Winter, and Youth Olympic Games. It convenes annually to make key decisions, including the selection of host cities, the addition or removal of sports, and the evaluation of previous Games based on performance, logistics, and controversies. Following the recent success of Paris 2024, new challenges have emerged. To ensure the sustainability and continued success of the Olympic Games, it is essential to address both the opportunities and the difficulties associated with hosting this global event.

4. Principles and Missions of the IOC

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) stands at the core of promoting Olympism, a philosophy that unites sport, education, and culture in an effort to build a global community founded on respect for human dignity and the environment. Through sports, the IOC promotes core values like excellence, friendship, and respect, aiming to spread these principles in all areas of life. Its strong commitment to diversity and inclusivity is the cornerstone of the IOC's approach. The organization strives to ensure that the Olympic Games serve as a platform where individuals, regardless of race, religion, gender, or political belief, can gather under the principles of fair play and cross-cultural understanding. This emphasis on equality underscores the IOC's mission to make the Olympic Games accessible to all, from elite athletes to the broader public.

The IOC also upholds the non-political character of the Games, consistently resisting pressures that may compromise the ideals of clean competition and international friendship. Moreover, the organization places significant importance on promoting sustainable development by encouraging environmentally responsible practices in the preparation and staging of the Games.

The mission of the IOC is multifaceted. Among its principal objectives is the organization of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games in accordance with the highest standards of fairness, integrity, and excellence. The IOC is responsible for the selection of host cities, the coordination of logistical operations, and the broader aim of ensuring that the Games serve as successful forums for sporting achievement, organizational competence, and cultural exchange.

In addition to its role in organizing the Games, the IOC is devoted to supporting athletes by safeguarding their right to a safe, fair, and equitable competitive environment. This includes providing access to high-quality facilities, protecting athletes from doping practices, and promoting equal opportunities for participation. Upholding ethical standards remains a central element of the IOC's work, with the Games serving as a platform for fostering peace, cooperation, and mutual understanding among nations. Beyond sports competitions, the IOC supports education and cultural programs that aim to teach values like respect, cooperation, and determination to people around the world.

5. History

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was formally established on 23 June 1894 during the Congress of Paris, organized by Pierre de Coubertin, who sought to revive the ancient Olympic Games in a modern context. This marked the beginning of the modern Olympic Movement, with the IOC assuming responsibility for the organization and governance of the Games.

The first modern Olympics were held in Athens in 1896, a decision rich in symbolism due to Greece's historical connection to the ancient Games. Despite the significance, participation was modest, with only fourteen nations involved. Nonetheless, the event laid the foundation for future expansion. By the 1900 Paris Olympics, the number of athletes had risen to approximately one thousand, with twenty-four nations participating.

Initially, the selection of host cities was carried out informally by the IOC. However, from 1912 onwards, cities were required to submit formal bids, introducing a competitive element to the process. Interest remained strong for much of the twentieth century. However, political and economic crises eventually impacted enthusiasm. The terrorist attack during the 1972 Munich Games, resulting in the death of eleven Israeli athletes, exposed the security risks associated with hosting. In addition, Montreal's significant budget overrun in 1976, spending thirteen times the initial projection, fueled concerns regarding the financial burdens imposed on host cities.

In 1984, Los Angeles introduced a new approach to hosting the Olympic Games by using existing facilities and relying on private funding rather than building new venues. This method proved financially successful and offered a more sustainable model for future host cities.

Los Angeles' model briefly renewed interest among candidate cities. However, escalating costs and growing public skepticism over environmental and social impacts led to a decline in applications by the early twenty-first century. For the 2024 Games, six cities initially submitted bids, but four withdrew following public protests and referenda. Consequently, Paris and Los Angeles remained as the final contenders. In an unprecedented move, the IOC awarded the 2024 Games to Paris and granted Los Angeles the 2028 Games simultaneously, aiming to stabilize the future of the Olympic Movement.

Recognizing the challenges posed by the traditional hosting model, the IOC introduced reforms such as promoting the use of existing or temporary venues and adopting "The New Norm" policy in 2018. These measures seek to reduce environmental impact, lower costs, and ensure long-term benefits for host cities. The success of the upcoming Los Angeles 2028 Games is widely viewed as a critical test for these reforms and for the broader sustainability of the Olympic Games.

6. Controversies of Olympics Games Paris 2024

a. Women's Boxing Controversy

The participation of Imane Khelif of Algeria and Lin Yu-ting of Chinese Taipei in the 2024 Olympic Games created controversy following their disqualification from the 2023 Women's World Boxing Championships. The International Boxing Association (IBA) justified their exclusion on the grounds of sex verification tests, stating that the athletes had failed to meet the eligibility criteria. Both boxers had previously competed in the 2020 Olympics and had successfully qualified for the Paris 2024 Games.



The boxing events for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics were overseen by an internal task force established after the suspension of the IBA, which had faced allegations of corruption under the presidency of Umar Kremlev. Kremlev, accused of favoring Russian interests, asserted that DNA testing had confirmed the presence of XY chromosomes in the athletes, leading to their disqualification from the 2023 Championships. According to reports, the tests were conducted by professionals and initiated upon the requests and complaints of other female athletes and their coaches.

Despite these findings, both Khelif and Lin met the eligibility standards set for participation in the 2024 Olympic Games. An IOC spokesperson, Mark Adams, refrained from commenting on individual cases but emphasized that all competitors in the women's category were in compliance with the competition's eligibility rules. The IOC clarified that the primary criterion for eligibility was the gender listed on an athlete's passport. This position drew criticism and sparked wider debate regarding the adequacy and fairness of existing verification measures.

The controversy intensified following the match between Imane Khelif and Italian boxer Angela Carini. After only forty-six seconds, Carini withdrew from the match, later stating that she had never before experienced such force during a match. This incident led to increased public scrutiny and a wave of online backlash directed at Khelif.



Despite the controversies surrounding their participation, both Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-ting went on to secure gold medals in their respective weight categories at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

b. Chinese Doping Allegations



In April 2024, prior to the Summer Olympics, *The New York Times* reported that twenty-three Chinese athletes had competed in the 2020 Summer Games despite having tested positive for trimetazidine seven months before the event. Trimetazidine is a medication used to treat angina (chest pain)

by helping heart cells produce energy more efficiently when oxygen levels are low. It is sometimes misused in sports, which is why it appears on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) list of banned substances. Following the report, Travis Tygart, CEO of the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), accused the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the China Anti-Doping Agency (CHINADA) of failing to adequately address the positive test results, suggesting that a cover-up had taken place. Eleven of the athletes identified in the report were subsequently included in China's 2024 Olympic swimming team. In response to the allegations, World Aquatics emphasized that, since 1 January 2024, Chinese swimmers had been subjected to rigorous testing, averaging twenty-one doping tests per athlete, a figure four to six times higher than that of athletes from other nations.

The developments generated significant reactions from international sports organizations. In July 2024, the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations criticized what it described as attempts to undermine WADA's authority and independence. The Association expressed concern that extraterritorial investigations initiated by the United States might endanger the personal safety of athletes and officials and could weaken the confidence necessary for international sporting participation, particularly in events hosted in the United States.

Domestically, reactions within China centered on perceived injustices faced by Chinese athletes. On social media, Olympic diver Gao Min suggested that the athletes' performance had been adversely affected by the frequency and timing of drug tests, which, according to reports, were often conducted before dawn, during practice sessions, and in hotel lobbies.



Chinese swimmer Qin Haiyang alleged that the closer examination was a strategy aimed at unsettling the Chinese team's preparation and psychological resilience, pointing to the country's rising competitiveness in international sports as a potential source of external pressure. Nevertheless, he affirmed that the Chinese athletes would continue to compete with determination, despite the challenges.

Internationally, perspectives varied according to regional contexts. Certain Western countries emphasized the necessity of strict compliance with anti-doping regulations to maintain the integrity of competition, referencing historical examples such as the Russian doping scandal, which led to widespread suspensions and neutral participation for Russian athletes. In contrast, several national sporting bodies, particularly within non-Western regions, stressed the importance of safeguarding the independence of WADA from political influence, drawing attention to previous controversies where extraterritorial actions were perceived as politically motivated, such as investigations into athletes from smaller or emerging sporting nations. While there was broad consensus on the fundamental importance of anti-doping efforts, differences remained regarding the methods used to uphold these standards and the balance between enforcement and political neutrality.

c. The Hijab Ban on French Athletes

In the lead-up to the 2024 Summer Olympics, the French government reinforced its long-standing principles of secularism by implementing stricter regulations on athletes' expressions of religious affiliation. Under the new rules, athletes representing France were prohibited from wearing any religious symbols during competition, a policy that included a ban on the hijab. The regulation extended beyond the Olympic team to domestic sports federations, with the French Basketball and Football Federations also barring players who wore hijabs, including those participating at amateur levels. Athletes who refused to comply with the regulations faced disqualification from national teams.

The policy drew immediate international attention and sparked a range of reactions. Several United Nations experts issued a statement criticizing the ban, asserting that Muslim women and girls must be allowed to participate fully in cultural and sporting life without facing discrimination based on religious attire. They emphasized that inclusivity in sports was a fundamental right under international human rights standards and warned that the ban could deepen societal divisions rather than promote unity.

Some European countries, notably those with strong traditions of secularism such as Belgium and the Netherlands, expressed a degree of understanding toward France's position, highlighting the importance of maintaining neutrality in public institutions. However, others, including Germany and the United Kingdom, voiced more cautious views, stressing the need to balance secular principles with the protection of individual freedoms and religious expression.

Beyond Europe, several countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including Algeria, Morocco, and Qatar, openly criticized the French policy. These governments, as well as prominent sporting organizations in the region, argued that the ban marginalized Muslim athletes and undermined efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in international sports. Statements from these countries framed the ban as inconsistent with the Olympic Charter's principles of non-discrimination and equality. International non-governmental organizations specializing in human rights and sports also expressed concern and called on the International Olympic Committee to engage with the French authorities to ensure that athletes' rights to religious freedom were respected within the broader framework of the Games.

d. Opening Ceremony - Aya Nakamura

Aya Nakamura, a French-Malian singer and songwriter, was selected to perform at the Paris 2024 opening ceremony, symbolizing France's cultural diversity on the international stage. However, her participation sparked significant controversy domestically. Following her performance, Nakamura reported receiving racial abuse from far-right figures who expressed indignation at her prominent role. According to an Odoxa poll conducted prior to the event, 63 percent of the French public disapproved of Nakamura's selection.

The reactions highlighted broader societal debates within France surrounding national identity, immigration, and multicultural representation. While some officials defended Nakamura's role as reflective of modern France, others criticized the decision, viewing it as a departure from traditional cultural values.

Several African nations, including Mali and Senegal, praised her inclusion as a meaningful recognition of France's diverse heritage. Meanwhile, some European commentators noted that the backlash reflected wider challenges facing multicultural societies across the continent. Human rights organizations, such as the European Network Against Racism, condemned the racist remarks and called for greater commitment to inclusivity, particularly during global events like the Olympics.

e. Disqualification of Manizha Talash



During the pre-qualifier rounds of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Manizha Talash, representing the Refugee Olympic Team, was disqualified for wearing a cape bearing the slogan "Free Afghan Women." The act was deemed a violation of Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter, which prohibits political, religious, or racial demonstrations within Olympic venues and official

areas.

The decision prompted mixed reactions. Supporters of strict neutrality emphasized the importance of maintaining the Olympics as an apolitical space and cited the consistent enforcement of Rule 50 in past Games as essential to preserving unity. Conversely, several human rights organizations argued that Talash's message highlighted fundamental human rights issues and should be viewed differently from political propaganda. Groups such as Amnesty International contended that the strict application of neutrality could sometimes overlook urgent humanitarian concerns.

While many Western nations reaffirmed the principle of non-political competition, several NGOs and advocacy groups, particularly those focused on Afghan human rights, expressed disappointment, framing the disqualification as a lost opportunity to raise awareness for vulnerable populations. The incident reignited debate over the scope of Rule 50 and the delicate balance between Olympic neutrality and the evolving calls for social advocacy within international sport.

f. Thai Flag Raised for Tajik Medalist



During the victory ceremony for the boxing heavyweight event at the Paris 2024 Olympics, the Thai flag was mistakenly raised instead of the Tajik flag. The error was not corrected during the ceremony itself, but the Paris Olympic Committee later issued a formal apology acknowledging the mistake.

While the Paris organizers emphasized that the mistake was unintentional and expressed regret, officials from Tajikistan voiced disappointment, highlighting the importance of proper recognition at such a significant international event. The situation was largely regarded as a procedural error, and no formal diplomatic escalation followed, although the event briefly drew attention to the importance of accurate ceremonial protocol at the Games.

g. Last Supper Parody Controversy

During the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympics, a performance featuring a transgender model and a singer was staged against the backdrop of the River Seine. The scene was perceived by many in the Christian community as an evocation of Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper, with the singer portrayed as Dionysus, the Greek god of wine. The performance sparked significant outrage among Catholic and conservative groups worldwide, who viewed it as disrespectful to religious traditions.

In response, Paris 2024 spokesperson Anne Descamps stated that the ceremony had no intention of offending any religious group and aimed instead to promote community tolerance. It was explained that the imagery was meant to symbolize Dionysus and raise awareness about the absurdity of violence between human beings. The creative director, Thomas Jolly, stated: *"In France, we have the right to love each other, as we want and with who we want. In France, we have the right to believe or not to believe. In France, we have a lot of rights."*

The Paris 2024 Organizing Committee later issued an apology to Catholics and other Christian groups who felt offended, reiterating that the portrayal had been misunderstood and was never intended as a critique of religious beliefs.

7. Evaluating the Economic Impact of Hosting the Olympic Games

The economic dimensions of hosting the Olympic Games have long been a critical consideration for candidate cities, often influencing bidding strategies and, at times, leading to the withdrawal of potential hosts. The immense financial commitments required to organize the Games have created both remarkable opportunities for economic growth and serious risks of long-term financial strain. Understanding the full scope of the economic impact is essential not only for cities aspiring to be hosts but also for the broader Olympic Movement, which seeks to maintain the Games as a sustainable and desirable global event.

The economic effects begin as early as the bidding phase. Aspiring host cities typically invest significant resources to align with the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) standards, including improvements in infrastructure, accommodation, transportation, and sporting facilities. This preparatory period often includes major public spending even before a city secures the right to host. Historically, as the Games grew in prestige and global reach, more cities competed for the opportunity, viewing the Olympics as a powerful tool for international recognition and urban development.

A turning point came with the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. With minimal public funding and a reliance on existing venues and private investments, Los Angeles demonstrated that the Olympics could generate a substantial financial surplus, reporting a profit of approximately 215 million dollars. This success temporarily increased enthusiasm among potential hosts. However, following editions revealed the economic vulnerabilities of hosting. Russia reportedly spent around 50 billion dollars for the 2014 Sochi Winter Games, Brazil approximately 20 billion dollars for the 2016 Rio Summer Games, and China nearly 39 billion dollars for the 2022 Beijing Winter Games. In many of these cases, significant investments were made in non-sports infrastructure and permanent sports facilities that, after the Games, struggled to find sustainable post-Olympic uses. These outcomes contributed to rising public skepticism and, in several cases, led cities to withdraw their bids under political and social pressure.

In response to growing concerns over the escalating costs and environmental impacts associated with hosting, the IOC implemented several major reforms. Among the most significant was the introduction of "The New Norm" in February 2018. This set of reforms encourages cities to prioritize the use of existing or temporary venues, reduce unnecessary infrastructure projects, and ensure that the Games adapt to the city, rather than requiring the city to adapt to the Games. The New Norm aims to foster a more sustainable, affordable, and environmentally responsible model for hosting. The reforms also seek to avoid the phenomenon of "white elephant" facilities, venues that fall into disuse and disrepair after the conclusion of the Games.

Further measures were introduced to ease the burden on candidate cities, including the extension of the bidding period, increased flexibility in the hosting structure (such as allowing multiple cities or even multiple countries to co-host events), and more emphasis on legacy planning.

The selection of a host city follows a detailed voting process within the IOC, with member states evaluating candidates based on a range of criteria designed to ensure the successful delivery of the Games. Among the key requirements are: the guarantee of comprehensive security measures; the ability to accommodate athletes, officials, journalists, and spectators (with a minimum of 40,000 hotel rooms required); the presence of efficient and extensive public transportation networks to manage the influx of visitors; access to specialized sports facilities or natural environments suitable for disciplines such as skiing, triathlon, and ice-skating; and the development of a detailed Olympic Village master plan to house participants and staff.

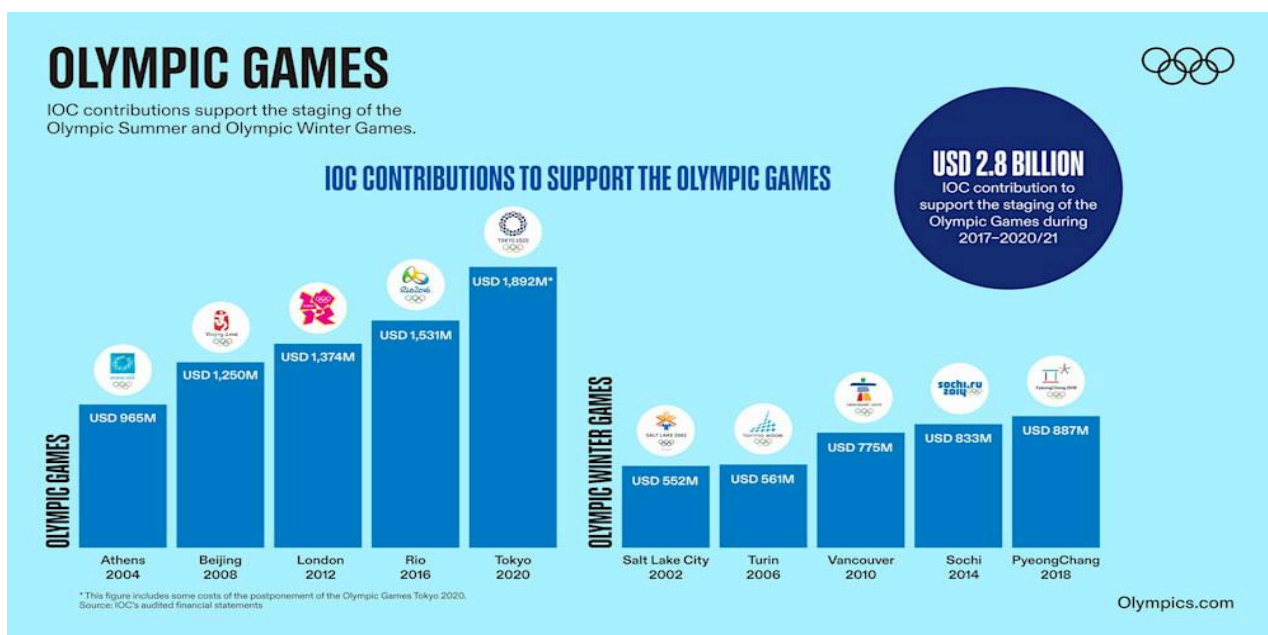
Beyond these logistical and technical requirements, broader considerations have increasingly come into play. Public support, environmental sustainability, financial transparency, and the ability to promote Olympic values of diversity, peace, and cultural exchange are also important factors that influence the IOC's decision-making process. The evolving standards for host selection reflect a growing awareness of the interconnected economic, social, and environmental impacts of the Games.

On the other hand, hosting the Olympic Games offers host countries considerable advantages, including heightened global recognition, increased tourism, strengthened diplomatic relations, and a temporary reduction in local unemployment. The extensive preparations required for the Games, such as large-scale construction projects and service expansions, create significant employment opportunities, often relying on a temporary workforce drawn from the local population. However, alongside these benefits come substantial financial commitments. While hosting can bring prestige and economic gains, the costs associated with organizing an event of such magnitude are equally important and must be managed with careful planning and foresight. The financial responsibilities of hosting the Games are wide-ranging and impact multiple sectors. Major areas of expenditure typically include:

- Construction of competition facilities
- Venue and opening ceremony operations
- Wages of the workforce
- Accommodation infrastructure
- Technology and broadcasting investments
- Transportation

Although the costs are substantial, host cities also benefit from important revenue streams that can, in many cases, balance or significantly offset the overall expenditures. Primary sources of revenue include:

- IOC contributions: The International Olympic Committee covers approximately 50 percent of the expenditures through direct financial support and revenue-sharing agreements.
- Sponsorships
- Ticket fees
- Games merchandise: Specially designed merchandise often becomes emblematic of the Games and generates considerable income.
- Hospitality: The arrival of athletes, officials, and supporters stimulates local economies through increased spending in hotels, restaurants, retail shops, and transportation services.



8. Future of the Olympic Program

Throughout its modern history, the Olympic Games have continually evolved to reflect changes in global sporting culture, technological advancement, and shifting societal interests. While the original Games focused on a limited number of traditional disciplines, the contemporary Olympic program features a much broader range of events. In recent decades, new sports such as skateboarding, surfing, and sport climbing have been introduced, while others, including baseball and softball, have been reintroduced or removed depending on global popularity and host country interests.

The expansion of the Olympic program has been seen by many as a necessary adaptation to maintain the Games' relevance among younger audiences and to reflect the diversity of athletic disciplines practiced around the world. The inclusion of events such as BMX freestyle and 3x3 basketball at Tokyo 2020, and the planned introduction of breakdancing at Paris 2024, highlight the IOC's efforts to modernize the Olympic Movement and engage new generations. Proponents of expansion argue that embracing contemporary and urban sports allows the Games to remain culturally significant and globally inclusive. It is also viewed as a way to promote broader participation and accessibility, especially among countries or regions where traditional Olympic sports may be less dominant.

However, the expansion has not been without criticism. Some traditionalists argue that the inclusion of newer, non-traditional sports risks weakening the Olympic spirit and undermining the historical prestige associated with more established disciplines. There are concerns that the increasing number of events could overburden host cities, complicate organizational logistics, and strain resources. Additionally, as more sports and events are added, the risk of overshadowing long-standing Olympic disciplines grows, potentially leading to diminished visibility and support for certain traditional sports.

Financial considerations also play an important role. Adding new sports can attract new sponsors, media markets, and global audiences, offering significant commercial benefits. Nevertheless, the growth in size and complexity of the Games places additional financial pressures on host cities, counteracting recent IOC efforts aimed at promoting sustainability and cost-effectiveness through initiatives such as The New Norm.

In recent years, the potential inclusion of e-sports as a future Olympic discipline has significantly intensified debates regarding the evolution of the Olympic program. Supporters of this idea argue that e-sports represent one of the fastest-growing forms of global competition, attracting millions of participants and spectators, particularly among younger demographics that the Olympic Movement increasingly seeks to engage. They contend that the high level of skill, strategy, coordination, and mental agility required in professional gaming mirrors many of the qualities celebrated in traditional sports. Furthermore, advocates emphasize that the inclusion of e-sports could modernize the Games, widen accessibility, and foster greater global relevance, particularly in regions where digital culture is dominant. However, strong opposition remains among traditionalists and within parts of the IOC itself. Critics question whether e-sports, given their largely non-physical nature, align with the core values of Olympism, which have historically centered around physical excellence, bodily performance, and the celebration of human athletic ability. Concerns have also been raised regarding the types of games involved, with violent or commercially-driven content seen as incompatible with the Olympic Charter's emphasis on peace, respect, and international friendship. The IOC has so far approached the matter cautiously, distinguishing between e-sports that simulate traditional sports, such as virtual cycling or football, and other categories of games. Pilot events such as the Olympic Virtual Series in 2021 have been organized to explore the potential for digital competitions within the Olympic framework without fully integrating e-sports into the official medal program. Nevertheless, the broader debate remains unresolved, reflecting deeper questions about the identity and future direction of the Olympic Games: whether to embrace evolving definitions of competition in a digital world, or to preserve the traditional physical ethos that has historically defined the Olympic spirit.

9. Timeline of Important Events

1921: The Executive Board, originally known as the Executive Committee, was created to assist the President in overseeing the IOC's daily operations. The establishment of this body marked an important step towards the professionalization and administrative expansion of the Olympic Movement.

1962: Olympic Solidarity, initially known as the International Olympic Aid Committee (IOAC), was established. Its primary mission was to provide technical and financial assistance to newly independent nations, enabling them to participate in international competitions and develop national sports programs. This initiative reflected the growing globalization of the Olympic Movement.

1981: The IOC Athletes' Commission was founded, offering athletes a formal platform to voice their perspectives on matters affecting the Olympic Games and their professional careers. The creation of the Commission was seen as a response to the need for greater athlete involvement in the decision-making processes of the IOC.

2014: The Olympic Agenda 2020, a comprehensive reform plan consisting of forty recommendations, was adopted at the 127th IOC Session in Monaco. Its main objectives were:

- Promoting sustainability in the organization and the legacy of the Games
- Simplifying the bidding process and reducing associated costs to encourage more candidate cities
- Advancing gender equality in all levels of Olympic competition and leadership
- Increasing transparency and ethical governance within the IOC
- Establishing the Olympic Channel, a dedicated platform to promote Olympic sports and athletes year-round

2021: The Olympic Agenda 2020+5 was approved, outlining fifteen additional recommendations aimed at guiding the Olympic Movement through the post-COVID-19 era until 2025. The agenda emphasized resilience, sustainability, digital transformation, solidarity, and credibility, addressing challenges such as health crises, climate change, and evolving societal expectations regarding global sporting events.

10. Policy Changes and Previous Attempts to Solve the Issues

a. Bans on Transgender Women and Regulations on Intersex Athletes

In 2022, World Aquatics introduced a policy banning transgender women from competing in women's categories. A similar decision followed in March 2023, when World Athletics announced that athletes who had undergone male puberty would no longer be eligible to compete in women's competitions. The President of World Athletics, Sebastian Coe, acknowledged that the decision was controversial and recognized that it would impact the rights of transgender athletes. Nonetheless, the organization maintained that the ban was necessary to preserve fairness within women's sport.

Shortly after the announcement, the journal [Science](#) published a report analyzing the issue of transgender participation in competitive sports. The report suggested that current research did not demonstrate a definitive performance advantage for transgender women; however, it also noted that the available studies involved small sample sizes, and the number of transgender athletes eligible to compete would become even smaller under the new regulations. World Athletics argued that the lack of conclusive scientific evidence made it prudent to implement precautionary restrictions to safeguard the integrity of women's competitions.

President Coe later reiterated that World Athletics had chosen to prioritize, in his words, "fairness for female athletes", referring specifically to cisgender women, over other considerations. He also stated that a working group would be established to engage with transgender athletes and that the policy could be subject to future review. Nevertheless, one year later, World Athletics confirmed that the ban would remain in place indefinitely. As a result, transgender women seeking to qualify for the Olympic Games or other major international competitions were rendered ineligible.

The regulatory changes also extended to athletes with differences of sex development (DSD). New eligibility requirements mandated that affected athletes must reduce their testosterone levels to within specified limits for six months before competing in national events and for two years before participating internationally. These requirements applied only to DSD athletes; women with naturally elevated testosterone levels who did not have a DSD diagnosis were not subject to the same restrictions.

b. Russian Athletes Who Competed Under the Neutral Flag

In recent years, Russian Olympians have been at the center of several major controversies, the most significant being the revelation of a state-sponsored doping program. Investigations accused Russian authorities of systematically enabling and encouraging doping among athletes over an extended period. The scandal gained international prominence when Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov, former director of Russia's anti-doping laboratory, identified several athletes involved and reported the existence of an organized doping scheme to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

As part of the investigation, the Russian Olympic Committee was required to submit laboratory data to WADA by 31 December 2018. However, Russia failed to meet the deadline, with WADA only gaining access to the data on 10 January 2019 after a ten-day delay. This delay drew criticism from several political figures and commentators, some of whom accused WADA of favoritism, arguing that a less influential nation would have faced harsher consequences for similar non-compliance.

Upon thorough examination, WADA concluded that the data provided by Russian laboratories was unreliable, citing strong suspicions that it had been manipulated. Following a voting procedure, WADA imposed a four-year ban on Russia from all major international sporting events. Nevertheless, individual Russian athletes who could demonstrate that they were not implicated in doping activities were permitted to compete under a neutral flag, without national symbols or anthems.

This arrangement was widely regarded as a reasonable compromise, balancing the need for accountability with the rights of clean athletes to participate in global competition. However, the decision also faced criticism within Russia, where some groups argued that the policy infringed upon athletes' rights to represent their country and accused the IOC of politicizing sport.

More recently, Russia's position in international sport has further deteriorated. Following the invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, the IOC announced that Russia would be banned from participating in the Olympic Games entirely. The IOC stated that Russia's actions were fundamentally incompatible with the Olympic Charter and the organization's commitment to peace, mutual respect, and non-discrimination.

c. Natural and Financial Sustainability

As previously discussed, the Olympic bidding process historically led candidate cities to invest substantial resources in building new facilities, many of which saw limited or no use after the Games concluded. These practices often resulted in significant financial burdens for host cities and caused long-term environmental degradation due to unnecessary construction and resource consumption.

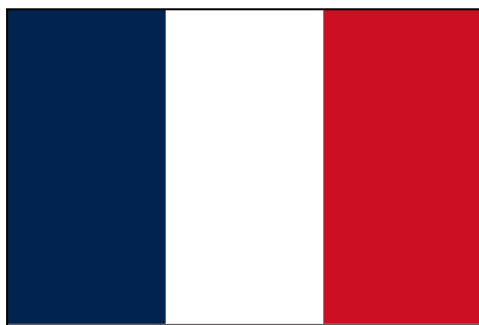
In an effort to minimize both the environmental and financial impacts associated with hosting, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) introduced policies encouraging the use of existing venues, facilities, and transportation networks wherever possible. The aim is to reduce the need for extensive new infrastructure projects that might not serve long-term community needs.

The adoption of “The New Norm” in 2018 reinforced these principles by promoting sustainability at every stage of Olympic planning and delivery. Beyond infrastructure reuse, the reforms advocate for the use of more environmentally sustainable materials, greater energy efficiency, and the integration of renewable energy sources into Games-related projects. Host cities are now encouraged to align Olympic preparations with their broader urban development goals, ensuring that investments made for the Games contribute positively to the city’s future and leave a meaningful legacy.

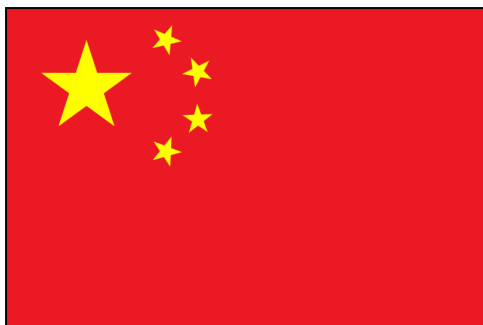
11. Major Parties and Stakeholders Involved



Russia: Russia remains suspended from direct participation in the Olympic Games following extensive findings of state-sponsored doping programs and, more recently, geopolitical actions that conflict with the Olympic Charter, notably the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Although the IOC permitted certain Russian athletes who could demonstrate independence from state-supported doping activities to compete under a neutral flag, this decision has faced international debate. Some argue that allowing neutral participation undermines the severity of the sanctions, while others see it as a necessary measure to protect individual athletes' rights.

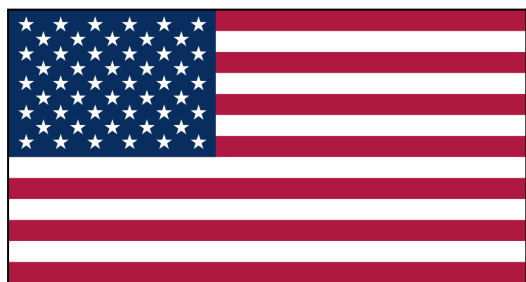


France: As the host nation for the 2024 Summer Olympics, France has been commended for its sustainable approach to organizing the Games. Approximately 95 percent of the necessary accommodation facilities were already in existence, significantly reducing overall costs and environmental impact. France has also demonstrated effective use of its natural infrastructure, notably integrating the Seine River into Olympic events such as the men's triathlon. This strategic use of urban and natural spaces reflects France's commitment to the principles outlined in the IOC's *New Norm* reforms, emphasizing sustainability, legacy, and reduced financial burden for host cities.



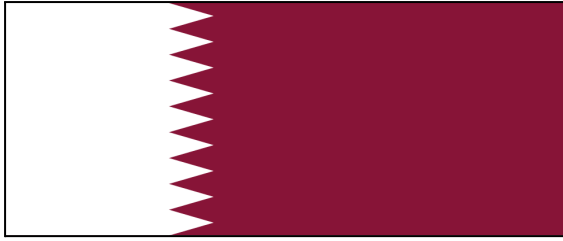
China: China's role as host of major sporting events, notably the 2008 Summer Olympics and the 2022 Winter Olympics, has reinforced its image as a global sporting power. The 2022 Games highlighted China's technological advancement and organizational efficiency despite pandemic challenges. However, hosting also reignited international scrutiny regarding

human rights practices, particularly concerning the treatment of Uyghur minorities, restrictions on freedom of expression, and political dissent. Several nations organized diplomatic boycotts, sending athletes but withholding official delegations. These developments contributed to a broader debate within the Olympic Movement about the relationship between host country governance and Olympic values.



United States: The United States plays a pivotal role within the Olympic Movement as both a host and an advocate for governance reforms. Los Angeles is set to host the 2028 Summer Olympics, marking the city's third time organizing the Games. The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee

(USOPC) and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) have consistently pushed for stronger anti-doping regulations, transparency, and athlete rights. USADA's criticisms of WADA's handling of doping cases, particularly involving Russia and China, have created tensions within international sports governance. Additionally, the United States Congress passed the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act in 2020, granting extraterritorial jurisdiction to prosecute doping conspiracies affecting major international competitions. While praised by some, the law has also drawn criticism for potentially undermining WADA's authority.



Qatar: Qatar's hosting of the 2022 FIFA World Cup has indirectly influenced Olympic policy discussions, particularly regarding human rights and labor practices. The construction of World Cup infrastructure relied heavily on migrant workers, leading to widespread

international criticism over labor rights abuses and unsafe working conditions. Although Qatar introduced reforms, such as dismantling the "kafala" system and improving minimum wage standards, concerns persisted. The scrutiny emphasized the importance of integrating human rights requirements into the planning of major sporting events. Observing these developments, the IOC has intensified its focus on labor conditions, sustainable construction, and human rights compliance for future hosts. Qatar's experience is now often cited as a case study illustrating both the reputational risks and operational challenges faced by hosts that do not fully align with evolving international expectations.



Kenya: Kenya stands as a leading nation in athletics, particularly in middle- and long-distance running, consistently producing world-class Olympic competitors. However, in recent years, the country has faced growing concerns over doping violations among elite athletes. In response, Kenya has worked closely

with WADA and the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) to strengthen its anti-doping framework, establishing the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK), increasing testing, and enhancing education programs. Despite these efforts, challenges remain due to limited resources, administrative hurdles, and the influence of unscrupulous agents. Kenya's situation highlights the broader difficulties faced by developing nations balancing the pressure for sporting success with the need to uphold rigorous anti-doping standards. It is frequently referenced in discussions on how the IOC and WADA can better support compliance without penalizing emerging sporting nations.



Australia: Australia, set to host the Brisbane 2032 Summer Olympics, represents a model of how modern Olympic hosting is adapting to new expectations around sustainability, inclusivity, and financial responsibility. Australia's successful bid emphasized minimal new construction, leveraging existing venues across Southeast Queensland, and aligning with the IOC's *Agenda 2020+5* and *New Norm* policies aimed at reducing the environmental and financial footprint of the Games. Brisbane's approach includes a strong focus on integrating Indigenous Australian culture into the planning and delivery of the Games, reflecting broader societal efforts to promote reconciliation and inclusion. Furthermore, Australia has consistently advocated for transparency in Olympic governance, athlete welfare, and clean sport, positioning itself as a leader among host nations seeking to modernize the Olympic experience. The Brisbane model is expected to influence future host city strategies, offering an example of how to deliver sustainable, community-focused Games that preserve the Olympic spirit while meeting contemporary global standards.



PATH: PATH is an organization specializing in engineering and technological development, with a name that symbolizes its mission: creating a pathway toward a brighter, healthier future. Its work focuses on advancing health services through partnerships, including its collaboration with the IOC, promoting community sports initiatives, and encouraging physical activity as a means of improving public health.



World Health Organization (WHO): The World Health Organization (WHO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, works to promote healthier lifestyles through sports and physical activity. In partnership with the IOC, the WHO advocates for the use of sport as a tool to improve public health outcomes and to address issues such as non-communicable diseases, mental health, and social well-being.



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) cooperates with the IOC to leverage the power of sport for global development and peacebuilding efforts. The UNDP views sports as a vital platform for advancing human development goals, promoting social inclusion, and fostering cross-cultural understanding in post-conflict and developing regions.



International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS): The International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) is a non-profit organization founded in 1965 in Germany. IAKS aims to set high

international standards for the planning, design, and construction of sports and leisure facilities. In collaboration with the IOC and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), IAKS supports initiatives to ensure that Olympic facilities promote health, accessibility, and long-term community benefits.



Olympic Refugee Foundation (ORF): The Olympic Refugee Foundation (ORF), established by the IOC in 2017, was created to support displaced young people through sport. The Foundation focuses on providing opportunities for refugee athletes to train, develop, and compete, while also using sport as a means to foster social inclusion, empowerment, and hope for displaced communities worldwide.



World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA): The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established in 1999 to address the serious global issue of doping in sports.

WADA monitors athletes' compliance with Anti-Doping Policies during the Olympic Games and beyond, playing a critical role in maintaining justice, integrity, and fair competition. Its efforts are fundamental to upholding the values of fair play and ethical conduct that the Olympic Movement seeks to promote.



International Labour Organization (ILO): The International Labour Organization (ILO) maintains a close partnership with the IOC, working to ensure that all labor conditions related to the organization of the Olympic Games meet international human rights and labor standards. This cooperation extends to workers involved in a variety of sectors connected to the Games, including those employed in supply chains, infrastructure construction, venue

operations, and service industries. The ILO monitors labor practices to promote fair wages, safe working environments, freedom of association, and protection against exploitation, with a special focus on vulnerable migrant workers who are often heavily involved in large-scale sporting events.



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) collaborates with the IOC to support individuals with refugee status in their pursuit of sporting opportunities. This partnership led to the establishment of the Olympic Refugee Team, first

introduced at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, symbolizing hope, resilience, and global solidarity. The UNHCR and IOC jointly advocate for increased access to sport for displaced persons and support programs that use sport as a tool for protection, inclusion, and mental well-being among refugee communities.



UN Women: The IOC has a longstanding partnership with UN Women, focused on promoting gender equality in and through sport. Together, they work to enhance women's representation in leadership roles within sports organizations, to eliminate gender-based violence in sports environments, and to raise

awareness of the barriers women and girls face in accessing sporting opportunities. Their initiatives aim to ensure that sports are safe, inclusive, and empowering for all genders, contributing to the broader global agenda of achieving gender equality by 2030 as outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

12. Points to Cover

1. Are the bans on transgender women and the regulations on intersex athletes fair and scientifically justified?
2. Are the explanations provided regarding Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-ting adequate and convincing, and what procedures should be established to ensure transparency in similar future cases?
3. Which substances are classified as doping, and what additional measures could be implemented to deter athletes from using prohibited substances?
4. How can the Olympic Movement better prevent racism and discrimination during the Games and in the broader sporting environment?
5. What guidelines can be introduced to ensure that performances and ceremonies avoid offending religious, cultural, or ethnic groups, while preserving artistic freedom?
6. Would establishing a permanent Olympic host city, or a rotating system among selected cities, improve the sustainability and legacy of the Games?
7. What further actions can be taken to reduce the financial burden of hosting the Olympics and to minimize environmental impacts?

8. How should the IOC balance host countries' national policies, such as France's hijab ban, with the Olympic Charter's commitment to non-discrimination and inclusivity?
9. How should the IOC address cultural controversies, such as the "Last Supper" performance incident, to maintain respect for religious sensitivities without restricting creative expression?
10. Should the Olympic Charter's Rule 50, which restricts political demonstrations, be revised in light of increasing calls for athletes' freedom of expression on human rights issues?
11. To what extent should the future inclusion of new sports, including e-sports, reflect cultural shifts, and how should the Olympic Movement balance tradition and modernization?

13. Resources and Links for Further Research

[IOC - International Olympic Committee](#)

[France's hijab bans in sports are 'discriminatory.'](#)

[Did The Olympics Parody 'The Last Supper'? | The View](#)

[An Olympics Scene Draws Scorn. Did It Really Parody 'The Last Supper'? - The New York Times](#)

[Gabriela Fundora eyes division change to 'make more history' after Marilyn Barillo fight - Yahoo Sports](#)

[Paris 2024 statement regarding the medal ceremony of the men's 92 KG boxing competition](#)

[Olympic Agenda 2020 - Strategic Roadmap for the Olympic Movement](#)

[WADA](#)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0166046221000338?via%3Dihub>

https://www.allianz-trade.com/en_global/news-insights/economic-insights/olympic-games-economics.html

<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/becoming-an-olympic-games-host/economic-benefits-of-hosting-the-olympic-games>

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/economics-hosting-olympic-games>

<https://youtu.be/GYnZkFVXvts?si=GBe8z5bkF7FkUoq8>

<https://youtu.be/uteWfFK7tVM?si=iWJpb8aUvcwb99fY>

<https://youtu.be/3VuN3i--y3k?si=BELJ560XcW31NSFh>