



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Sports Department

Ref. No. 2020/KML/cshb
By e-mail only

Presidents and Secretaries General of
Summer Olympic International
Federations

Lausanne, 1 April 2020

Dear Presidents and Secretaries General,

Further to our previous circular letters and following the confirmation of the new dates for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, we would like to provide further information on the necessary adaptations to the qualification systems.

Clarification on Tokyo 2020 Qualification System Principles amendments

The IOC Qualification Taskforce has approved a series of necessary amendments to the Tokyo 2020 Qualification System Principles. The amendments to the Principles have been made to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent finalisation of the new dates of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The updated Qualification System Principles supersede the previous version approved by the IOC Executive Board in July 2017 and allow IFs to adapt their respective qualification systems accordingly.

To assist IFs with making necessary adaptations to their qualification systems we would like to provide further explanation on each of the Qualification System Principles that have been amended:

Extended qualification period and new 2021 deadlines (principles 9 and 10)

- The revised final entries deadline is now 5 July 2021, mirroring the previous date which was originally in place for Tokyo 2020 (24 July and to 9 August 2020).
- The new qualification period deadline is 29 June 2021. IFs can define their own qualification period deadlines should the deadline be prior to this date.

Relaxation of age eligibility criteria (principle 12)

In line with the principle that athletes who have qualified for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 remain qualified, it is possible for IFs to extend the age eligibility criteria, if any, and allow athletes who are eligible in 2020 to remain eligible to compete at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 from 23 July to 8 August 2021. The only exception will be if the IF establishes that the one-year relaxation of the upper age limit represents a safety and/or medical risk for athletes.

Regarding the eligibility criteria for the lower age limit, if any, the IOC recognises the full authority of IFs to assess the eligibility of those athletes who are not eligible in July 2020 but meet the lower age limit in 2021.

Qualification pathway for the allocation of remaining quota (principle 22)

With the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, we have removed the pressure to immediately reschedule the remaining qualification events, and we should collectively take the necessary time and be prudent in the rescheduling of these events.

The priority remains to reflect, where possible, the allocation method/pathway of the original qualification systems. This principle encourages IFs to follow a like-for-like approach by replacing those lost opportunities that were allocating quota with the same number of events.

Regarding the scenario where quota allocation was originally based on ranking, IFs retain full discretion to define the new ranking deadline and pathway. The IOC recognises the sensitivity of such decisions. A sport-specific balance needs to be found between protecting those athletes who were close to qualifying based on the previous 2020 deadlines whilst also ensuring the participation of the best athletes at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 by allowing the top performers of the 2021 season to qualify.

As previously suggested, IFs are encouraged to engage with their respective member federations and IF Athletes' Commission in order to reach a consensus on a fair and transparent decision.

Timelines for adaptation for qualification systems

We would like to finalise the adaptations to the qualification systems as quickly as possible to give certainty to athletes, National Federations and National Olympic Committees on how the process to determine remaining allocation places will be implemented. We understand this is unlikely to include the details on the date and location of the specified events, but it is understandable that this will follow later as the impacts of COVID-19 and its related restrictions become clearer.

Therefore, we would like to work with you to finalise the adapted systems by mid-April, with the details on specific events to follow if necessary.

My team and I remain fully focused on assisting you in addressing any challenges and are available at any time to address any questions you may have and support you in any way possible.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and solidarity. We greatly value your partnership during this challenging time and look forward to continuing to liaise closely with you.

Many thanks and very best regards,



Kit McConnell
IOC Sports Director