

NINE CANDIDATES FOR THE IOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION



Nine athletes are candidates for the IOC Athletes' Commission elections which will be held during the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver in 2010. Two places will be available, to replace Pernilla Wiberg and Manuela di Centa.

Following the review of the IOC Athletes' Commission regulations, only NOCs whose athletes' commissions meet the standards set by the IOC can put forward a candidate. In addition, all candidates must have taken part in the Turin 2006 Games and/or be taking part in the Vancouver 2010 Games.

All accredited athletes (AA) will be able to vote, and will have to select two candidates from two different sports in order for their vote to be valid.

Each athlete will receive an election manual upon their arrival in Vancouver. This manual will explain the role of the IOC Athletes' Commission and give details of the nine candidates.

Voting centres will be open in the two Olympic Villages, in Vancouver and Whistler.

After acceptance by the IOC Session, the two elected athletes will become IOC members for the same duration as their term of office in the Commission, i.e. eight years.

THE NINE CANDIDATES ARE, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER:

- Ms Jacqui COOPER
(Australia – Freestyle skiing)
- Mr Antoine DÉNÉRIAZ
(France – Alpine skiing)
- Ms Elene GEDEVANISHVILI
(Georgia – Figure Skating)
- Mr Khurelbaatar KHASH-ERDENE
(Mongolia – Cross-country skiing)
- Ms Petra MAJDI
(Slovenia – Cross-country skiing)
- Mr Adam PENGILLY
(Great Britain – Bobsleigh)
- Ms Angela Marie RUGGIERO
(United States of America – Ice hockey)
- Mr Ippolito SANFRATELLO
(Italy – Speed skating)
- Mr Miroslav ŠATAN (Slovakia – Ice hockey)

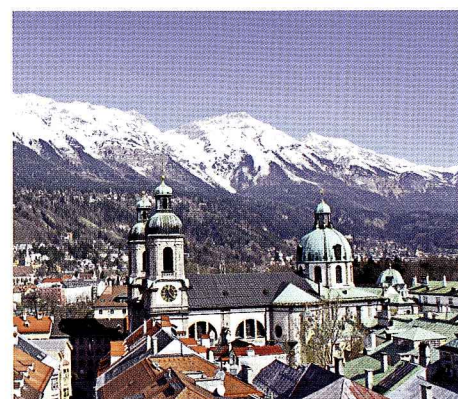
INNSBRUCK 2012

The Tyrolean capital city of Innsbruck was elected in December 2008 to host the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012, with approximately 1,000 athletes, aged 14 to 18, expected to compete. The competition schedule will be based on the seven sports included in the Vancouver 2010 programme (biathlon, bobsleigh, curling, ice hockey, luge, skating and skiing), with a limited number of disciplines and events.

Having organised memorable Olympic Winter Games on two occasions in the past, Innsbruck benefits from already existing first-class venues, as well as a high degree of competence in organising international sports events. Innsbruck has already built up its reputation as a young and dynamic city for sports by hosting the 2005 Winter Universiade and the famous Air & Style Snowboard Contest. The Austrian city can also boast of an enthusiastic population that has an excellent understanding of winter sports, and the full support of the local, regional and national authorities.

"We are glad to be going back to Innsbruck, where the extraordinary 1964 and 1976 Olympic Winter Games were staged", said IOC President Jacques Rogge.

The Innsbruck bid also excelled through its good understanding of the cultural and educational component of the Youth Olympic Games, and the city will offer an excellent learning and sharing experience for all participants.



Q&A WITH BECKIE SCOTT



Beckie Scott, a gold and silver medal-winning Olympian in cross-country skiing, has competed in three editions of the Olympic Games. During her career she has also won 17 medals in World Cup events and competed in five World Championships. In 2006, Beckie Scott became an Athletes' Commission member and an IOC member when she was elected to the IOC's Athletes' Commission. She currently serves on the Coordination Commissions for the XXII Olympic Winter Games, Sochi 2014 and for the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games, Innsbruck 2012.

Q: How do you see your role as a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission?

A: It is a tremendous honour to be representing the athletes of the Olympic Movement, who are, in my humble opinion, the best part! It is always at the forefront of my mind that I was elected by athletes, and that is who I am there to represent, and speak on behalf of. It is a big responsibility, but also a huge privilege.

Q: What is your involvement in the 2012 Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck?

A: I am serving on the Coordination Commission for the 2012 Youth Olympic Games and I will attend my first meeting in October 2009 in Innsbruck. I am looking forward to the meeting and to being a part of this exciting event!

Q: How is life after sport?

A: Busy! Initially I wondered what I was going to do with all my time but now, in between my work, IOC commitments and my involvement in a number of other committees and commissions and having a baby, I no longer wonder! Now I wonder when I'll ever have free time again! But I am enjoying every minute of it! I am getting the chance to see and do a variety of different things and I have made friends and acquaintances all over the world. I also love being a mum. It is the best part of life!

IOC ATHLETE CAREER PROGRAMME

Since its launch in partnership with Adecco in 2005, the programme has benefited more than 4,000 athletes from about 30 countries, offering assistance in the field of employment (preparation, training and job placement). Considering the recommendations and concerns of the athletes, the programme has evolved and now aims to offer assistance in two other fields: education and life skills. The IOC is currently developing a concept and a dedicated section on its new website. The yearly IOC Athlete Career Programme Forum will be held in Lausanne in September 2009 with the national programme managers.