



International
Olympic
Committee

To: All media
Date: 9 January 2025
Place: Lausanne, Switzerland

144th IOC Session in Costa Navarino, Greece – Information for the media

1) GENERAL INFORMATION

The 144th IOC Session will be held from 19 to 21 March at Costa Navarino in Greece (the “**IOC Session**”), with the opening ceremony to be held on 18 March. It will be preceded by a meeting of the IOC Executive Board (EB) on 17 March.

The IOC Session and the meetings of the Executive Board will take place at the House of Events building, within the Romanos Resort in Costa Navarino, in the Peloponnese region of Greece.

The Romanos Resort is joined to the Westin Resort where the Media Centre for the 144th IOC Session will be located. The Romanos Resort and the Westin Resort together make up the Costa Navarino Resort.

The opening ceremony of the 144th IOC Session will take place roughly 100km away at Olympia.

2) ACCREDITATION

Media representatives wishing to cover the IOC meetings are required to complete the [accreditation application](#) on the IOC website by **20 January 2025**. Applications will be reviewed, and a decision will be communicated no later than **31 January 2025**. We encourage media to apply as early as possible. Any questions regarding the application procedure should be referred to the IOC Media Relations team at pressoffice@olympic.org.

Media accreditation cards will be distributed at the Media Accreditation Desk, located within the media centre.

Media Accreditation Desk Opening Hours:

Monday 17 March	7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday 18 March	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday 19 March	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday 20 March	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Friday 21 March

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Please note that all times are local.

3) VISAS AND IMMIGRATION

As Greece is a member of the European Union, media from all European Union member nations and associate nations can enter Greece without a visa to work there.

The link below is the official Greek Government list of which countries require a visa to enter and work in Greece: [Countries requiring or not requiring a Visa - Visas for Foreigners traveling to Greece](#).

If media require a visa invitation letter to apply for a valid visa to enter and work in Greece, they should indicate this on their accreditation application for the event. If media are granted an accreditation to attend the event, they will then be sent a visa invitation letter to apply for a valid visa to enter and work in Greece.

Customs and Logistics for Media Representatives entering Greece with equipment

Greece is a party to the Customs Convention on the ATA Carnet, which is an International Uniform Customs document and permits duty free temporary admission of goods into a member country without the need to raise a customs bond, pay duty or fulfil other customs formalities.

For more information, please refer to [ATA Carnet - ICC - International Chamber of Commerce](#).

4) ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation options in the Costa Navarino area are limited, as many hotels are closed in March during the tourism off-season. Media are therefore advised to book their accommodation as soon as possible.

The IOC's local partner AFEA Congress has secured a number of rooms in dedicated media hotels. Media can book accommodation directly [here](#) in one of these hotels until 30 January 2025. Please note that you have to register in order to see the hotel list, but registration does not commit you to any booking. Booking is confirmed only once credit card information is provided and a booking confirmation is received.

In the event that the accreditation is not approved for any reason, media will be able to cancel their room(s) at no cost until 31 January at the latest.



Media can also source their own accommodation in local hotels or by renting local accommodation. The closest town with a greater variety of accommodation options is Kalamata, which is 53km and a one-hour drive from Costa Navarino.

5) TRANSPORT

The main arrival airport for media will be Athens International Airport, which is 300km from the Costa Navarino Resort and between three-and-a-half and four hours by car. Media will have to arrange their own airport transfers from and to Athens Airport.

There is the smaller Kalamata International Airport, which is 45km and around one hour by car from the Costa Navarino Resort. However, this airport has very limited flight options in March.

There will be a media bus shuttle service which will call at the media hotel clusters (specific media hotels where this service will stop are still to be confirmed) from 17 to 21 March. Details of this service will be available closer to the time of the event.

There will be a number of media parking spaces at the Costa Navarino Resort for media travelling by car. Because of the limited number of parking spaces at the resort, media are advised to car share where possible. Media can request a car park pass through the IOC online registration.

The media shuttle arrival and departure point and the media parking area will be adjacent to the Westin Resort Reception within the Costa Navarino Resort. On arrival at the Westin Resort Reception, media can walk along the perimeter road to reach the Media Centre (a five-minute walk downhill) or use one of the media golf carts.

6) SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please click [here](#) for the planned schedule of events for the Executive Board meeting and 144th IOC Session. This will be updated in due course. The election of the IOC President is currently planned to take place on 20 March. However, this is subject to change depending on the finalisation of the agenda. Media events are currently planned as follows, and remain subject to change:

Date	Event
17 March	IOC Press Briefing
19 March	IOC Press Briefing
20 March	IOC Press Conference with the IOC President and the IOC President-elect
21 March	IOC Press Briefing

7) MEDIA FACILITIES AT THE WESTIN RESORT



Media Centre

The Media Centre is based in the Westin Resort within the overall Costa Navarino Resort. The IOC Session and Executive Board meetings will take place in the House of Events building, which is joined to both the Westin Resort and the Romanos Resort.

Media will arrive at the Westin Resort. The media shuttle drop-off points and media parking spaces are both adjacent to the Westin Hotel Reception. These spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Media will then be guided along the small perimeter road to the Media Centre, which will use multiple rooms within the resort sports centre.

The Media Centre will be split across four rooms within the sports centre. The main room (Media Centre Room 1) will host the press conference facilities.

Media will arrive at the media entrance, which is on level 1 of the building. The Media Accreditation Desk will also be located inside this entrance. The other three smaller Media Centre Rooms will also be located on this level. The Media Information Desk and the main Media Centre Room 1 will be on Level 0 of the building.

The Media Centre will consist of workstations equipped with power and Wi-Fi internet connection, which will be provided free of charge to all accredited media. Workplaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. **Only accredited media representatives** will have access to these facilities.

Within the Media Centre, OBS will have a dedicated team on site to assist broadcasters, provide technical support and address any queries related to Rate Card or bookable services. Transmission facilities will be available. Broadcasters will also have access to a workspace for performing simple tasks, such as laptop editing and battery charging.

Media catering will be available from the Division 16 café within the Media Centre. There will be indoor and outdoor seating for media at this café, where light refreshments will be available during the day.

There will be a Media Information Desk on Level 0 of the Media Centre for all media enquiries. The Media Information Desk will include the following:

- General assistance and technical support for electricity, internet connections and telecommunications
- Transport guidance
- Advice on filming in Greece

The Media Centre will be operational during the following hours:

Monday 17 March	7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Tuesday 18 March	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday 19 March	8 a.m. – 9 p.m.



Thursday 20 March 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday 21 March 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Please note that all times are local.

NB: The operating hours might change depending on the needs of the media.

Press Conference Facilities

The Media Centre will house press conference facilities as part of the shared media working space in Media Centre Room 1. All press briefings for both the EB meeting and the IOC Session will take place here. Press briefings will be open to all accredited media, and will have two platforms with proper audio splits for a limited number of ENG crews and photographers. Interpretation in English and French will be available via headsets available from the Media Information Desk. Journalists who cannot attend in person will be able to join the press briefings remotely via Zoom, and will be able to ask their questions via Zoom. All press conferences will also be live-streamed on [IOC Media YouTube](#).

Mixed Zone

There will be a general Mixed Zone located outside the IOC Session room in the House of Events for short interviews during coffee breaks. Media will require a supplementary access device to reach this area, which they can request at the Media Information Desk in the Media Centre. Media can then request interviews in this location through the IOC Media Relations Team.

Media Access to the IOC Session room

Media will be able to follow the 144th IOC Session live on their own devices as it will be live-streamed on [IOC Media YouTube](#).

There will also be some additional closed circuit TV screens within the Media Centre workspace.

A limited number of ENG and photographer platforms will be available in the IOC Session room. These positions are fixed, with no roaming permitted. Access will be controlled by the use of supplementary access devices, which can be requested on site at the Media Information Desk.



8) MEDIA AT THE HOUSE OF EVENTS FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

EB Photocall

There will be a photocall before the start of the EB meeting on 17 March. Photographers and ENG camera operators who wish to attend the photocall should register their interest at pressoffice@olympic.org or at the Media Information Desk in the Media Centre.

9) OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 144th IOC SESSION

The opening ceremony of the 144th IOC Session will take place at Olympia on 18 March. Olympia is 105km and a one-and-a-half-hour drive from the Costa Navarino Resort. There will be media opportunities at the opening ceremony, and further information will be available closer to the time of the event on how to apply for access. There will be a media shuttle to take media from the Costa Navarino Resort as no parking will be available on site at Olympia.

10) BROADCAST COVERAGE OF THE IOC SESSION

IOC Production

For the 144th IOC Session, the IOC has appointed Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) as the host broadcaster and worldwide distributor of the coverage. The international signals will be made available as “World Feed” to participating broadcasters and other *bona fide* news media organisations worldwide via satellite. The international signal will be distributed in HD1080i/50.

Please see [the Broadcast Production Schedule](#), which outlines the live coverage of the events. This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Use of World Feed

The “World Feed” of the IOC Session (the “**IOC Coverage**”) is available for broadcast to participating broadcasters and other *bona fide* news media organisations, in accordance with the production schedule and subject to the terms and conditions set forth below.

All broadcasters and *bona fide* news media organisations that make use of the IOC Coverage or which otherwise broadcast coverage of the 144th IOC Session (as and where authorised by the IOC) will be bound by these terms and conditions.

1. Editorial purpose: The IOC Coverage of the IOC Session must be used for editorial purposes only, and must not be commercialised in any way. This applies to all forms of broadcasting that are permitted hereunder.

2. Content available: In addition to the World Feed, a live stream of the IOC Coverage will also be available on the IOC Media YouTube channel,



and may be embedded on websites and platforms controlled by broadcasters and *bona fide* news media organisations (in compliance with the terms set forth herein regarding the IOC Coverage).

3. Live/On-demand Broadcast: Broadcasters and *bona fide* news media organisations may make available the IOC Coverage, in whole or in part, either live or on demand, without territorial restriction until thirty (30) days after each meeting or event of the IOC Session (the “Term”).

4. No sponsoring/No association: Without limitation to paragraph 1, the Live/On-demand Broadcast must not be sponsored in any way which gives the impression that third parties are linked to the IOC, the Olympic Games or the Olympic Movement, unless such third parties are Olympic sponsors in the territory in which such broadcasts take place. In particular, no sponsorship or commercial/ad superimposition on the video footage is permitted, unless with the IOC’s prior written consent. No association with the IOC, the Olympic Movement or the Olympic Games is permitted, unless based on the rights granted by the IOC pursuant to a standing agreement between the IOC and a rights-holding broadcaster or an Olympic marketing partner.

5. Use after the IOC Session: Upon expiration of the Term, broadcasters and *bona fide* news media organisations may broadcast/make available only short excerpts of the IOC Coverage for news reporting purposes in regularly scheduled news programmes.

6. Clearances: The IOC Coverage has been cleared for use in accordance with these terms and conditions. Nonetheless, each broadcaster or other *bona fide* news media organisation using the IOC Coverage is responsible for all third-party licences for communication to the public, required, when applicable, from any relevant music rights-holders (including any relevant collecting societies or other collective management organisations or, where relevant, music rights-holders direct, such as any relevant music publishers and/or record companies), and paying all related fees (including, but without limitation, any applicable performing-rights and neighbouring-rights fees, as such terms are understood within the music industry) which become due in connection with its use of this content.

Contact Information

- For any issue related to these rules, including reporting on infringements, please contact: newsaccessrules@olympic.org.
- To access the IOC Coverage, please contact: iocsession@obs.tv.
- To obtain Olympic archival content, please contact: images@olympic.org.



11) BROADCAST-SPECIFIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Media Centre

There is no dedicated IBC for the 144th IOC Session. All accredited broadcasters will be based in the Media Centre, where they can perform simple tasks such as laptop editing and battery charging. Additionally, OBS will have an on-site team available to address any transmission or Rate Card-related queries. The Rate Card will be made available at a later date, and media will be informed through an update of this advisory.

Stand-up Positions

Subject to broadcaster interest, OBS will offer stand-up positions, with and without a camera operator, through the Rate Card. The exact location is yet to be confirmed.

Mixed Zone

Subject to broadcaster interest, OBS will provide a bookable mixed zone position on the day the name of the President-elect is announced. This Rate Card service can be booked in 10-minute slots and is available either fully equipped or unequipped.

International Connectivity

The World Feed from the 144th IOC Session will be made available via satellite. Broadcasters should contact OBS (iocsession@obs.tv) for more details on how to obtain access to the coverage.

12) BOOKING OF BROADCAST FACILITIES

Broadcasters should start the ordering process for event services and facilities by completing the [Broadcaster Questionnaire](#). This questionnaire gathers general information about each broadcaster's specific plans for the IOC Session and is necessary for booking various broadcast facilities and services, as well as for obtaining event accreditation.

OBS will release the Rate Card for broadcast services in January 2025. The listed items and rates are subject to change based on availability and demand. Broadcasters can request items not included in the Rate Card, but these requests cannot be guaranteed. The deadline for broadcast bookings will be stated in the Rate Card. Once bookings are confirmed, OBS will process the respective invoicing.

Bookings and requests for broadcast facilities should be directed to the contacts whose details can be found below.

Submission of the Broadcaster Questionnaire / Bookings for items from the Rate Card for broadcast services / General broadcast enquiries:



Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS)
Contacts: Matt Mason / Nuno Barradas / Nathalie Duchêne
Email: iocsession@obs.tv
Tel: +34 91 839 7500

13) COPYRIGHT

The IOC's rights in and to the IOC Coverage must be appropriately acknowledged by the broadcasters and *bona fide* news organisations using it, in accordance with standard practices.

14) KEY CONTACTS

IOC Media Relations/Press Office:

Contacts: Michael Noyelle, Tina Sharma, Victoria Slack and Karina Monod
Tel: +41 754327748 (Michael Noyelle), +41 797019277 (Tina Sharma),
+41 793302461 (Victoria Slack), +41 793242558 (Karina Monod)
Email: pressoffice@olympic.org

IOC Media Operations:

Contacts: Lucia Montanarella, Colin Banks
Tel: +41 79 8877854 (Lucia Montanarella) +44 7792 115571 (Colin Banks)
Email: lucia.montanarella@olympic.org or cb@colinbanksmedia.com

Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS):

Contacts: Matt Mason, Nuno Barradas, Nathalie Duchêne
Tel: +34 91 839 7500
Email: iocsession@obs.tv

Accommodation

IOC's local partner AFEA Congress

Contact: Giota Moraiti
Tel: +30 210 36 68 858
Email: info144thiocsession@afeacongress.gr



Local Media Team in Greece

Contact: Baya Bendjaballah, Local Media Manager

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Contact: Dimos Bouloukos, HOC Director of Media and Communications

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