

Games of the XXXIV Olympiad, Los Angeles 2028

Qualification System Principles

Introduction

In order to participate in the Olympic Games, athletes and teams will have to respect and comply with the Olympic Charter as well as with the rules of the relevant International Federation (IF) and their respective National Olympic Committee (NOC). Bye-law to Rule 40 of the Olympic Charter stipulates that each IF needs to establish its sport's rules for participation in the Olympic Games, including qualification criteria in accordance with the Olympic Charter. Such criteria must be submitted to the IOC Executive Board for approval. The IOC Executive Board may delegate any of its powers related to the qualification systems, including without limitation its approval authority, to the IOC administration.

Qualification systems are the regulations established by IFs that consist of rules, procedures and criteria for athletes to be able to participate in competitions of the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 subject to final selection by each National Olympic Committee (NOC) upon recommendation of the respective National Federation (NF).

These Qualification Systems must conform to the Qualification System Principles (QSP) set forth below (as approved by the IOC Executive Board in March 2025).

All relevant information related to the qualification process for a sport/discipline in the Olympic Games must be included in the respective qualification system per sport.

Each qualification system shall be clear and easy to comprehend for NOCs/NFs, athletes and coaches and should leave no room for interpretation. It is recommended for IFs to conduct a legal review while drafting the Qualification Systems to ensure that they conform to the QSP and are not contradictory in any of their provisions.

The application of the qualification criteria lies with the IFs, their affiliated NFs and the NOCs in the fields of their respective responsibilities. The NOCs have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective territories at the Olympic Games.

Across all the sports the qualification systems are there to ensure the participation of all 206 NOCs with a minimum of one (1) man and one (1) woman in their delegation at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028.

All qualification systems for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 should be developed based on the following principles:

- Each qualification system must follow the official IOC approved template and shall not be published in any other format without prior IOC approval. The official qualification system for each sport/discipline shall be accessible on Olympics.com
- Each qualification system shall establish the rules for fair and equal opportunities for all NOCs/ athletes / teams to obtain a quota place/qualify for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 with no form of discrimination in the framework of the Olympic Charter.
- Each qualification system shall include the qualification pathway, allocation process, reallocation process and timeline for qualification events.
- Each qualification system must determine the maximum number of athletes per NOC for each event.



- Each qualification system must ensure that the overall athlete quota places by gender approved by the IOC Executive Board shall not be exceeded.
- Each qualification system must ensure the participation of world's best athletes based on Field of Play performances. It must clearly outline the minimum level of performance to be achieved in order to obtain a quota place.
- Each qualification system shall ensure continental representation across the respective sport, where possible the use of Continental Multisport Games should be prioritised.
- Each qualification system in individual sports must ensure a minimum number of universality places. These places may be subject to minimum eligibility criteria. This is not applicable for team sports. A detailed universality places allocation procedure will be published in February 2026.
- Each qualification system shall ensure the participation of the Host Country, this may be subject to the attainment of a minimum level of performance by athletes or teams.
- Each qualification system must indicate any sport-specific eligibility criteria (such as age, technical requirements and anti-doping).
- The qualification systems should not necessitate extensive and expensive travel requirements. When qualification systems are built around rankings, IFs shall also provide opportunities for direct qualification to ensure fair access for all athletes, where possible.
- Each qualification system shall provide more than one (1) opportunity for the athletes/teams to qualify, where possible, directly at either a Continental or World level competition.
- Each qualification system must indicate if the quota place is allocated to the athlete by name or to the NOC. As per the Olympic Charter, the NOCs have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective countries at the Olympic Games even if the quota is allocated to the athlete by name. NOCs may have stricter eligibility/selection criteria in comparison to the IF qualification system.
- Each qualification system shall contain a timeline for qualification. No qualification period for any sport/discipline may exceed a period of 24 months (two years) provided that such timeline does not constitute discrimination in the framework of the Olympic Charter.
- The sport entries deadline for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 is Monday 26 June 2028. For those sports/disciplines that allocate the quota to the athlete by name, a clear reallocation process post-sport entries deadline will have to be included in each qualification system. This reallocation process has to be completed no later than 48 hours, unless exceptionally agreed otherwise, prior to the start of the competition in the respective discipline. For those sports/disciplines with allocation to the NOC, a Late Athlete Replacement policy will be developed and published by the time of the Chefs De Mission seminar in 2027.



Qualification events

- All events (direct qualification events and indirect-ranking events) shall be announced by the respective IFs before the start of the qualification period and defined in the qualification system accordingly even if the location has not been confirmed by that time.
- IFs shall use existing IF events in the calendar for qualification where possible.
- Continental Multisport Games and multi-sport events are encouraged to be used for qualification where possible.
- For all qualifying events organised by the IF or their continental or regional associations must ensure that the Olympic Charter, including the principle of non-discrimination, is respected.
- Athletes or teams that have already a confirmed quota for the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 shall not be able to take part in the IFs dedicated qualifying event.
- All qualification events must be completed by no later than Sunday 11 June 2028.

Communication

- IFs are responsible to inform and keep any of their constituents as well as the NOCs and NFs informed of the qualification system and any update and/or communication related thereto.
- NOCs are responsible to inform and keep any of their constituents, including without limitation athletes under their responsibilities, informed of the qualification system and any update and/or communication related thereto. NOCs are responsible for informing all athletes and teams of their eligibility/selection criteria, and in particular any eligibility/selection criteria that are stricter than the relevant qualification system.
- IFs must communicate directly with NOCs, at the same time as with their respective NFs as well as with the Los Angeles 2028 Sport Department when confirming and distributing the allocated quota places and list of qualified athletes.
- The confirmation of an NOC, by the authorised NOC representative, to reject or accept the allocated quota places must be done in writing via email or letter or via any other official way of communication and this is considered final and cannot be reversed.
- Each qualification system shall indicate the timeline for an NOC to confirm or decline a quota place. As a minimum, each NOC shall have five (5) working days to respond to the IF.



Change management and issue resolution

- Qualification systems once agreed by the IOC and IFs, shall not be changed. In exceptional circumstances, should an IF require amending their qualification system, a request can be submitted to the IOC for review. Any changes other than changes to qualification event locations or dates shall be approved by the IOC Executive Board.
- Once the IOC confirms the amendments, a revised system will be published on Olympics.com. IFs have full responsibility to communicate any amendments to the NOCs and NFs via their official communication channels. IFs should not publish changes to the qualification system before the IOC. The IOC will keep a change log and will issue newsletters to NOCs via the IOC NOCnet in case of amendments.
- Any dispute arising between an IF and an NOC in connection with the interpretation or execution of a qualification system should be resolved through direct consultation between the IF and the NOC. Should such dispute not be resolved through the consultation, it shall be referred exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne (Switzerland).
- The IOC Executive Board reserves the right to revoke the Olympic Qualification status of a qualification event, including without limitation in case any of the above principles have not been met or the Olympic Charter have not been adhered to.
- In the case of divergence between the French and English texts of these Qualification System Principles and the various qualification systems approved by the IOC, the English text shall prevail.