



**THE EOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

*Approved by the EOC Executive Committee on 09.06.2021
and in force as of the same date*

PREMISE

The EOC Athletes' Commission is regulated by the article 14 of the EOC Articles of Association as follows:

Article 14 Athletes' Commission

An EOC Athletes' Commission shall be constituted and a chairperson elected, in accordance with regulations adopted by the EOC Executive Committee on 5 May 2005 in Tirana, Albania, and as the Executive Committee may amend from time to time. All regulations and procedures of the EOC Athletes' Commission shall be adopted by the EOC Executive Committee after consulting with the EOC Athletes' Commission. The chairperson of the Athletes' Commission shall become an ex officio member of the EOC Executive Committee.

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DEFINITIONS

AC	means Athletes' Commission
Active athlete	means an athlete who, at the time of their election to the EOC AC, is participating or has participated at a European Games or at an Olympic Games in the last eight (8) years
ANOC	means Association of National Olympic Committees
EOC	means European Olympic Committees
EOC AC	means EOC Athletes' Commission
IOC	means International Olympic Committee
NAC	means National Athletes' Commission
NOC	means National Olympic Committee of a particular country
Olympiad	in accordance with Bye-Law to Rule 6 of the Olympic Charter an Olympiad is defined as follows. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An Olympiad is a period of four consecutive calendar years, beginning on 1 January of the first year and ending on 31 December of the fourth year.2. The Olympiads are numbered consecutively from the first Games of the Olympiad celebrated in Athens in 1896. The XXIX Olympiad began on 1 January 2008.
Olympic Games	includes the summer and winter editions
WADA	means World Anti-Doping Agency

1. PURPOSE, MISSION AND CORE OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 The main mission of the EOC AC is to bring the voice of the Athletes of Europe to the highest level of government of the Olympic Movement of Europe and ensure their voice is heard and made to count.
- 1.2 In order to achieve this mission, the main purpose of the EOC AC is to ensure that the opinions of the Athletes are successfully gathered through the network of NACs of the NOCs that are the Members of the EOC, which must not simply exist on paper but be active.
- 1.3 Where there may not be a NAC in an NOC, the EOC AC undertakes to use its best endeavour to ensure that it is created and be put in a condition so that it can be active.
- 1.4 The EOC AC is the sole voice of the Athletes of Europe recognised within the EOC that can make recommendations and give advice to the EOC Executive Committee.
- 1.5 The core objectives of the EOC AC are to:
 - (a) ensure that the athletes' perspective is taken into account in all decisions of the EOC;
 - (b) ensure the respect of the rights of athletes within the Olympic Movement, and propose recommendations to that effect;
 - (c) act as a resource of best practice, information and support for all NACs;
 - (d) support and work with the ANOC AC and IOC AC for the benefit of all NACs and athletes; and
 - (e) represent the EOC at forums and meetings on athlete-related matters as approved by the Secretary General, including for example forums related to anti-doping matters and integrity.
- 1.6 It puts forward nominations for representatives to sit on other EOC commissions and working groups and thus expresses the athletes' point of view within such bodies.
- 1.7 A delegation of two (2) EOC AC members shall represent the EOC AC at the European Games, and European Youth Olympic Festivals, Summer and Winter editions, and other EOC events.
- 1.8 The EOC Executive Committee may entrust the EOC AC with matters pertinent to athletes, such as the organisation of sports events at a European level.

2. COMPOSITION

- 2.1 The EOC AC is comprised of at least 10 elected or appointed members, as follows:
 - (a) Eight (8) elected members, namely: six (6) summer sports athletes; two (2) winter sports athletes;
 - (b) Two (2) members appointed by the EOC Executive Committee, in consultation with the Chairperson of the EOC AC, taking into account the need for the range of athletes from different regions, gender, sports, competencies, and continuity and transition planning;
- 2.2 The following are the ex-officio members of the EOC AC and have the right to attend and vote at the meetings of the EOC AC:
 - (a) the IOC AC members who are European nationals/citizens or reside in Europe;
 - (b) the IOC AC Liaison Members;
 - (c) the members of the ANOC AC who reside in Europe; and
 - (d) a representative of the country that will host the next European Games, co-opted by the EOC Executive Committee, if the position is not already covered by an elected member of the NOC concerned.

- 2.3 Additionally, the EOC AC may invite other athlete bodies such as the IOC AC Liaison, the WADA AC and World Olympians Association, as observers.
- 2.4 The election or appointment of EOC AC members must be undertaken in accordance with the EOC Articles of Association.
- 2.5 Both genders must be represented on the EOC AC, and nominations should reflect the IOC recommendations regarding Gender Equality.
- 2.6 There must be no more than one elected member on the EOC AC from each NOC.
- 2.7 The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, who must both be elected members of the Athletes' Commission, are elected by the members of the EOC AC.
- 2.8 The Chairperson chooses the EOC AC Secretary from among its members.
- 2.9 In compliance with Article 13.2.d of the EOC Articles of Association, the Chairperson of the EOC AC automatically becomes a member ex-officio of the EOC Executive Committee. He/she shall have the right to attend and vote at all meetings of the EOC Executive Committee and in decisions of it.
- 2.10 The Chairperson of the EOC AC will also be an ex-officio member of the ANOC AC, in accordance with the ANOC Constitution and ANOC AC Terms of Reference.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 Candidates for election must:
 - (a) be a national of a country of an NOC that is a member of the EOC;
 - (b) be an Active Athlete;
 - (c) be at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
 - (d) have never received any sanction in relation to the World Anti-Doping Code.
- 3.2 Candidates for appointment must:
 - (a) be a national of a country of an NOC that is a member of the EOC;
 - (b) be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
 - (c) have never received any sanction in relation to the World Anti-Doping Code; and
 - (d) commit to be of value to the AC.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

- 4.1 For the purpose of having broader representation and providing continuity, the terms of office for the 8 elected members are as follows:
 - a) Four members shall be elected at the major elections that take place in the second year of each Olympiad and shall serve for a four-year term from the date of their election;
 - b) Four members shall be elected at the mid-term elections to be held two years after the major elections, and shall serve for a four-year term from the date of their election.

All elected members may be re-elected for a further two four-year terms, up to a cumulative maximum of twelve years.

For the sole purpose of correctly implementing this new rule, at the next major elections, in addition to the 4 elected as per point a) above, the next 4 candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected for a two-year term until the first mid-term elections held as per point b) above, to which they will have the right to submit their candidature.

- 4.2 Appointed members hold office for a period of four (4) years from the date of their appointment, and may be re-appointed for a four (4) year term at a time up to the maximum twelve (12) years of service.
- 4.3 The term of office for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson is four (4) years from the date of election, or sooner if their term of office as a member of the EOC AC expires prior to that time. The other conditions being valid, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson may stand for a second term and a third term up to a maximum twelve (12) years of service.
- 4.4 Any Commission member may resign upon written notice to the EOC Executive Committee.

5. ELECTION PROCESS AND CANDIDATURES

- 5.1 Elections for the elected members of the EOC AC are held at an athletes' elective assembly held in the second year of each Olympiad, and may be conducted wholly or partly online should circumstances make it impossible to hold a physical athletes' assembly for this purpose.
- 5.2 Each NOC that has an Athletes' Commission is entitled to submit one candidature.
- 5.3 If there is no National Athletes Commission, the athletes representing that country will be appointed by the NOC.
- 5.4 To be eligible, a candidate must comply with the requirements of clause 3 above.
- 5.5 All candidatures and related appendices shall be circulated to all NOCs and NACs immediately after the closing date for the submission of applications.

6. VOTING CONDITIONS

- 6.1 Before the voting procedure takes place at the athletes assembly, each candidate has a right to make an oral presentation of no more than three (3) minutes.
- 6.2 Each NAC represented at the athletes' assembly has one vote.
- 6.3 The vote is personal and by secret ballot. The chairperson does not have a casting vote.
- 6.4 The ballot to elect members of the EOC AC shall be supervised by a three-member Board appointed by the EOC President. Such Board shall comprise of a Chairperson and two scrutinisers.
- 6.5 The 6 summer sports athletes who obtain the highest number of votes shall be elected as members of the EOC AC.
- 6.6 The 2 winter sports athletes who obtain the highest number of votes shall be elected as members of the EOC Athletes' Commission.
- 6.7 In the event of a tie, the candidates with equal votes shall participate in a further ballot.

7. MEETINGS

- 7.1 Meetings (in person) take place at least once a year.
- 7.2 Between meetings, discussions and decisions may be made by electronic communication or via online meetings.

- 7.3 The meetings are organised with the support of EOC Head Office at the request of the EOC AC Chairperson, having consulted the EOC Secretary General.
- 7.4 Said meetings will preferably be held in conjunction with the EOC's annual General Assembly, the annual EOC Seminar, the athletes' assembly or the European Games, with the minutes and actions being submitted to the Secretary General of the EOC for follow up and action, and made available to all members of the EOC AC and the EOC Executive Committee.
- 7.5 The EOC AC may establish a web space on the EOC's website solely for the use of the EOC AC members and if so, the EOC will be responsible for maintaining it.
- 7.6 The EOC is responsible for ensuring, within its means, that the EOC AC is able to meet in person, and comply with these terms of reference.
- 7.7 The Calling for EOC AC meetings, which must include the agenda and programme, will be issued by EOC Head Office in accordance with the instructions received from the Chairperson, and must be issued at least 60 days before the date of the meeting.
- 7.8 The EOC Executive Committee will nominate a liaison officer from its members, who will attend EOC AC meetings.
- 7.9 In the event of a member's death, resignation, impediment or any cause of inability to perform his/her function as a member of the EOC AC, any such:
- (a) elected member shall be replaced for the duration of his/her remaining term of office, by the unsuccessful athlete who had the next highest number of votes in the election in which the members to be replaced was elected; or
 - (b) appointed member shall be replaced by another person appointed by the Executive Committee of the EOC.
- 7.10 If a member fails to attend 2 (two) consecutive EOC AC activities in which his attendance is expected, such member is required to submit a letter to the EOC AC within two (2) weeks from the last meeting they did not attend, specifying and explaining the reasons for failure to attend the meetings.
- 7.11 After receiving such letter, and having consulted the EOC Executive Committee, the EOC AC shall decide by email vote whether to replace the member who failed to attend the meetings.
- 7.12 The member shall be replaced in compliance with 7.9 above provided that more than half of the members of the EOC AC, excluding the member who failed to attend the meetings, vote in favour of such decision.
- 7.13 Where an EOC AC member has failed to attend 3 (three) consecutive EOC activities in which his attendance is expected, or where an athlete who had failed to attend 2 (two) consecutive EOC activities in which his attendance is requested and fails to submit the letter referred to above within the specified term, the member concerned shall be replaced in compliance with 7.9 above.
- 8. BUDGET**
The EOC Executive Committee may allocate the EOC AC a budget if it so chooses.
- 9. OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY SUBSIDY FOR CONTINENTAL ATHLETES' COMMISSIONS**
- 9.1 As part of its policy for athlete engagement, the IOC has stipulated that Continental Associations must provide their Athletes' Commissions with the annual budget decided by Olympic Solidarity.

- 9.2 The amount is provided for in the EOC budget and is held by the EOC and spent according to the written instructions of the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission, to be sent to EOC Administration (administration@eurolympic.org). EOC Administration manages payments directly and provides the Athletes' Commission with statements of account as the money is spent.
- 9.3 This amount is put at the disposal of the Athletes' Commission on condition that it is spent on furthering its mission and that how it is spent is duly reported to Olympic Solidarity year by year through the designated channels. EOC Head Office will assist the Athletes' Commission with the practicalities related to any activity it may want to use the subsidy for.

10. REPORT TO THE EOC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The EOC AC shall report annually to the EOC's General Assembly through its Chairperson. At least 2 members of the EOC AC (usually the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson) will attend the EOC's General Assembly.

11. ATHLETES' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES DECLARATION

The EOC has adopted the Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration and will develop mechanisms for effective remedies related to these rights and responsibilities as well as to encourage athletes to make use of these mechanisms.

12. INTERPRETATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 12.1 These Terms of Reference must be approved by the EOC Executive Committee, and shall only become valid from the date of said approval.
- 12.2 Any content in these Terms of Reference is in contrast or conflict with the EOC Articles of Association shall be deemed invalid.
- 12.3 The sole authority for the interpretation or clarification of these terms of reference shall be vested in the EOC Executive Committee.
- 12.4 Any amendment of or addition to these terms of reference shall be vested in the EOC Executive Committee, on recommendation from the EOC AC.
- 12.5 The EOC AC may submit proposals to amend this text at any time.

These Terms of Reference were approved by the EOC Executive Committee as recorded in the minutes of its meeting of [date].