

Chapter 8.2

Olympic Solidarity Programmes

The benefits of this chapter

Connect with the right partners

Knowing the right partnerships and how to connect with them is an important part to growing your federation. Another prominent partnership you can develop is found in within the Olympic Solidarity Programmes – a branch of FINA's Development policy.

Olympic Solidarity can be part of the many partnerships you can begin to know and associate with as you develop your National Federation. They are many benefits your partners can bring to your National Federation, Olympic Solidarity can assist you particularly when it comes to accessing resources for Development and programmes for your Athletes, Coaches and administrators.

Introduction

Olympic Solidarity provides assistance to National Olympic Committees (NOCs), especially those lacking the necessary resources to develop their aquatic sports. Its World Programmes hinge on four fields of action: Athletes, Coaches, National Olympic Committee management, and promotion of the Olympic values. As for its Continental Programmes, they take into consideration the socio-economic and cultural environment in order to adapt with the region's specific needs.

It is important to note that since Olympic Solidarity deals with the National Olympic Committee of your country directly, you must go through your NOC to access their development funding. So creating a closer partnership with your NOC can create better ties with Olympic Solidarity.

Olympic Solidarity governance and policies How they apply to your National Federation

Unlike most partners, Olympic Solidarity is not governed by their own charter, but by that of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Its main mission is to plan, organise and control the execution of the support programmes for the National Olympic Committees, particularly those that need it most, as stipulated in the Olympic Charter. Since all their funding comes from the IOC, the allocation of funds must go to your country's NOC.

As noted earlier, your National Federation must apply for all grants and funding through the NOC of your country in order to receive funding. This can have certain advantages. For example, if aquatics are an important part of your NOCs plan, the chances of getting allocated funds can be to your advantage. If you are a smaller Federation, this can also be an opportunity for your National Federation to push for greater Development of Aquatic Sports. This is also an opportunity for your NOC to develop stronger relationships with Olympic Solidarity and the Olympic Movement.

Elements of the Olympic Solidarity Programme:

By offering an efficient consulting service to assist NOCs in gaining access to financial, technical and administrative assistance, Olympic Solidarity is responsible for approving and managing programmes that include: approving budgets, executing programmes and logistical needs, recording and controlling activities and all other actions related to the objectives of the programmes created. The main aim is to organise assistance for NOCs, particularly those with the greatest needs, so these federations can develop their own structures and expand their sport in their country.

The Olympic Solidarity Programmes for 2009-2012

There are three ways in which Olympic Solidarity supports NOCs:

- 1/ World Programmes, which cover and reinforce all areas of sports development
- 2/ Continental Programmes, designed to meet some of the specific needs of each continent

3/ Olympic Games subsidies, which complement the range of programmes and offer financial support to NOCs before, during and after the Olympic Games

World Programmes

These are divided into four areas:

- 1/ Athletes
- 2/ Coaches
- 3/ NOC management
- 4/ Promotion of the Olympic values

1/ Programmes for Athletes

There are four programmes for athletes structured to enable NOCs to provide technical and financial assistance to athletes of all levels who are preparing for different international competitions, especially the Olympic Games.

- Olympic Scholarships for Athletes “London 2012”
- Team Support Grants
- Continental and Regional Games – NOC Preparation
- Youth Olympic Games – Athlete Preparation

Olympic Scholarships for Athletes “London 2012” and Team Support Grants are the Programmes which can most benefit your National Federation.

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Olympic Scholarships for Athletes “London 2012”

This Programme offers substantial assistance to elite international athletes nominated by their respective NOCs for their preparation and qualification for the Games of the XXX Olympiad in London 2012, paying particular attention to athletes and NOCs with limited financial means.

This programme will be operational from 1 September 2010 until 31 August 2012, and can be accessed by all the NOCs.

How can this benefit your National Federation? Many athletes and National Federations have been able to use the funding from Olympic Solidarity in order to prepare their athletes for the upcoming Olympic Games.

Here are some figures from the previous scholarship programme for Beijing 2008:

- 1,088 athletes benefited from an Olympic scholarship
- 591 scholarship holders (389 men and 202 women) from 151 NOCs qualified and competed in 20 sports

Objectives

To assist elite athletes nominated by their respective National Olympic Committees in their preparation and qualification for the Games of the XXX Olympiad, London 2012 with a particular attention to athletes and NOCs having financial difficulties.

Description

The Olympic Scholarship Programme offers NOCs the possibility to obtain financial and technical assistance for a select number of elite athletes who are training, and attempting to qualify, for the London Olympic Games.

1/ Content of an Olympic Scholarship

Should an athlete be awarded an Olympic Scholarship, Olympic Solidarity and the NOC will ensure that he/she will be provided with the following:

- Access to appropriate training facilities
- A coach specialised in the relevant sporting discipline
- Regular medical and scientific assistance and control
- Accident and illness insurance
- Board and lodging costs
- Adequate pocket money
- A fixed subsidy to offset travel costs to participate in the required International Olympic qualification competitions
- Access to technical information on the London Olympic Games

2/ Athlete training options

In its decision to allocate an Olympic scholarship, Olympic Solidarity will strive to ascertain the optimum training environment for each athlete. Olympic Solidarity's decision as to whether athletes will train in their home country or abroad in a high level training centre will be exclusively focused upon the needs of the athlete and the requirements of his/her sport. The principal partner in this decision process will be the NOC, whose advice and proposals will be taken into consideration.

Two training options exist:

a/ Training centre option

Olympic Solidarity will assist certain scholarship holders to train in an international high level training centre with which Olympic Solidarity has a service agreement for this programme. The agreements should enable athletes to access training in all of the most popular sports within each Continent.

There are three types of options available:

- Individual training centres: Olympic Solidarity has entered into a limited number of service agreements with specialised training centres.
- Partner NOCs: Olympic Solidarity has agreed with a number of large and well-developed NOCs to place athletes in their national training centre network.
- Partner IFs: Olympic Solidarity has agreed with a number of International Federations to place athletes in their Continental or Regional training centres.

The choice of the high level training centre will be determined by Olympic Solidarity in collaboration with the NOC and, where need be, the Continental Association concerned on the basis of the personal profile of the athlete and their sporting needs. In these cases, the responsibility for the administration of the Olympic scholarship will be primarily with Olympic Solidarity and the training centre. Olympic Solidarity will ensure that the training centre provides the athlete with the content of the Olympic Scholarship as noted above.

Further information on the training centre network is available before and during the allocation of the scholarships from Olympic Solidarity directly.

b/ NOC Training option

Olympic Solidarity recognises that a majority of athletes are training within an environment in which they feel comfortable and which offers all the necessary facilities. This environment is normally within their national territory, however, in some particular circumstances, it could be in an independent training centre or university overseas that is not part of the training centre network noted above.

In this option, the responsibility for the administration of the Olympic scholarship will lie exclusively with the NOC. Olympic Solidarity will ensure that the NOC provides the athlete with the content of the Olympic scholarship as noted above.

The base of calculation for an “NOC training option” per athlete, per month will be negotiable and will be dependent upon the cost of training the athlete in his/her chosen training environment (i.e. in their home country or abroad).

3/ Olympic qualification process

Since the principal objective of this programme is the qualification of the Olympic Scholarship holders for the London Olympic Games, Olympic Solidarity will offer each athlete a fixed travel subsidy of up to USD 5'000.- to cover a limited number of air tickets for scholarship holders to participate in relevant Olympic Qualification competitions.

Athletes who manage to qualify and who are entered to participate in the London Olympic Games by their NOC will have their scholarships confirmed up until 31st August 2012. Scholarships awarded to athletes who fail to qualify for the London Olympic Games will be withdrawn from the date of the final qualification opportunity.

External Partners

The Summer Olympic International Federations will assist Olympic Solidarity in the analysis of the NOC candidatures, in offering technical advice and in the follow-up of the results of the athletes who are awarded scholarships.

Olympic Solidarity will work with certain Partner NOCs, IFs and independent training centres to provide training opportunities to the scholarship holders.

The Continental Associations of the NOCs and the IOC Sports Department will be regularly consulted and informed on the situation of the programme and of the results obtained.

For further information regarding application guidelines, processes and forms please refer to Olympic Solidarity, 2009-2012 World Programmes.

(<http://www.olympic.org/en/content/The-IOC/Commissions/Olympic-Solidarity/World-Programmes/>)

Team Support Grants

Objectives

Offer financial assistance to one national team per NOC to prepare and participate in regional, continental or world level competitions with a view of attempting to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Beneficiaries

The national teams must have the following profile before their inclusion in this programme can be considered:

- A men's or women's national team of a sport in the Summer or Winter Olympic Programme;
- A team recognised as having an international competitive level.

Description

This programme offers NOCs technical and financial assistance focused on the preparation of a team hoping to qualify for Olympic Games

1/ Summer Olympic Games

Olympic Solidarity will offer financial assistance towards the preparation and participation of one national team per NOC in the qualification events for the London Olympic Games. NOCs can benefit from a fixed budget over the four-year period that will be agreed at the outset with the NOC.

For NOCs that do not have teams that could feasibly qualify for the London Olympic Games, Olympic Solidarity will offer limited financial assistance towards the preparation and participation (where not already covered by the respective IFs or CA) of one national team per NOC in the following competitions:

- Continental and Regional Games
- World and Continental Championships (senior and junior)

2/ Winter Olympic Games

NOCs with teams who are qualified or are taking part in the final qualification rounds for the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games in ice hockey and curling can apply for an additional grant for the preparation of their team for Vancouver. These NOCs will exceptionally be able to benefit from 2 team support grants (summer and winter).

The programmes proposed by the NOCs should follow the rationale noted below and follow the two separate candidature phases:

Quadrennial plan

Planning over the quadrennial of the major competitions in which the team expects to participate, as well as the preparation projects envisaged for each. The NOCs will therefore be able to give priority to the competitions that they consider the most important according to their objectives. The NOCs will have the possibility to use the budget available for a limited number of different competitions or focus on one single competition.

Preparation Project(s)

The quadrennial plan can be composed of a number of preparation projects. For each competition identified within the NOC's quadrennial plan a preparation project should be approved separately by Olympic Solidarity. Each project can be composed of various separate activities (ex. International or national training camp for the team).

The grants allocated to the context of this programme can be used to finance the following activities:

- Costs relating to the organisation of national or international training camps for the team preparing for a specific competition
- Coaching costs for the team
- Costs relating to the organisation of friendly matches that are useful to the team's general training programme
- Costs relating to the participation in competitions where the relevant International Federation does not cover these

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External Partners

The International Federations and, if necessary, the Continental Associations will assist Olympic Solidarity in the analysis of the NOC proposals, in offering technical advice and in the follow-up of the results of the teams included in this programme.

For further information regarding application guidelines, processes and forms please refer to Olympic Solidarity, 2009-2012 World Programmes. (<http://www.olympic.org/en/content/The-IOC/Commissions/Olympic-Solidarity/World-Programmes/>)

2/ Programmes for Coaches

Three Programmes are available for Coach Development.

They take a variety of different forms and are targeted at different levels in order to respond in the best way possible to current athlete training requirements. During the 2005-2008 quadrennial plan:

- 1/ 142 NOCs held 980 "Technical Courses for Coaches"
- 2/ 529 "Olympic Scholarships for Coaches" were awarded to 145 NOCs for general sports science training or sport-specific training

3/ 171 projects within the framework of the “Development of National Sports Structure” programme were approved for 92 NOCs

Your National Federation can most benefit from all three of these courses.

“Technical Courses for Coaches”

Objectives

The main objective of the technical courses programme is to provide basic training to coaches – officially recognised as such – through courses led by an expert from abroad.

During the 2009–2012 Quadrennial, Olympic Solidarity will continue to ensure that the Technical Courses are held in line with the rules established by the International Federations (IF) for this kind of training.

The basic idea is to allow for a “standardisation” of the training given to coaches around the world, providing a quality and performance benchmark for NOCs and their national sports structures (national federations, coaches, athletes, etc.). During this quadrennial, NOCs will be asked to make a particular effort in terms of preparation of the courses: technical and financial aspects; selection and evaluation of candidates etc.

Furthermore, emphasis will be placed on making sure, in collaboration with the International Federations, that there is a certain coherence between courses already organised in the past and those planned in the future.

Description

All training courses will be conducted by an international level expert nominated by the respective IF.

On average, the training will last between 10 and 15 days, but in all cases it must respect the rules established by the IFs for this kind of training with regard to number of participants, number of hours of theory and practical training, final assessment method, certification etc.

1/ Planning

Contrary to the last quadrennial plan, Olympic Solidarity invites the NOCs to plan their activities annually. Olympic Solidarity will accept a maximum of 10 courses during the Quadrennial and a maximum of 4 courses per year. NOCs are nevertheless encouraged to plan their activities over the long term, with training objectives for the coaches up to the end of the quadrennial.

2/ Regional courses

Higher-level courses (level 2 or 3) can also be held, but only for coaches who have already attended a course on the level below. In order to ensure a large enough number of participants, these training courses may involve coaches from several NOCs and be organised at regional level.

3/ Promotion of women in sport

For many years, the IOC and Olympic Solidarity have been active in promoting the role of women in sport. In turn, NOCs are also encouraged to ensure that women occupy key positions within their National Olympic Movement. Conse-

quently, Olympic Solidarity wishes to recommend, where possible, that between 10% and 20% (or more) women be selected to participate in each technical course for coaches. The objective is to promote universality and to guarantee equal opportunities for women in the field of sport be they as athletes, coaches or administrators.

External Partners

These are the International Federations governing the sports included on the Olympic programme, whose training standards will be the benchmark for this programme.

For further information regarding application guidelines, processes and forms please refer to Olympic Solidarity, 2009-2012 World Programmes.

(<http://www.olympic.org/en/content/The-IOC/Commissions/Olympic-Solidarity/World-Programmes/>)

“Olympic Scholarships for Coaches”

Objectives

The main objective of this programme is to offer coaches, who are officially recognised as such and active in their respective sport, access to high-level further training, experience and knowledge, which they will then use to benefit their respective national sports structures.

Olympic Solidarity is looking to maintain the training possibilities available during the 2005-2008 quadrennial, and at the same time endeavour to offer increasingly specific solutions to NOC needs.

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Beneficiaries

1/ Candidate Profile

The candidate for an Olympic Scholarship will be a coach with the following characteristics. He or she must:

- Belong to a federation of a sport on the Olympic programme;
- Hold the rank of official national coach recognised in his/her country of origin and/or by the respective International Federation;
- Be active and able to prove that he/she has practical experience as a coach at national/international level;
- Undertake to pass on his/her knowledge and work to continue developing his/her sport in his/her country, after receiving the training.

2/ Promotion of women in sport

For many years, the IOC and Olympic Solidarity have been active in promoting the role of women in sport. In turn, NOCs are also encouraged to ensure that women occupy key positions within their National Olympic Movement. Olympic Solidarity would like to insist, where possible, that NOCs submit, during this quadrennial, at least one or two female candidates for an Olympic scholarship for coaches. The aim is to promote universality and to guarantee equal chances for women in the field of sport, be they as athletes, coaches or administrators.

Training Options

Except for specific cases and provided the necessary budget is available, Olympic Solidarity will, in principle, allocate one Olympic scholarship per year and per NOC.

NOCs may submit one application selected from one of the two available options (sports sciences / sport specific) and for only one training centre/university:

Training in Sports Sciences (option 1)

- Individual scholarship offered to coaches to follow basic training in sports sciences and obtain a high-level qualification (diploma or certificate), at university level in certain cases.
- To achieve this, coaches may go abroad to a high-level sports centre or a university working with Olympic Solidarity.
- The content of the training is determined by the centre/university.

Sport-Specific Training (option 2)

- This “à la carte” training allows a coach to refresh his or her knowledge and increase his or her practical experience in a specific sport.
- The coach scholarship holder can follow a medium- or long-term technical training programme: the length will be determined chiefly by the budget limits of the project.
- This training may take the form of a course in another country in a high-level training centre or in a recognised sports club.
- The training programme (content, duration etc) must nonetheless be recognised by Olympic Solidarity and the International Federation as being of adequate level and specific to a particular sport or discipline.

External Partners

Training Centres

1/ Training in Sports Sciences (option 1)

High-level training centres and universities work with Olympic Solidarity to host its coach scholarship holders.

Their differing training programmes correspond to the criteria of the coach scholarship programme, and the main ones are:

- Semmelweis University – Budapest (HUN)
- CAR – Barcelona (ESP)
- PAISAC – Montreal (CAN)
- CISéL – Lausanne (SUI)
- ICECP – Delaware/USOC (USA)
- INSEP – Paris (FRA)

(For more details, please refer to the Olympic Solidarity list)

During the next four years, Olympic Solidarity will continue seeking to extend the range of training options on offer, depending on the budget available

2/ Sport-Specific Training (option 2)

This training can take place only if Olympic Solidarity and the International Federation concerned recognise it for its high level of theoretical and/or practical competence in a particular sport (high-level training centre, sports club, etc.). In certain cases, the Ifs may offer specific training packages in their sport, eg FITA, UCI, ITF etc. (see attached list). Information (content, location, duration) can be obtained directly from the International Federation concerned.

For further information regarding application guidelines, processes and forms please refer to Olympic Solidarity, 2009-2012 World Programmes.

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Development of national sports structure

Objectives

The development of sport in certain countries is often hindered by the fact that the national sport and coaching structure is disorganised or even non-existent. The main objective of this programme is therefore to allow NOCs to develop their national sports and coaching structure by implementing a mid to long-term action plan for a specific sport.

Beneficiaries

All National Olympic Committees recognised by the IOC may benefit from this programme.

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Nevertheless priority will be given to NOCs, which can demonstrate that the basic sports and coaching structure is weak but has a clear potential for development.

Description

Olympic Solidarity may accept one request per year, per NOC, in principle. NOCs will be offered the opportunity to receive an expert from abroad for a specific period of time averaging between 3 to 6 months.

The action plan should include the following:

- Establishing with the National Federation concerned, coherent and realistic mid to long term development plans
- Training of local coaches and/or persons susceptible to continue the work initiated by the expert once the project has ended;
- Improving the different training programmes for elite sport;
- Initiating projects for Sport for all and/or school sport;
- Putting in place talent identification programmes.

NOCs are encouraged to take advantage of projects elaborated by Olympic scholarship holders during their training abroad

Depending on specific needs and the budget available, it will be possible for the external expert to divide his mission into separate short term visits rather than one long term period. For example, setting up the project (visit 1), intermediate evaluation (visit 2), and final evaluation (visit 3).

In this case, it will be necessary to designate a local person who will be responsible for the management of the project during the periods of absence of the expert (e.g. national coach, former Olympic scholarship holder, technical director etc.)

External Partners

The international level experts will be nominated by the International Federations. They may also be proposed by the NOCs but in this case, must be approved by the International Federation concerned before being accepted. These experts must belong to a Federation of a sport on the Olympic programme. They must have practical experience as a coach at international level and demonstrate the educational and technical qualities necessary to run this type of project.

For further information regarding application guidelines, processes and forms please refer to Olympic Solidarity, 2009-2012 World Programmes.

(<http://www.olympic.org/en/content/The-IOC/Commissions/Olympic-Solidarity/World-Programmes/>)

3/ NOC management

Four programmes are offered to the NOCs:

1/ NOC Administration Development- This programme is designed to support the NOCs' administrative structure by contributing to their general operating costs and to the improvement of specific aspects of their management, particularly financial management.

2/ National Training Courses for Sports Administrators – This enables the NOCs to organise courses for their management staff and that of their affiliated organisations. They are held on two levels (standard and advanced) and enable NOCs to spread knowledge of the Olympic Movement and develop the professional skills of sports administrators. 446 courses were organised for 103 NOCs during the quadrennial plan 2005-2008.

3/ International Executive Training Courses in Sports Management – Sports leaders receive a grant to acquire masters level training and help improve the management of their Olympic sports organisations. 175 scholarships were awarded to 111 NOCs between 2005-2008.

4/ NOC exchanges – These promote and facilitate the process of exchanging knowledge and experience between NOCs, while the “regional forums” aim to bring together groups of NOCs from the same region to address themes of particular interest to a continent or a region in question.

So how can these benefit your federation? As your federation begins to implement changes and expand its knowledge, additional training and management courses can help you achieve your end goals. Having a positive relationship with your NOC can help you access these supportive courses, allowing you to develop internally.

For further information regarding application guidelines, processes and forms please refer to Olympic Solidarity, 2009-2012 World Programmes. (<http://www.olympic.org/en/content/The-IOC/Commissions/Olympic-Solidarity/World-Programmes/>).

4/ Promotion of the Olympic values

Seven programmes are grouped under this heading and each makes an important contribution to NOCs, enabling them to pursue activities linked to sports development and the values that underpin the fundamental principles of Olympism.

- 1/ Sports medicine
- 2/ Sport and environment
- 3/ Women and sport
- 4/ Sport for All
- 5/ International Olympic Academy
- 6/ Culture and education
- 7/ NOC legacy

How can this benefit your federation? As your federation grows, there are many other streams you can include in your development phases. Partnering with your NOC and Olympic Solidarity can help you explore which new activities you can undertake.

For further information regarding application guidelines, processes and forms please refer to Olympic Solidarity, 2009-2012 World Programmes. (<http://www.olympic.org/en/content/The-IOC/Commissions/Olympic-Solidarity/World-Programmes/>).