
XXIII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, PYEONGCHANG 2018

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM PRINCIPLES

PREAMBLE

Qualification Systems are the regulations established by IFs that consist of rules, procedures and criteria for participation in competitions of the Olympic Winter Games (hereafter the “**Games**”). These Qualification Systems must (i) conform to the Qualification System Principles set forth below, as well as the Olympic Charter and (ii) be approved by the IOC Executive Board from 8 – 10 December 2015.

Qualification Systems vary between each sport (and discipline, where applicable). They are established to give the best athletes in the world an equal opportunity to participate in the Games and strictly limit the number of athletes for each sport/discipline/event, as approved by the IOC Executive Board.

ISSUE RESOLUTION

Any dispute between an IF and a NOC should be resolved through direct consultation with the IOC. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) shall be the last step for the resolution of disputes.

PRINCIPLES

1. SELECTION OF ATHLETES

Qualification Systems must allow for the participation of the best athletes through a fair and transparent process within the framework of the Olympic Charter and maximise the opportunity for continental representation at the Games.

2. QUALIFICATION EVENTS

Athletes/teams shall have more than one opportunity to qualify, however the Qualification Systems should not necessitate extensive and expensive travel requirements. If possible, continental events should be used to reduce athletes’ participation costs. In principle, existing events already approved by their respective IFs should be used for qualification.

For all qualifying events taking place under the auspices of the IF or their continental or regional associations, the IF and the organiser of the event must ensure that the Olympic Charter principle of non-discrimination is respected, and all athletes and other competition personnel from all IF members can enter a country to participate and are treated equally. Should this requirement not be respected, the IOC Executive Board may reserve the right to revoke the Olympic Qualification status of the event concerned.

3. QUALIFICATION PERIOD

The qualification period should cover a maximum of 18 months (two winter seasons, including the season in which the Games are taking place) prior to the entries deadline.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH QUOTAS

The IF shall adopt measures to ensure strict compliance with the quota allocated by the IOC Executive Board.

5. ENTRIES

All sports/disciplines will have a common closing date for athlete entries by name (approximately 10 days prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Games) which is specified by the IOC in coordination with the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (hereafter the “**OCOG**”).

The qualification period should conclude at least seven days prior to the OCOG’s entry by name deadline for NOCs to accept nominations from NFs and complete entry formalities.

6. ALLOCATION OF PLACES

For each sport, the Qualification System should clearly indicate whether the allocation of places is either for specific athletes by name (nominal qualification) or at the NOC's discretion (slot allocation). If places are allocated to NOCs, it should be clear whether NOCs have an open right of selection or if there are requirements for athletes to meet minimum eligibility standards. When relevant, the IF should ensure that the technical ability of each athlete is sufficient to ensure safe participation. If quota places are allocated to athletes by name, publication of the list of athletes who have obtained these nominal quota places shall include the proviso that an athlete's participation in the Games is subject to selection by their NOC.

7. NOC RESPONSIBILITIES

NOCs have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective countries at the Games, and may decide not to accept an allocated quota place.

8. PROCESS AND TIMELINES FOR NOCs

In order to avoid unused quota places and to ensure fairness to all athletes and countries looking to participate in the Games, the Qualification System must include the process and timeline for NOC confirmation/rejection of quota places, as well as the process for reallocation of unused places. This shall be clearly defined in the Qualification Systems.

In principle, the IFs should notify the NOCs within two weeks of the date on which the quota place was earned according to the Qualification System. The acceptance/rejection of quota places by NOCs should be within two weeks of the date on which the quota place was confirmed by the respective IF. For all qualification events taking place during the last two weeks of the qualification period, notification by NOCs shall be limited to 48 hours, in order to maximise the potential for reallocation of any unused quota places.

9. ADHERENCE TO DEADLINES

Strict deadlines with regard to the determination and publication of allocated quota places by IFs as well as the NOCs' confirmation/rejection of quota places must be applied.

10. TEAM QUALIFICATION

For events that are final Olympic team qualifying competitions, the Qualification System should clearly indicate whether NOCs are required to submit any form of preliminary documentation related to the acceptance of quota places (where applicable). Team sports at the Games are defined as follows: Ice Hockey and Curling.

11. MINIMUM STANDARDS

For sports in which qualification is based on meeting specified minimum standards, the respective IFs shall specify the events in which such standards must be met, and implement clear regulations regarding the verification and communication of the official results from these events.

12. HOST COUNTRY PLACES

In principle, all sports/disciplines should include quota places for Host Country participants. However, these are not automatic and should be dealt with specifically in each Qualification System, subject to attainment of a minimum level of performance by athletes or teams. If there is no provision for Host Country places within a given sport, this should be stated in the Qualification System to avoid any doubt.

13. CONTENT OF QUALIFICATION SYSTEMS

All the relevant information related to the qualification process for the Games should be included in each Qualification System. References to criteria, rules and regulations published in external IF documentation should be kept to a minimum, and should include a precise link to access each concerned document on an IF's website.

The Qualification System in each sport should be easy to comprehend for NOCs/NFs and should leave no room for individual interpretation.

14. COMMUNICATION

When publishing the allocated quota places and the list of qualified athletes, IFs need to communicate directly with NOCs at the same time as with their respective NFs. This includes, but is not limited to, advice regarding amendments to the Qualification System, publishing of qualification lists or requests for confirmation of the acceptance of quota places. The OCOG Sport Entries team shall be informed of all quota places allocated to NOCs/NFs.

15. MODIFICATIONS

Once agreed upon by the IOC and IFs, the Qualification System for each sport shall not be changed without the prior agreement of the IOC, and shall not be published in any other format without IOC approval.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF EACH QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

The IOC will provide a standard template in June 2015 (including all key principles and terminology) to IFs, which shall be used to develop each Qualification System. The detailed structure and content of the Qualification System for each sport/discipline will be as follows:

- Specification of events on the Olympic programme, using official event names
- Athletes' quota
 - Total quota for the sport/discipline
 - Breakdown between men and women
 - Number and breakdown of Host Country Places
 - Maximum number of athletes per NOC (per sport/discipline and/or per event)
 - Maximum number of athletes per event (where applicable)
- Type of allocation of quota places: by athlete or by NOC (or both)
- Athlete eligibility requirements: compliance with Olympic Charter (including nationality rules), age requirements, medical certification, additional IF regulations, etc.
- Detailed qualification pathway:
 - Detailed allocation of quota places per qualification event, including qualifying order of events
 - Qualification time standards and defined period during which they can be obtained (where applicable)
 - Any rules and criteria applicable to participation in each qualification event
- Host Country Representation
- Confirmation process for obtained quota places
- Reallocation process for unused quota places
 - IF quota places
 - Host Country places
- Detailed qualification timeline:
 - Period of qualification
 - Dates and locations of all qualification events for the Olympic Games
 - Dates at which rankings are considered (where applicable)
 - Timeline for NOC confirmation/rejection of quota places
 - Timeline for reallocation of unused quota places
 - Final entries deadline for all sports
 - PyeongChang 2018 Delegation Registration Meeting dates