

CHANTILLY MODEL UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS

IOC

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Committee Background

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is the central governing body of the Olympic movement and serves as the patrol of the Olympic games. Officially established in 1894, and headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, the IOC is a non-for-profit organization that ensures the regular celebration of the summer and winter Olympic Games, as well as the youth Olympics. The IOC is responsible for ensuring that the games are conducted in accordance with the Olympic Charter, a set of guidelines that govern the Olympic movement and outline the rights and duties of all participants. It also manages the Host City Contract, which highlights the expectations of cities selected to host the games.

The IOC's governance structure is designed to effectively manage the Olympic movement. The president serves as the representative, and spokesperson of the IOC worldwide. The president is elected for an 8 year term in which they manage a majority of the IOC's operations. Supporting the president is the Executive Board, which is responsible for the strategic planning of the IOC. The board includes several elected members who meet regularly in order to address issues, approve budgets, and coordinate activities across the Olympic Movement. The IOC Session consists of all elected members of the IOC who represent a wide range of countries, sports, and professional backgrounds. The Session meets at least once a year to decide crucial aspects of the IOC and the Olympic movement and ensure diversity and democratic governance.

The IOC's mission is to promote sports as a means of education, peace, and cultural exchange. It supports the development of sports globally, promotes healthy competition, and shields the integrity of athletes and events through strict ethical standards. The IOC is privately funded through sponsorships and broadcasting, and it redistributes nearly 90% of its revenue to athletes, National Olympic Committees(NOC's), and the organization of the games, therefore upholding Olympic values. The IOC plays a central role in fostering international cooperation and inspiring millions through sport.



Topic A: Mitigating the Presence of Performance-Enhancing Supplements

The presence of performance-enhancing supplements (PES) in sport is a significant challenge to the health of athletes as well as to the validity of competition. The spectrum of supplements, ranging from legal nutritional aids such as amino acids and creatine to drug-contaminated supplements, are commonly used with the ultimate aim of boosting strength, endurance, or recovery. But the prevalence of supplements and aggressive marketing obscure the safe route for athletes, as science has revealed that up to 15% of supplements on the market may include banned substances not even listed on their labels. This adds to the risk of accidental doping offenses, which come with severe consequences like disqualification, bans from competition, and damage to a players reputation. Beyond the risks of disqualification, the use of PES can pose serious health risks which include but are not limited to: cardiovascular, hormonal, and psychological complications. Several vital organs like the heart, liver and kidneys may be in danger from overdose due to contaminated or misused products. Additionally, many PES are acquired through unregulated markets, raising the likelihood of contamination with toxic substances or incorrect dosages, amplifying the potential for harm.

In January of 2025, the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) conducted its annual update of the prohibited substances list in order to keep up with rapidly changing substances and pharmaceutical markets. As a response to these threats, the IOC enforces strict testing protocols and ensures athlete education to safeguard both competitors and the integrity of the sport. However, combatting the use of PES is still an ongoing battle.

Efforts to address the use of PES have developed significantly over the last few decades, especially as a result of doping scandals that have threatened the spirit of fair competition. Currently, organizations such as the IOC are beginning to enforce random drug testing in addition to regular anti-doping efforts. However, despite these numerous efforts, enforcement is complicated due to varying national laws and boundaries. Some of the central unresolved issues include the fairness of current testing methods, the responsibility of manufacturers and suppliers in guaranteeing product safety, and the medical use of certain supplements.



Over the past few years, much controversy has surrounded the role of new technologies within anti-doping. New technologies such as biological passports and AI-based testing are being suggested as ways of detecting long-term cycles of enhancement rather than single-screening measures. New technologies raise new issues about privacy, cost, and access, particularly for less well-off nations.

In addition, debate continues about the influence of commercial interests and sponsorships on supplement advertising. Where profit interests converge with athletic aspects to issues of advertising codes and industry responsibility. As the global sporting community looks to resolve these, representatives are encouraged to look at preventative as well as legislative approaches in the broader framework of international cooperation.

Questions to Consider

1. What is the responsibility of supplement manufacturers if their product contains banned substances not listed on the product?
2. How can the IOC better help sport from poorer nations with regards to knowledge and avoiding banned substances?
3. Is there any consideration for differential punishment between accidental doping and conscious use, and what would it be?
4. What is the future role of emerging technology in anti-doping and how can we make it accessible to all countries?
5. How do global sport governing bodies work together to regulate the supplement industry better?

Useful Links

1. World Anti-Doping Agency: The 2025 Prohibited List
<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list>
2. UNESCO: International Convention Against Doping in Sport
<https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/international-convention-against-doping-sport>
3. U.S. Anti-Doping Agency: Supplement 411 – Understanding Contaminated Supplements



<https://www.usada.org/athletes/substances/supplement-connect/>



Topic B: Addition of New Sports

The addition of new sports to the Olympic Games is an adaptive process that acts in response to fluctuations in international popularity, cultural changes, and the necessity to engage new audiences. Throughout history, the Olympic program has shifted significantly since the first modern Games of 1896, expanding from fewer than a dozen sports to a multifaceted program encompassing traditional and newly added events. In recent Olympic cycles, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has placed more emphasis on youth representation, gender equality, and international popularity when considering new sports.

The first step in admitting a sport is IOC recognition. A sport must be governed by an IOC-recognized international federation and demonstrate widespread international participation by men and women. Once found, a sport can become an International Federation sport and must adopt codes developed, such as the World Anti-Doping Code and Olympic Movement principles of integrity and fair play. Along with recognition of the sport, consideration is given to logistic feasibility, expense, venue demand, and the capacity of the sport to entertain live and television audiences.

One of the key milestones was the IOC's Olympic Agenda 2020, where Organizing Committees for the Olympic Games were allowed to propose new sports for their edition. This move was aimed at fueling innovation without undermining the sustainability and deliverability of the Games. Tokyo 2020, for example, saw the inclusion of sports like skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing, and karate, in an attempt to appeal to newer generations and continuing changes in sport popularity. Paris 2024 features breakdancing (breaking) to further consolidate the drive for youth and urban cultures. The Los Angeles 2028 Games, scheduled to be held a few years from now, are set to feature such sports as baseball/softball, cricket, flag football, lacrosse, and squash.

Host cities have a lot to do with proposing new sports, driven by local enthusiasm as well as the potential increase in viewership engagement. Following a proposal, the IOC's Olympic Programme Commission considers submissions and makes recommendations to the IOC Executive Board, who submit final selections to the full IOC Session for ratification. An addition is normally for a single edition only unless of permanent interest, in which case consideration can be long-term.



The process is contentious. There are often disputes about which sports are included and excluded, weighing innovation against Olympic heritage, the realities of event staging, and the need for a balanced, inclusive, and representative program globally. In an effort to stay current with modern audiences, the constant debate regarding new sports raises larger questions regarding future international athletic competition and values at the core of the Olympic movement.

Questions to Consider

1. How would the IOC go about making decisions about which sports are Olympic values today and not Olympic values?
2. Would host countries be able to nominate sports, even if they're not played as much somewhere else?
3. How can we avoid adding too many new sports to the Olympic program and bumping out classic events?
4. Is global popularity more important than cultural pertinence in introducing new sports?
5. What can the IOC do to make new sports welcoming and accessible to athletes from everywhere across the world?

Useful Links

1. International Olympic Committee: How a Sport Can Join the Olympic Programme
<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/faq/sports-programme-and-results/how-can-a-sport-be-included-in-the-olympic-games-programme>
2. Britannica – How Are Sports Chosen for the Olympics?
<https://www.britannica.com/story/how-are-sports-chosen-for-the-Olympic-Games>
3. Economics Observatory – What Happened at Paris 2024
<https://www.economicsobservatory.com/what-happened-at-the-2024-olympics>



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