



**44th ASOIF General Assembly
Virtual Meeting
Monday 9 November 2020 at 10h00**

Report from the Council

Note: This annual report for the year 2019 includes updates for the start of 2020 prior to the impact of Covid-19. Two more recent letters, sent to members, are in Annex (1 & 2) and some adjustments to the report have been made to provide context around the impact of the pandemic on Council activities and priorities.

ASOIF's third phase of its GTF governance project was completed with self-assessment submissions received from 27 of ASOIF's 28 Full Members. AIBA was exempted from this 3rd assessment given its ongoing review and reform of its Statutes/Constitution and it is expected that a 3rd governance review of AIBA will be proposed for a later date once AIBA has completed its reforms. A total of 31 of these self-assessments were evaluated by our independent external assessors at "I Trust Sport". The two-year interval since the second assessment allowed the ASOIF members time to implement more complex changes and significant progress was expected towards the goals of a minimum 120/200 for the full members and 100/200 for our associate members. In response to media and public authority requests, the results of the third phase assessment, agreed to be published in June 2020, included greater transparency and detail than previous editions as was decided at the 2019 GA.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games qualification systems were coming to an end in March 2020 but were disrupted by Coronavirus (Covid-19) with multiple sports events cancelled or postponed and solutions being sought to ensure that athletes would have a fair opportunity to qualify for the 2020 Games. The athletes included in the 57% of the total quota who had already qualified when the process was suspended at the postponement of the 2020 Games, have had their places reserved and guaranteed. Covid-19 also necessitated the relocation of the 2020 edition of the SportAccord Convention from Beijing to Lausanne and then subsequently its cancellation.

In Q4 of 2019 WADA's Intelligence & Investigations team assessed that Russia's responses to the WADA assertion that the LIMS data files had been tampered with were inadequate and following a report from the WADA Compliance Review Committee (CRC), the WADA EC placed "Russia" in a state of non-compliance with the Code with all the related consequences including for Tokyo 2020. The Russian appeal to the CAS regarding the WADA decision on compliance will be subject to a hearing, confirmed for November 2020, with a final ruling to follow probably early in 2021.

ASOIF appointed five anti-doping experts to a pre-Games testing group which also has representation from IOC, the ITA and WADA. A protocol will be established to test Russian athletes in advance, who have or may qualify for the Games, to try to ensure only clean Russian athletes participate in anticipation of the forthcoming CAS ruling.

The postponement of the 2020 Games for one year has led to a full review of costs to “optimise” the delivery of the Games in 2021 in which ASOIF and all IFs have worked closely with the OCOG and the IOC. The general effects of Covid19 impacts and resultant regulation created uncertainty for IFs with their competitions and meetings schedules, but ASOIF and its members remain committed to the delivery of the Games in the most efficient manner in 2021.

More than eighteen months have passed since the publication of ASOIF’s “Future of Global Sport” report in February 2019. During that time, we turned our attention to follow-up, action and deeper analysis where appropriate as well as a re-visit to examine the possible medium to long-term impacts of the pandemic. A priority from the report has been the “Future Role of the IFs” which we will continue to follow up with the public authorities. We will focus on the EU/European Commission which introduces/influences legislation on key issues such as anti-trust challenges etc. The ASOIF Advisory Groups reviewed the report, actioned the issues raised and made budget proposals to Council for projects and research in areas which impact their fields of interest where appropriate.

All eight advisory/consultative groups met “virtually” between April and the end of July 2020 to identify and address key areas impacted by Covid-19 on their own specialist areas and they have scheduled further meetings to take place before the end of 2020. The eight Chairs of the groups met collectively for the first time and these collective meetings will become a regular event in the ASOIF calendar.

In summary, the work of Council and the Administration focussed on a wide range of activities in an intensive 2019 in the lead up to the 2020 Tokyo Games. This work included the Governance questionnaire review and evaluation, GTF meetings and preparation for the 3rd Governance report, the Role of the IFs through the ASOIF Expert Group, the ASOIF Commercial Advisory Group work on a Sports Event Impact Standard, Tokyo 2020 final and amended planning and preparation review in response to Covid-19 and the publication of the ASOIF “Health Guidelines for International Federation Events”.

Below we report on developments and activities under the following headings of which some are updated in more detail through specific items under the GA agenda:

1. Relations with the IOC & Olympic Movement

1.1 Multi-sport games events

1.1.1 MOU (roles and responsibilities)

2. Olympic Games

2.1 YOG 2022 Dakar, Senegal

2.2 Games of Tokyo, Japan, 2020

2.3 Games of Paris, France, 2024

3. Services / Activities

3.1 ASOIF Consultative and Advisory Groups

3.2 Fight Against Doping

3.2.1 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

a) Code Review

b) WADA Presidency

c) RUSADA Compliance

3.3 Sports Data Warehouse (SDW)

4. Staff & Administration

1. Relations with the IOC & Olympic Movement

ASOIF's general practice has been not to seek media attention but to let its members remain front and centre of the sporting landscape. However, an area that Council is aware of is the increasing amount of media coverage that ASOIF gets without any real attempt to be in the news. This growth naturally is in parallel with the rise in activity and the growing influence of its members, but also follows a real or perceived increase in attention on common collective issues involving or concerning the summer Olympic IFs. The "Future of Global Sport" report identified a need for ASOIF to play a greater role in collective representation of its members and managing their collective IF image *vis-à-vis* the media, the public at large and the public authorities. ASOIF's communication function will be reviewed by Council in the light of the report and the need to be ever more responsive to the media on a day-to-day basis.

1.1 Multi-sport events

1.1.1 MOU (roles and responsibilities)

A meeting led by IOC took place at the ANOC HQ in Lausanne on 12 January 2020 with the five continental NOC groups at which ASOIF was represented by Council member, Ingmar de Vos, and the ASOIF Executive Director. The ANOC representatives continued to focus on inclusion of the NOC continental games events in IF Olympic Games qualifying procedures. The IOC reported on its updated "mapping" exercise to identify all multi-sport events on the global four-year calendar. ASOIF's draft MOU and related documentation has now been circulated to the NOC continental representatives for feedback. The next meetings of the working group, scheduled for April and November 2020 were postponed although a video-conference meeting took place to review progress.

2. Olympic Games

2.1 YOG 2022 Dakar, Senegal

The 4th Edition of the summer Youth Olympic Games, Dakar 2022, has been postponed until 2026 although some IFs are reviewing whether alternative individual sports events can be scheduled as a replacement to the 2022 postponed event.

The inclusion of Baseball⁵, along with the formerly approved Breaking, Karate, Skateboarding, Sport Climbing, and surfing, meant that all sports from the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Organising Committees' proposals were scheduled to be included in the Dakar 2022 programme.

It was decided that competitions including mixed NOC pair/team events would be permitted on the YOG programme but these would not be part of the medal programme. However, additional quota was allotted to a number of sports to allow them to operate pairs and team events with athletes from the same NOC within the medal event programme.

Earlier this year, a YOG Dakar22 Coalition group met in Lausanne and the Executive Director with two Project Coordinators attended the meeting on behalf of ASOIF. This group was initiated by the Netherlands NOC in order to coordinate several development areas that different stakeholders (NOCs, IFs, Olympic Solidarity, etc.) might contribute to, with a focus on legacy in Senegal and the surrounding region of Africa.

The first Coordination Commission (CoCom) meeting took place from the 23rd to 25th October 2019 in Dakar, Senegal.

2.2 Games of Tokyo, Japan, 2020 (refer Item 9)

Major progress continued in all areas including staffing, venue construction, competition and test event activities right up until the decision to postpone the Games until 2021.

An IF seminar was organised by the IOC at its HQ and led by Tokyo 2020 on 14-15 October 2019 which provided much valuable information and this event will become a standard feature of future Games preparation. The event was attended by 31 IFs and Tokyo 2020 presented its progress report along with detailed updates on various areas and services including arrival and departures, transport, broadcasting, sport presentation, look of the Games, accreditation, hospitality, logistics and rate card etc. In December 2019 TOCOG followed up with an update on questions raised.

Test events were generally successful but there were concerns raised that outsourced delivery by third parties was expensive and could not guarantee that the experience obtained at the test events would be preserved and used at Games-time unless the same personnel were to be used for both.

As for previous editions of the Games, the IOC offered ASOIF Members the chance to participate in a Games cancellation/abandonment insurance plan. A total of USD 100 million insurance coverage was made available to and taken up by, the ASOIF IFs. The postponement of the Games, rather than cancellation or abandonment, has meant that the premiums have been lost but it is understood that IOC continues to discuss with the insurers regarding the situation of the postponed event although it is not expected that this would include insurance for communicable diseases.

Various CoCom meetings have taken place “virtually” since March addressing the complex issues resulting from the postponement of such a major undertaking as the Olympic Games. The most recent CoCom Sports working Group meeting, chaired by the ASOIF President, took place on 27 August. It focussed on the work on coordination with the IOC Sports Department, ASOIF, the OCOG and the IFs to identify and evaluate all possible cost savings or “optimisations” across the Games and on an individual sport/IF basis.

In November 2019, the IOC shared a draft of the methodology for the IOC’s Tokyo 2020 Games-time data collection with all 33 summer Olympic IFs in order to capture their feedback and to offer an opportunity to gain further clarification if required. The aim of the IOC data collection process is to: 1) provide valuable feedback to the IFs on their sports and events during the Olympic Games; and 2) provide the IOC with data for ongoing analysis of the Olympic Games. By the 22nd November 2019, 15 responses had been received by the IOC sports department and it replied to each of them individually. The IOC has received help from all summer IFs concerning confirmation of the Internet search terms for their sports and the IF-owned social media platforms.

ASOIF will align its own supplementary data research which our Commercial Advisory Group is commissioning, as it did for Rio 2016, to provide added value for our members and ensure that we do not overlap with, or duplicate, the IOC research.

2.3 Games of Paris, France, 2024 (refer Item 10)

As part of a further and fuller implementation of the new Games delivery model and following a full review of the venue masterplan and budgets, the Paris 2024 Organising Committee (POCOG) has been undertaking detailed work for the sports and disciplines and their respective venues in Paris. This work aims to understand IF delivery costs and capacities and the French market capacity and capability of delivering elements of the Games and to develop event delivery strategies for the Games.

For the past few months Games preparation has shown accelerated progress but concerns remain on:

- POCOG's legal constraints in the upcoming event delivery tender process
- the potential number of event delivery entities involved for any one sport or venue creating complexity and cost
- the time required to complete the consultation process

According to the POCOG's timeline, the final analysis commenced at the end of October 2019 following its market engagement and the study findings will be presented to IFs as part of the consultation process by the end of this year. In the meantime, the ASOIF Olympic and Multi-Sports Games Consultative Group (AOMSG) will provide input on the findings prior to the Paris 2024 OCOG presenting them to the IFs. Following consultation, the event delivery tender process is expected to commence in the second half of 2020.

Online status meetings have taken place to keep the CoCom informed on progress and developments.

3. Services / Activities

3.1 ASOIF Consultative & Advisory Groups

All eight ASOIF groups were very active in 2019 and continued their work in 2020 meeting "virtually" although a number of projects have necessarily been postponed or been delivered online. We provide a short activity report on each below:

3.1.1 ASOIF Medical & Science Consultative Group (AMSCG)

Chair: Margo Mountjoy (FINA)

An AMSCG meeting was held "virtually" on May 4, 2020 ahead of the WADA EC meeting which took place online on 15 May 2020. The AMSCG provided input and feedback from the International Federations' point of view with regards to the WADA papers both to inform the Olympic movement position and to brief our representatives at WADA.

One of the key action items that resulted from the ASOIF Medical Workshop held on October 18 2019 in Lausanne, was to develop a set of "Health Guidelines for International Federation Events". The purpose of this document was to provide uniform guidelines for the planning and delivery of athlete and entourage medical services required. The document has been updated in response to Covid-19 and made available online to all IFs. It was presented by the AMSCG Chair to all IF Medical doctors attending the IOC IF Medical Commission Chairpersons Meeting in Monaco 10-11 March 2020.

The AMSCG also contributed to finalizing the agenda (Annex 3) and content for that meeting in Monaco, which focussed on the following topics: new IOC projects, transgender policy update, Tokyo Games preparations, athlete mental health as well as injury and illness surveillance methodology.

3.1.2 ASOIF Legal Consultative Group (ALCG)

Chair: Antonio Arimany (ITU)

The ALCG last met on 25th February 2020 and reviewed proposals from the ASOIF Diversity and Gender Equality Consultative Group (ADGEG) to use gender neutral wording in the ASOIF Statutes. The group also proposed to include new principles to encourage ASOIF members to support equality and solidarity, and take action against harassment, abuse and discrimination.

In response to Covid-19 the ALCG has also developed proposal for the ASOIF Statutes to allow the GA to be held “virtually” and to allow electronic voting, both in exceptional circumstances.

The ALCG discussed the key changes of the WADA Code to be launched in 2021 and its potential legal impact on the IFs’ anti-doping responsibilities and activities. The group also reviewed the Terms of Service of the Sport Data Warehouse (SDW) project, as part of the group’s ongoing cooperation with the Olympic Channel and IOC.

The ALCG continues to monitor the RUSADA investigations and the resultant development and impact on IFs’ legal cases arising. The group also follows the work of the Governance Task Force (GTF) and the ASOIF Role of IFs project, which will initiate a collective effort to establish a structured dialogue with the European Commission in order to promote the role of IFs within the European Pyramidal Model of Sport.

3.1.3 ASOIF Olympic & Multi-Sports Games Consultative Group (AOMSG)

Chair: Kelly Fairweather (ITF)

The AOMSG met on 6th March 2020 to discuss the outcomes of the test events and final preparations for Tokyo 2020. The group discussed the Covid-19 impact on the Olympic qualifications and agreed to work closely with the IOC to ensure that no athletes were disadvantaged in their attempt to qualify for the Games.

Paris 2024 provided an update to the AOMSG on the proposed Event Delivery Models and its findings on the French market capacity and capability for Games delivery. The AOMSG also discussed the timeline and legal requirement for the tender process of the event delivery entities.

The AOMSG will continue monitoring, leading and contributing to the MoU between the IFs and Regional/Multi-sports Games Organisers.

3.1.4 ASOIF Commercial Advisory Group (CAG)

Chair: Antony Scanlon (IGF)

The group organised the first edition of an annual workshop for commercial and marketing leaders of ASOIF members on 13-14 November 2019 at the Movenpick Hotel in Lausanne and more than 30 delegates from the IFs attended the workshop over the two days. It featured the topics of fan engagement, event impact studies, media rights, IFs’ engagement with esports and data-driven marketing. In the course of the workshop

IFs' best practices in these areas were identified with presentations from external market experts (e.g. Infront, TwoCircles, Nielsen, Perfect World, etc).

The 2nd edition of the ASOIF Commercial Workshop was scheduled to take place in November 2020 but has been postponed until 2021.

The IGF Executive Director, Antony Scanlon has been appointed as the new Chair of the CAG in replacement for Andy Hunt (WS) after his four years' service for which he is sincerely thanked.

3.1.5 ASOIF Technology and Innovation Consultative Group (TICG)

Chair: Nicolas Chapart (FIBA)

With ASOIF's decreasing involvement in the IOC Sports Data Warehouse project and following the publication of the ASOIF Future of Global Sport report in 2019, the ASOIF Council decided that now is the appropriate time to refocus the TICG's work more on innovation and new technologies and their applications to sport.

A new Chair, FIBA's Head of Digital, Nicolas Chapart, has been appointed by the Council as a replacement for Mat Pemble (ITF) after his six years Chairing and Mat will remain a member of the group as his experience will be invaluable going forwards.

The meeting was scheduled to take place on the 12th May 2020 at the SwissTech Centre in Lausanne, which coincided with the first day of the 3rd edition of the SPOT (organised by ThinkSport). Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the meeting was changed into a virtual online meeting, focussing on the technology consequences of the pandemic on the IFs and the SPOT was postponed to the year 2021. In addition, an IF workshop on the theme of "Sport Innovation" was scheduled to take place on the following day with external speakers from the IOC, AISTS and Logitech but this has also had to be rescheduled.

3.1.6 ASOIF Sports Development & Education Group (ASDEG)

Chair: Deqa Niamkey (UWW)

The ASDEG met at the ASOIF offices on May 27, 2019, ahead of the ASDEG Forum that took place at the FIBA Headquarters on May 28-29, 2019. An ASDEG meeting was held on February 28, 2020, to review IF priorities for key topics for the next ASDEG Forum which was scheduled in 2020 but has now been postponed until 2021. On May 18, 2020, the ASDEG had their first virtual meeting which agreed that the planned agenda for the ASDEG Forum should remain the same for 2021 but include a session focusing on the impact of COVID-19 on IF development and education projects and programmes and how the future delivery of these should be completed.

At the Forum the ITF will present a "National Federation Assessment Tool" to help IFs support better development of National Federations within their sport. Other key topics include discussion on future development projects, current legacy programs in place for Tokyo 2020, an update on development projects for Dakar 2026 and an update from Olympic Solidarity on current activities and IF engagement. Each session will include specific IF case studies, expert speakers and planned time for participants to discuss common issues, knowledge sharing and potential solutions for IFs.

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives includes the international award of the Dubai Creative Sports Award which recognises the best ASOIF member IFs' sport development projects and programmes. Due to COVID-19, the Award has been postponed for one year with a revised application deadline on 15 September 2021. The results will be announced on 22 November 2021.

3.1.7 ASOIF Parasport Consultative Group (APCG)

Chair: Sabrina Ibanez (FEI)

Members of the APCG met on 24 October, 2019 in Bonn on the occasion of the Association of Paralympic Sports Organisations (APSO) General Assembly. The meeting took place in conjunction with the IPC General Assembly. Given the similarity between the composition of the APCG and APSO, ASOIF now provides the administrative/secretarial services for both.

The key topics that were addressed in the meeting were: creation of a Board of Appeal for Classification by the IPC (positive feedback from ASOIF Members), Classification jurisdiction during and beyond the Paralympic Games events, TV viewership research for Paralympic sports and disciplines managed by independent IFs (to be carried out by Nielsen primarily at IPC cost). The results of the research will be used by ASOIF members to better promote and position their Paralympic disciplines.

Since then a number of guidelines and policies related to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games were issued by the IPC (i.e. IPC Digital Media Guidelines, etc.) and those to be published yet are being prepared in coordination with APSO (i.e. Tokyo 2020 Digital Media Strategy and Plan, IPC Guide to Testing Athletes with a Disability, etc.).

In December 2019 World Sailing successfully submitted an application for APSO affiliate membership which is now subject to APSO GA approval. APSO itself has submitted an application for GAISF Associate Membership and now is in the process of clarification of the relationship of APSO members (which are not GAISF Members) with GAISF Members. Decisions on both of these, however, were postponed due to CODID-19 as General Assemblies approval is required for each.

3.1.8 ASOIF Diversity and Gender Equality Consultative Group (ADGEG)

Chair: Marisol Casado (ITU)

The inaugural meeting of ADGEG took place on 25 September 2019. Through a review of its Terms of Reference, the group established its framework and defined its scope and general principles of work.

ADGEG members noted that the ASOIF Council had, over an extended period of time, lacked gender balance due to the nature of its election process and that this should, therefore, be considered. The group recommended to amend article 1.3 and throughout the ASOIF Statutes to ensure that gender-neutral wording be used. ADGEG also proposed the inclusion of the principle of encouragement and support of promotion of gender equality in member IFs at all levels with a declaration of zero tolerance among ASOIF members towards all forms of discrimination, harassment and abuse.

The group had planned to have its next meeting in conjunction with the IOC Gender Equality Forum that was scheduled for 1 April and the “Women in Leadership” workshop scheduled for 2-3 April 2020 in which ASOIF partners. Regrettably, due to COVID-19, all three events were postponed but so as not to lose the momentum the Forum was replaced with a series of online webinars in September 2020 that focused on the gender gaps within coaching, technical officials and decision-making positions.

A part of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives in Dubai, the international section of the Creative Sports Award celebrates ASOIF member IFs’ sport

development projects and programmes. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Award has been postponed for one year with a revised application deadline on 15 September 2021. The winning result will be announced on 22 November 2021.

3.2 Fight Against Doping

3.2.1 World Anti-Doping Agency

a. Code & Governance Review

The new Code was approved by the WADA EC/FB at its meetings in Katowice, Poland, 4-6 November 2019, and will come into force on 1 January 2021.

WADA's internal governance reforms are now in place and various actions under the new governance are in force although, in some cases, under a staggered implementation. The new composition of the standing committees and other bodies has not been without its challenges and WADA now has a relatively large proportion of new persons representing both the PAs and Sport.

b. WADA Presidency

The new WADA President, proposed by the Public Authorities, Witold Banka, former Minister of Sport in Poland, chaired his first meeting of the IOC EC at the Olympic House in Lausanne on 23 January 2020. Two further meetings of the WADA EC have been held "virtually".

c. RUSADA Compliance

Members will recall that RUSADA had its non-compliance status lifted at the WADA EC meeting in September 2018 subject to certain conditions including providing access to the Moscow laboratory and the successful extraction of the LIMS data and related raw data, by 31 December 2018. This deadline was missed but subsequent access and data extraction took place ahead of the Compliance Review Committee (CRC) meeting on 15 January, 2019. As a result, the CRC made the recommendation to the WADA EC that the status of RUSADA as compliant should remain and this was agreed by the EC at its meeting on 22 January 2019. However, WADA subsequently identified that the data provided had been manipulated and asked for explanation.

In Q4 of 2019 WADA's Intelligence & Investigations team assessed that Russia's responses to the WADA assertion that the LIMS data files had been tampered with were inadequate. Following a report from the WADA Compliance Review Committee (CRC), the WADA EC placed "Russia" in a state of non-compliance with the Code with all the related consequences including for the Tokyo 2020 Games. The pending Russian appeal to the CAS regarding the WADA decision on compliance has led to uncertainty. The hearing is scheduled for November 2020 and the final ruling is expected in early 2021.

3.3 Sports Data Warehouse (SDW)

The ASOIF IF Data Project was launched at the 2013 ASOIF General Assembly to establish better ownership and control of IF sports data and to significantly improve data standards amongst our members in general and in particular, for the Olympic Games. Due to the launch of the IOC Olympic Channel which changed the dynamic regarding IOC data requirements, the IOC accepted the proposal from ASOIF Council to lead the project and in 2016 the IOC officially took over the project's leadership.

Following the resolution of an agreed policy on GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), which had delayed progress on other issues, the centralised database has been established and is operational with user friendly and comprehensive administrative capabilities including the ability to edit biographies of athletes and officials, address conflict resolution over data and eliminate duplication of entries. This progress is the key driver of the system to enable the necessary ODF (Olympic Data Feed) to fulfil the minimum Games requirements which all IFs are obliged to support with their data.

The main focus for the SDW project currently is, therefore, the delivery of the data for the now re-scheduled Tokyo 2020 Games in 2021 by the IFs, before becoming fully operational for the 2024 Games in Paris, and the integration of the IF data systems within the SDW. A number of Olympic IFs have signed the cooperation agreement with more in process and it is expected that this process will need to be completed by the end of 2020 at the latest.

The SDW team is in the last stages of legal and political conversations with IFs in order for the project to include their data fully in the project.

With the platform fully built and functional, agreement reached with almost 50% of the Olympic IFs, a state-of-the-art GDPR process in place and the SDW able to purchase missing data in the open market, the project will be operational for testing at the Tokyo Games.

4. Staff & Administration

Staff numbers for 2020 remain at seven FTEs and there has been a “re-shuffle” of individual responsibilities so that each project coordinator/manager is responsible for two of the current eight advisory/consultative groups. Going forwards, staff requirements are under review, for the medium and long term, to ensure we have sufficient capacity to deliver on the daily operations, the Central Projects delivery and respond to the changing service requirements of our members in response to the pandemic.

*ASOIF Council
Updated September, 2020*