



# ASOIF COUNCIL REPORT TO THE 48<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## 1 KEY UPDATES SINCE 47<sup>TH</sup> ASOIF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 1.1 IOC Session & Los Angeles 2028 Sports Programme

The 141<sup>st</sup> IOC Session, held in Mumbai, India from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023, approved five additional sports for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28) – baseball/softball, cricket, flag football, lacrosse and squash. The Session also agreed to re-admit weightlifting and modern pentathlon with a decision on boxing to follow. This will bring the number of Summer Olympic IFs/sports to a record number of 36 and medal events to around 340. The athlete quota will stretch to 11,000-11,500, well beyond the 10,500-limit contained in the Olympic Charter.

This has naturally led to a number of questions from ASOIF members. ASOIF received a number of letters seeking clarity on the various implications including, but not limited to, the IF Olympic revenue share, athlete quota, desire for clarity on the definition of OCOG-proposed sport, Olympic qualification systems, optimisation, etc.

On behalf of the ASOIF Council (Council), the ASOIF President has sent a letter to the IOC Sports Director itemising and explaining these points which potentially have far-reaching consequences for the future relationship between the IOC and the International Federations (IFs).

## **1.2 Russian and Belarusian athletes' participation in Paris 2024 Olympic Games**

During its meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the IOC Executive Board has decided that the athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport, who have qualified through IFs' Olympic qualification systems, will be permitted to participate in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games as Individual Neutral Athletes (AINs). The IOC has introduced strict eligibility conditions for the AINs, which are similar to the IF qualification conditions recommended by the IOC. According to its letter sent to the IFs on 13 February 2024 (see Appendix 1), the IOC has established a dedicated AIN Eligibility Review Panel to review the eligibility of each qualified AIN proposed by the IF and their support personnel.

## **1.3 Paris 2024 Data Collection Methodology**

ASOIF sent a letter to its members on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to gather their feedback on the IOC's draft methodology for data collection at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The IOC has once again decided to commission Publicis Sport & Entertainment to conduct the research for Paris 2024. The major change is that the number of territories and tracked social media channels (including Chinese platforms) will be increased.

ASOIF's Commercial Advisory Group is commissioning supplementary data collection, as it did for Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020, to provide added value for our members. We will ensure that this data does not overlap with or duplicate the IOC research.

## **1.4 Olympic Esports Week & Olympic Esports Games**

The inaugural IOC Olympic Esports Week was held between 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in Singapore with 11 ASOIF members involved in sport competitions and exhibition.

During the 141<sup>st</sup> IOC Session, the IOC announced that it is exploring plans for the creation of Olympic Esports Games (OEG). The IOC Esports Commission has been asked to study the feasibility of organising such an event. Two members of ASOIF's Commercial Advisory Group are on the Esports Commission.

However, there has been concerns regarding the inclusion of non-sporting-based games. The Council has explicated its position that the OEG should reflect Olympic principles by predominately featuring sport-based games. Furthermore, given that the publishers play vital role in the esports ecosystem, priority should be given to encourage formal cooperation and agreement with the respective IFs.

## **1.5 Olympic Qualification Series**

The IOC's inaugural Olympic Qualifier Series (OQS) will be hosted in Shanghai, China (16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024) and Budapest, Hungary (20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024). Four sports have been included in the Series: BMX freestyle, break dancing, skateboarding and sport climbing.

The OQS is a series of Olympic-branded qualification events that will take place in the lead-up to Paris 2024. In line with the Olympic Agenda 2020+5, it is evident that the IOC has an intention to enhance and promote the Road to the Olympics by expanding the IOC's scope in promoting and organising qualification events. This may well be acceptable, indeed desirable for the new OCOG sports in order to better fund their development activities. However, this could be interpreted by the more established IFs as impacting their traditional role as rights holder of qualifying competitions.

At present, we appreciate the IOC's pragmatic attitude towards the voluntary use of Olympic branding during qualification events. However, the Council believes that moving into the sphere of commercial rights would require the IF's agreement and willingness to negotiate.

## **1.6 European Court of Justice's rulings on European Super League and ISU cases**

On 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) handed down highly significant judgments in three high profile sports cases. Individually and collectively, the ECJ judgments on the European Super League, the International Skating Union (ISU) event approval/participant eligibility regime and the UEFA/Belgium FA homegrown player rules, highlight the continuing vulnerability of the international sports movement to the application of EU competition law to core sporting regulations.

In each case, the ECJ essentially found that the applicable rules of FIFA/UEFA on the approval framework for new competitions, the ISU's regulations on unsanctioned events/participant eligibility and UEFA/Belgium FA home grown player rules, were all capable of breaching EU competition laws and other fundamental freedoms under EU Treaties.

In view of these developments/trends, IFs can, in the medium to long term, expect an increasing number of legal challenges in Europe and beyond.

## **1.7 World Friendship Games**

The Russian government-funded International Friendship Association has announced that the inaugural Summer edition of the World Friendship Games (sometimes known as BRICS Games) is scheduled to take place in Ekaterinburg and Moscow, Russia between 15<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The provisional programme includes approximately 20 Olympic sports.

The Council wrote to the member IFs in November 2023 asking them to exercise great caution regarding their involvement with this initiative. ASOIF reiterates the position taken in November 2021 regarding the creation of new major international events which could, in a crowded sporting calendar, impact the healthy development of sport, athlete welfare and the sustainability of existing major events at risk.

## **1.8 IF anti-doping expenditure and strategy report**

ASOIF published the *International Federation Anti-Doping Expenditure and Strategy Report* on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023. All the 33 ASOIF member IFs participated in this study, sharing insights into how federations run anti-doping operations today, and future strategic plans.

Led by the ASOIF Medical and Science Consultative Group, the report follows two previous editions published in 2010 and 2016 respectively and aims to assess progress, identify challenges and opportunities, reveal trends and optimise strategies and support for the fight against doping.

The key findings present a positive snapshot of anti-doping in 2023 and a promising outlook for the future, including:

- Total IF spending increased from USD 27.7 million in 2015 to USD 51.4 million in 2022, demonstrating an annual growth rate of 6.8 per cent (when adjusted for inflation).
- Testing and sample analysis continued to dominate IF expenditure in 2022, accounting for 72 per cent of the total.

- Education spending also saw a significant increase, from USD 0.8 million to USD 1.7 million in 2022, with all IFs expressing intent to prioritise this area in the next four years.
- The percentage of IFs fully outsourcing their operations to independent service providers reached 48 per cent in 2022 and is projected to increase to 64 per cent over the next four years.

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## **2 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES & YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES**

### **2.1 Paris 2024 Olympic Games**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Paris 2024 Coordination Commission (CoCom) in-person meeting took place on 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. A number of issues were received in advance of the CoCom with particular concerns relating to catering, in-venue hospitality, transportation and traffic management. There is also a worry that broad budget reductions are affecting various aspects of the Games, including technology, signage and security and are resulting in cost shifting towards the IFs.

Throughout 2023, three full test events (sailing, triathlon and mountain bike) were delivered, alongside 18 IF events and operational tests targeting specific Functional Areas. These testing activities provided a platform to test integration of operations and processes both internally and for external stakeholders.

Paris 2024 have held eight IFs webinars in 2023 covering a variety of subjects, including transportation, accreditation, arrivals and departures, etc. Additionally, two webinars were already held in January and February 2024, focusing on hospitality and ticketing respectively. Paris 2024 plans to organise IF webinars approximately once per month leading up to the Games.

Furthermore, Paris 2024 has held meetings with individual IFs to review the initial draft of the Transport Detailed Service Level Agreement (DSLAs), which has been finalised in February 2024.

Paris 2024 will deliver a report to the General Assembly under Agenda Item 11.

### **2.2 Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games**

With less than 1,000 days to go, Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games have made some progress, particularly the commencement of the renovation of the Iba Mar Diop stadium. However, concerns relating to the sports programme (currently involving 35 IFs) and Youth Olympic Village capacity are still being addressed.

A comprehensive review of the sports programme is underway, focusing on disciplines, events and athlete quotas. The Games Master Plan subsequently has been adapted to optimise the use of the Youth Olympic Village and to prioritise elite athlete development pathways. The final sports programme and athlete quotas will be confirmed by the IOC Executive Board in March 2024.

The Dakar 2026 Coordination Commission will hold an update call in June 2024 and the 8<sup>th</sup> in-person meeting in November 2024.

Dakar 2026 will deliver a report to the General Assembly under Agenda Item 11.

## **2.3 Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games**

The IOC Executive Board has approved the principles for the Los Angeles 2028 (LA28) events programme in November 2023, which reflects the expected optimisation measures for LA28, including reduction in costs and complexity and limitations on athlete quotas. The IOC's Paris 2024 Games-time data research, which will be published at the end of 2024 or in January 2025, will inform the LA28 Programme Commission's recommendations to the IOC Executive Board regarding the LA28 events programme and quota.

Following the 141<sup>st</sup> IOC Session's approval of the five additional sports for the LA28 Olympic Games, there have been concerns regarding the athlete quota given that there will be 36 sports in LA28. The IOC confirmed that the events programme review will emphasise being quota-neutral for both the sport-specific quota and event quota. In addition, the overall quota is expected to be lower than the one of Tokyo 2020.

LA28 will deliver a report to the General Assembly under Agenda Item 11.

## **2.4 Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games**

Given we are more than eight years out from the Brisbane 2023 Olympic & Paralympic Games, we decided that it would be premature to invite the OCOG to present to the 48<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly, particularly given the busy agenda.

The Venue Master Plan is still to be confirmed. It appears that plans for a costly redevelopment of the Gabba (Brisbane Cricket Ground) has been scrapped with the Australian Olympic Committee coming out against the AUD 2.7 billion rebuild, believing that there are "more creative solutions."

The Brisbane 2032 Coordination Commission is due to hold update calls on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

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# **3 ASOIF MEMBERS & CREATIVE SPORT AWARD**

## **3.1 ASOIF Members**

The following IF Presidents have been elected or re-elected since the 47<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly in May 2023:

- Sheikh Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani (QAT) was elected Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA) President in August 2023;
- Sebastian Coe (GBR) was re-elected President of World Athletics in August 2023; and
- David Haggerty (USA) was re-elected President of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) in September 2023.

The following IF Secretary General has been appointed since the 47<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly in May 2023:

- Alessandro Nicotra di San Giacomo (ITA) was appointed International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Secretary General in February 2024.

## **3.2 IOC Members**

Petra Sörling (International Table Tennis Federation) was elected as an IOC Member during the 141<sup>st</sup> IOC Session in Mumbai, India. We congratulate Petra on her election.

## **3.3 Creative Sports Award**

The Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA) won the International Organisation Award of the 12<sup>th</sup> Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award. FIBA was selected for its innovative Youth Leadership Project, led by the FIBA Foundation, which is aimed at equipping young people with the necessary tools to use basketball for creating a positive impact within their communities.

ASOIF President Francesco Ricci Bitti, FIBA President Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani and FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis attended the award ceremony which was held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Dubai, UAE. During the ceremony, FIBA received the Order of Merit and a financial reward of AED 1 million (approximately USD 272,000) for use in its development activities.

ASOIF will inform its members of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition as soon as further details become available.

## **3.4 International Boxing Association (IBA)**

Following the IOC Extraordinary Session's decision to withdraw the IOC recognition of the IBA on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, the IBA has lodged an appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The hearing of the appeal was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The CAS has yet to announce its decision.

The IBA currently remains a member of ASOIF. Following the previous IOC's suspension of IBA's recognition in 2019, the Council has subsequently suspended IBA's Full Member's rights according to the ASOIF Statutes Article 3.13. In accordance with Article 3.13 and 3.5, the IBA now only retains the Associate Member's rights.

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# **4 ASOIF**

## **4.1 Statute Amendments**

Proposed statute amendments relating to the commencement and expiry date for Associate Membership, nomination deadlines and responsibilities of the Council are covered under Agenda Item 9.

## **4.2 Audit**

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has completed ASOIF's annual audit for 2023. Further details are provided under Agenda Item 6.1 and 6.2.

ASOIF's auditor currently performs a Limited Statutory Examination (LSE). While there is no legal obligation for Swiss Associations of the size of ASOIF to perform an ordinary audit, it is best practice to perform a full scope audit.

ASOIF will, in the weeks prior to the General Assembly conduct a short tender process. The General Assembly will be asked to appoint the auditor for 2025 under Agenda Item 6.3

### **4.3 ASOIF Governance**

#### **Commercial Registry**

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve ASOIF's governance practices, we have initiated the procedure to register ASOIF at the Canton of Vaud Commercial Register. We have made this decision partly in light of recent amendments to Swiss law covering IFs that are incorporated as associations and have their registered office in Switzerland. The reform widens the obligation for associations to register with the commercial register.

While registration is not mandatory for ASOIF (given size and non-commercial purpose), we believe that it would be good practice for ASOIF to voluntarily register.

#### **Remuneration Committee Terms of Reference**

The Council has approved the Terms of Reference for ASOIF's Remuneration Committee in March 2024, which outlines the Committee's tasks in reviewing and advising on matters relating to the remuneration of the ASOIF staff.

### **4.4 Staff & Administration**

ASOIF's staff numbers remain at six Full Time Equivalent (FTE) in 2024.

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## **5 GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE**

The Fifth Review of IF Governance self-assessment questionnaire has been circulated to the ASOIF members on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 with a submission deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. All participating IFs have now submitted their questionnaires. The responses once again will be moderated by *I Trust Sport*. The moderation and analysis are currently underway. The final report will be published in late Spring / early Summer 2024.

The Governance Task Force will next meet on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to review and finalise the report.

Further details are provided under Agenda Item 7.

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## **6 CONSULTATIVE & ADVISORY GROUPS**

### **6.1 Medical & Science Consultative Group (AMSCG)**

Chair: Margo Mountjoy (International Golf Federation)

As mentioned in Section 2, ASOIF has conducted the third anti-doping expenditure report with the analysis overseen by the AMSCG and Altman Solon. The report was published on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Some of the key findings have shown IF's spending on anti-doping has increased significantly from USD 27.7 million in 2015 to USD 51.4 million in 2022, with a more equitable distribution among the IFs. Investments in Intelligence & Investigations and Education have increased, while an increasing number of IFs are outsourcing their operations to independent service providers.

Six IFs (International Golf Federation, International Tennis Federation, World Aquatics, World Archery, World Rowing and World Rugby) took part in a pilot study on the incidence of harassment and abuse in elite sport. The objective of the study was to assess the magnitude, characteristics and circumstances of harassment and abuse towards elite athletes at the IF level. Professor Tine Vertommen of Thomas More University in Belgium has been leading the research team. This project is aligned with and complementary to the focus of the IOC Safe Sport Action Plan. The first individualised report has been completed along with a high-level summary of the key takeaways. ASOIF may consider the presentation of a scientific paper summarising the findings from all 6 IFs and welcome other federations who would be interested in taking part in a similar study.

The AMSCG has set up a working group to develop the field of play injured athlete rescue video project in conjunction with the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Seven IFs (Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique, Fédération Equestre Internationale, Union Cycliste Internationale, World Skate, World Rugby, World Athletics, World Triathlon) have been invited to take part in this project. The working group is developing a plan of action with the individual IFs and finalising a schedule for filming during the Games. The working group met in Monaco on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to finalise the schedule and agree on the roles and responsibilities of the Emergency Medical teams and the Paris 2024 volunteers who will be involved with the project.

The AMSCG plans to organise a medical workshop in Q4 2024.

## **6.2 Legal Consultative Group (ALCG)**

Chair: Antonio Arimany (World Triathlon)

The ALCG last met on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to follow up on the ongoing discussions related to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). CAS Director General Matthieu Reeb attended the meeting in person and provided an update regarding CAS's recent progress on addressing the IFs' concerns regarding the CAS proceeding efficiency and costs, as well as the quality and consistency of decisions.

The ALCG also deliberated on IOC's eligibility conditions for Russian and Belarusian athletes' participation in Paris 2024 and agreed to monitor and follow up on the potential implications. In addition, the Group discussed the IFs' transgender and Differences in Sex Development (DSD) policies and was provided an update of the Fifth Review of IF Governance.

The next ALCG meeting will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

## **6.3 Olympic & Multi-Sports Games Consultative Group (AOMSG)**

Chair: Kelly Fairweather (International Tennis Federation)

The AOMSG held its last meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, which has also been attended by the representatives from the IOC Games Department, IOC Sports Department, Paris 2024 OCOG and LA28 OCOG.

The Group discussed IFs' ongoing concerns related to the optimisation for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, including transport, venue and hospitality. The Group was presented an update by Paris 2024 on the latest Games preparations and its IF engagement.

The AOMSG also received an update from LA28 on the IF site visit policy, LA28 Sport Department staffing and process and timeline for IF approval of venues.



AOMSG Chair Kelly Fairweather will provide a short update on the Group's activities to the 48<sup>th</sup> ASOIF General Assembly.

#### **6.4 Commercial Advisory Group (CAG)**

Chair: Antony Scanlon (International Golf Federation)

Following the meetings in October 2023, the CAG recommended that ASOIF should clarify its position on future editions of the Olympic Esports Series, with a particular focus on sport-related game titles. The ASOIF President has sent a letter to the IOC Sports Director in November 2023, which reflects this recommendation.

Moreover, the Group acknowledged the updated Paris 2024 Games-time Data Collection proposal from IRIS, which now includes "live delayed" and "rebroadcasting" within the framework, at the same project fee. The contract between ASOIF and IRIS was then signed in November 2023.

It was unanimously decided that no ASOIF Commercial Workshop would be held in 2024 and the Group will reconvene in Q1 2024.

#### **6.5 Technology and Innovation Consultative Group (TICG)**

Chair : Nicolas Chapart (Fédération Internationale de Basketball)

The TICG last met in December 2023. ThinkSport was invited to present findings from the innovation pilot project, which involved International Canoe Federation and World Rowing. Following the Group's internal discussion, it was decided not to continue this project due to its limited uniqueness and depth in addition to the lack of interest from member IFs.

The Group will reconvene in Q2 2024 and the meeting will focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications in sports organisations and addressing related concerns.

The SPOT 2024 (an annual forum dedicated to sports technology and innovation organised by ThinkSport) was postponed and will take place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

#### **6.6 Sports Development & Education Group (ASDEG)**

Chair: Deqa Niamkey (United World Wrestling)

ASDEG has organised an online workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 focusing on a deep dive on the Return on Investment (ROI) within IFs' sport development activities. The Fédération Internationale de Volleyball presented the Volleyball Empowerment program which focuses on the distribution of resources to their National Federations (NFs) based on a comprehensive reporting and monitoring process. FIFA provided a snapshot on their Women's Football strategy which focuses on the growth and ROI since they launched the strategy.

Some of the tangible outcomes include developing a metric tool to provide IFs with an overview of distribution of funding and the development status of NFs, inviting marketing experts to provide insights on measuring ROI, the creation of an online information hub to actively share and showcase initiatives or developing a project aimed at enhancing the skills and capacity of administrators across all sports.

The ASDEG plans to organise a sport development workshop in Q3 2024 as well as a couple of online workshops focusing on the proposed tangible outcomes.

## **6.7 Diversity and Gender Equality Consultative Group (ADGEG)**

Chair: Sabrina Ibáñez (Fédération Equestre Internationale)

Led by the ADGEG, the 2024 edition of the “Women Lead Sports” online leadership programme was held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March with 44 confirmed participants representing 25 IFs.

The Chair and the Group administrator have been in discussion with the IOC to co-host the Gender Equality Forum and in-person Executive Leadership Workshop in Lausanne in October 2024 on the eve of the SportAccord IF Forum.

The next ADGEG meeting will likely to be held in-person in during the SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit.

## **6.8 Sustainability Consultative Group (ASCG)**

Chair: David Graham (World Sailing)

The ASOIF Sustainability Workshop was held on 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in a hybrid format in Lausanne, Switzerland. More than 50 participants have attended, representing 31 Summer Olympic IFs, one Winter Olympic IFs, together with IOC representatives and invited speakers. A post workshop report has been distributed to all IFs providing summaries and key takeaways on the following topics:

- A sustainability tracking tool for IFs to monitor their progression and develop their current sustainability strategies
- Communications on Sport for Climate and for Nature initiatives and future actions
- Plan for the Olympic Movement to be represented at the upcoming COP29 (2024 UN Climate Change Conference)
- Insights from Paris 2024 on their procurement and supply chain strategies.
- Insights from Ellen MacArthur on putting theory into practice regarding circular economy.
- Prioritising common IF issues within sustainability
- Insights from 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Racing (an ocean racing team) on moving from environmental to social sustainability
- Insights from IFs on developing their sustainability strategies and how to get started for IFs who are at the beginning of their journey

Online workshops will be scheduled for 2024 to focus on some of the above action items notable around the development of the tracking tool for IFs.

## **6.9 ASOIF Urban & Mass Participation Working Group**

Chair: Morinari Watanabe (Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique)

The Group last met in September 2023 to further explore synergies between the IFs on urban and mass participation sport. The Group also received an update from the IOC Sports Department regarding the IOC Olympic Qualifier Series, which will take place in May and June 2024 respectively in Shanghai, China and Budapest, Hungary.

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# **7 EXTERNAL BODIES**

## **7.1 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**

The WADA Executive Committee last met on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, prior to the annual WADA Symposium which was held on 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The Gabon National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO), Democratic People's Republic of Korea NADO and Olympic Council of Asia have all, following the recommendation of the Compliance Review Committee and approval of the Executive Committee, had their compliance status reinstated.

WADA has condemned plans for the so-called "Enhanced Games," as a dangerous and irresponsible concept, in which the health and well-being of athletes would be jeopardised. WADA has warned athletes and support personnel, who wish to participate in clean sport, that if they were to take part in the "Enhanced Games", they would risk committing Anti-Doping Rule Violations under the World Anti-Doping Code. They would also put their reputations at risk, as they might forever be associated with doping.

At its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Council agreed to reappoint Ingmar De Vos as the ASOIF representative on the WADA Executive Committee for a second term (1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026).

WADA will deliver a report to the General Assembly under Agenda Item 11.

## **7.2 SportAccord Executive Committee**

During the SportAccord General Assembly held in November 2023, the new SportAccord statutes have been adopted. At its Executive Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Uğur Erdener was unanimously appointed as the new President of SportAccord. In addition, Ingmar De Vos and Petra Sörling were formally elected as ASOIF representatives on the Executive Committee.

## **7.3 Association of Paralympic Sports Organisations (APSO)**

The work of APSO is coordinated by ASOIF staff on a permanent basis for the benefit of ASOIF members whose paralympic disciplines are represented in the programme of the next Paralympic Games.

The most recent APSO General Assembly took place on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Bahrain, on the occasion of the IPC Conference and its 2023 General Assembly. A wide range of topics were included on the agenda with greater attention paid to the athletes' participation in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games who have a Russian or Belarusian passport. It was understood that currently there were very few Russian and Belarusian athletes competing in para sports even if they were allowed to participate as individual neutral athletes. The only exceptions were cycling and triathlon, where junior athletes had participated in the respective competitions as neutral. The APSO General Assembly also discussed the inaugural European Para Championships held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in August 2023, which combined 10 para sports' championships. It was reported that the European Para Championships had been well received by the athletes and teams regarding the event concept and experience.

## **ASOIF Council March 2024**