

**ASSOCIATION DES COMITES NATIONAUX OLYMPIQUES
ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES
ASSOCIATION DE COMITES OLIMPICOS NACIONALES**

ANOC

**CONSTITUTION
CONSTITUCION**

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ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

(ANOC)

CONSTITUTION

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CHAPTER I. - INTRODUCTION

ARTICLE 1.1. - DEFINITIONS

Unless the contrary intention appears from the context, the following terms shall have the following meaning :

- a) **Assembly** means both General Assemblies, the Ordinary and the Extraordinary.
- b) **Association** means the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC).
- c) **Council** means the Executive Council of the Association.
- d) **Constitution** means the Constitution of the Association of National Olympic Committees.
- e) **Member** means a Member of the Association.
- f) **President** means the President of the Association.

- g) **ICAS** means the International Council of Arbitration for Sport.
- h) **IF** means International Federation.
- i) **IOC** means International Olympic Committee.
- j) **NOC** means National Olympic Committee.
- k) **OCOG** means the Organizing Committee of Olympic Games.
- l) **WADA** means the World Anti-Doping Agency.

- m) **ANOCA** means the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa.
- n) **PASO** means the Pan American Sports Organization.
- o) **OCA** means the Olympic Council of Asia.
- p) **EOC** means the European Olympic Committees.
- q) **ONOC** means the Oceania National Olympic Committees.

ARTICLE 1.2. – INTERPRETATION OF TERMS

It is understood that in the Constitution of ANOC, the use of the masculine gender (for instance in connection with the President, a Vice-President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, Representatives or Auditors) also applies for the feminine gender.

CHAPTER II. - THE ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 2.1.- NAME.

The Association is constituted among the National Olympic Committees officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee, and is called the “ ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES ” (ANOC).

ARTICLE 2.2.- OBJECTIVES.

The objectives of the Association are:

- a) To develop, promote and protect the Olympic Movement worldwide through the member NOCs.
- b) To facilitate understanding, cooperation and mutual support between the NOCs, promoting consultations, exchanges of information, and experiences between them, thereby helping them strengthen their function within the Olympic Movement.
- c) To contribute towards sustained peace and international understanding and to educate the youth of the world through sport, practised without discrimination and in the Olympic spirit, which demands mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity and fair play.
- d) To stand for the full autonomy of the NOCs recognized by the IOC, intervening in cases where their autonomy might be threatened.
- e) To deal with all matters of general interest for the NOCs as well as those deriving from the agenda of their Meetings with the IOC, and to discuss subjects of common interest proposed by an NOC.
- f) To recognize and support the associations of NOCs recognized by the IOC for each continent.
- g) To formulate recommendations and suggestions to be dealt with by the IOC Executive Board, the IOC-IFs-NOCs Tripartite Commissions, other IOC-NOCs Mixed Commissions, the Olympic Congresses, and any other organization promoting sport.
- h) To nominate the NOCs' representatives to IOC-NOCs Mixed Commissions, Tripartite Commissions, WADA, ICAS and other commissions and working groups, and to assign them specific tasks and define their powers.
- i) To make recommendations to the IOC regarding the utilization of the funds from broadcast rights the IOC allocates to the NOCs to implement the Olympic Solidarity Programmes as well as for other purposes.
- j) To make recommendations aimed at the development of the NOCs and to implement their motions in connection with the national and international Olympic Movement.
- k) To collaborate, in agreement with the Olympic Charter, with the IOC, with the IFs, with the NOCs, with the OCOGs and – in general – with other organizations and institutions interested in sports and in physical and Olympic education.
- l) To promote the integration of women in ANOC's Executive Council and Work Commissions in agreement with the orientations and guidelines passed by the IOC.

To meet these objectives, the Association shall be empowered to receive funds from any source compatible with the Olympic Charter.

ARTICLE 2.3.- MEMBERSHIP.

The Members of the Association are the National Olympic Committees recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

ARTICLE 2.4.- SEAT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Association shall have legal personality in accordance with the laws of the countries where it will have to operate. Its central office shall be as determined by a General Assembly.

The General Assembly may establish an operation office, in addition to the central office, at the place of residence of the President. The budget for the operations of this office must be approved by a General Assembly.

All official correspondence to the Association shall be sent directly to the central office.

ARTICLE 2.5.- GOVERNANCE.

The Association shall be governed in accordance with this Constitution.

ARTICLE 2.6.- EMBLEM AND FLAG.

The emblem of the Association is made up of five (5) rings of the same size, interlaced in the same manner as the Olympic rings as approved by the IOC. Their colours, seen from left to right, are : blue, black and red for the rings in the upper part; and yellow and green for those placed underneath them. All five rings contain two concentric circles in white colour and the emblem of each one of the continental organizations of NOCs. Under the rings appears the acronym "ACNO".

The flag of the Association has a white background with the emblem located at the centre.

ARTICLE 2.7.- ORGANS.

The organs of the Association are :

- a) the General Assembly,
- b) the Executive Council,
- c) the President.

ARTICLE 2.8.- LANGUAGES.

The official languages of the Association are English, French and Spanish. In case of a discrepancy, the English text shall prevail. At General Assemblies, simultaneous interpretation into French, English, Spanish, German, Russian and Arabic shall be provided.

ARTICLE 2.9.- RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IOC.

The Association shall collaborate with the IOC towards the achievement of the goals pursued by the latter, and shall conduct all its actions towards this end and lead its member NOCs to do likewise.

CHAPTER III.- THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ARTICLE 3.1.- COMPOSITION.

The General Assembly is the highest authority of the Association. The following shall be entitled to be part of the General Assembly : the delegates of the respective NOCs, and the Members of the Executive Council who have been elected under the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE 3.2. - ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLIES.

The Association shall meet in Ordinary General Assembly at least once every two (2) years. In addition, Extraordinary General Assemblies may be held in any of the following circumstances:

- a) By order of not less than a quarter of the Members.
- b) Upon written request including at least three (3) Members from three (3) continents.
- c) By order of the Executive Council through a written request of not less than a third of its Members.
- d) By order of the President.

These Assemblies shall be convened by the Secretary General of the Association.

ARTICLE 3.3.- VENUE.

Designation of a city to hold a General Assembly shall be the exclusive power of any General Assembly; this Assembly, if it deems it appropriate, may delegate said power to the Executive Council or the President. As to the choice of a city as the venue for an Extraordinary General Assembly, which it may be necessary to decide at a date when the General Assembly is not Meeting, it shall be decided by the Executive Council, and should the latter not be in session either, it shall be decided by the President.

ARTICLE 3.4.- NOTICE OF ASSEMBLY.

A notice calling a General Assembly, together with a detailed agenda for this Assembly, shall be sent to each Member at least ninety (90) days prior to the Assembly. Only items on the agenda shall be discussed or voted upon unless two-thirds of the total number of Members present agree otherwise.

ARTICLE 3.5.- QUORUM.

The quorum for all Assemblies of the Association shall consist of half its total Members plus one (1).

If there is no quorum for the Assembly at the stipulated date, the President shall convene a second Assembly to be held not more than 24 hours afterwards and the quorum for that second Assembly shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Association.

ARTICLE 3.6. – POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The powers and obligations of the General Assembly are :

- a) To comply and make comply with the Olympic Charter, this Constitution, and any rules adopted in consequence thereof by the Assemblies.
- b) To know of all issues that may be necessary to pursue the goals of the Association.
- c) To delegate powers to the Executive Council, as well as to the President, in accordance with the provisions of the present Constitution.
- d) To elect its President every four years.
- e) To ratify the election of the Vice-Presidents and other representatives of the continents to the Executive Council of the Association.
- f) To elect upon the President's proposal the Secretary General and the Treasurer; and appoint the Auditors.
- g) To approve the budget, the statements of accounts and the reports of the Executive Council in connection with the business of the Association.
- h) To affiliate, suspend or disaffiliate as a member NOC for non compliance with the rules of this Association. However, admission to membership shall be by a simple majority while suspension or disaffiliation shall be by a two-thirds majority of the votes of those present.
- i) To grant through an affirmative vote from two-thirds of the member NOCs present, and upon previous recommendation from the Executive Council, the title of Honorary Member or Honorary President to individuals who have rendered efficient and honourable services to ANOC or to the Olympic Movement. These Members will have a right to the floor, but without voting right, in Meetings and Assemblies of the Association.

ARTICLE 3.7.- VOTING IN THE ASSEMBLIES.

- a) Each NOC shall be entitled to one (1) vote and to be represented at Assemblies by a maximum of two (2) delegates having the right to speak.
- b) No proxy vote shall be allowed.
- c) Voting shall be by secret ballot if it is required by one Member and approved by at least one-third of the Members present.
- d) A proposal shall be considered adopted if a simple majority of the Members present have voted in favour, except in those cases where this Constitution requires a different majority.

ARTICLE 3.8.- POSTAL VOTE.

In the period between Assemblies, and subject to this Constitution, in urgent cases, the President may, with the approval of at least ten (10) members of the Executive Council, submit a proposal through a postal vote, by registered mail.

Any proposal submitted through a postal vote shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Members to be approved and shall have to be ratified at the next General Assembly.

Any proposal which has to be submitted through a postal vote shall be deemed to have been received by each Member twenty-one (21) days after it has been sent by mail. Voting shall be considered closed ninety (90) days after the expiration of said twenty-one (21) -day period.

CHAPTER IV.- THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

ARTICLE 4.1. – COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council shall be composed of :

- 1 President,
- 5 Vice-Presidents, one for each Continent,
- 1 Secretary General,
- 1 Treasurer,
- 3 Representatives for ANOCA,
- 3 Representatives for PASO,
- 3 Representatives for OCA,
- 3 Representatives for the EOC,
- 2 Representatives for ONOC,

5 more Members, one for each continent, who shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Vice-President of the corresponding continent.

ARTICLE 4.2. – MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A Meeting of the Executive Council shall be convened at least once a year at the order of the President or when requested by representatives of at least three (3) of the five (5) continents.

The notice calling the Meeting shall be sent by the Secretary General.

ARTICLE 4.3.- QUORUM FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The quorum for the Meetings of the Executive Council shall be half of its Members plus one (1), with at least three (3) of the five (5) continents having to be represented.

ARTICLE 4.4.- POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The powers and obligations of the Executive Council are :

- a) To comply and make comply with the Olympic Charter, this Constitution and the resolutions of the General Assembly.
- b) To promulgate and adopt rules of procedure governing its business and the conducting of its Meetings
- c) To appoint the Representatives of the Association to the IOC-ANOC Mixed Commissions, subject to their ratification by the IOC, and its Representatives to WADA, ICAS as well as commissions and organizations whose objective is the promotion of sport.
- d) To grant a merit award, in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations for the "Merit Award", to any individual, body or organization who, in the opinion of at least two-thirds of the Members, have given evidence of the excellence of their services to the Association and to the Olympic Movement in general.

ARTICLE 4.5.- VOTING IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Each Member of the Executive Council shall be entitled to only one (1) vote.

The provisions of Article 3.7 (b), (c), (d) and Article 3.8 regarding voting in the Assemblies shall apply under this Article in the corresponding application.

CHAPTER V- THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

ARTICLE 5.1.- THE PRESIDENT.

The President of the Association shall be elected at an Ordinary General Assembly for a period of four (4) years, upon proposal of a Member NOC of the Association, supported by another Member. All nominations for the position of President shall be sent out, with all relevant information, to the affiliated NOCs and to the Members of the Executive Council through the Secretary General, at least ninety (90) days prior to the election.

At the time of his election, the President must be a delegate of a Member NOC.

The powers and obligations of the President are :

- a) To comply and make comply with the Olympic Charter, this Constitution and the resolutions adopted by the Assembly and the Executive Council.
- b) To be the protocol and legal representative of the Association, empowered to represent it in courts of justice, give in writing general and special administrative and operational powers, refer to arbitrators, subscribe credit titles and operations, and carry out any other legal or other action that may be necessary to the fulfilment of his duties.
- c) To chair the Assemblies and Executive Council Meetings, with a casting vote in case of tie in the votes.
- d) To create, and disband where necessary, working commissions, permanent or provisional, whenever he deems it necessary to ensure smooth functioning of the Association.
- e) To approve the appointment and dismissal of personnel, in accordance with the provisions under Article 5.3. (d).

ARTICLE 5.2.- THE VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Vice-Presidents shall be elected in each case by the continental associations to which they belong. Their mandates shall be of four (4) years, unless they cease to be delegates of their NOCs before. In which case the corresponding associations shall elect a new Vice-President for the remaining period of the mandate.

The Vice-Presidents are representatives of the President, under the latter's delegation, in the continent for which they have been elected.

ARTICLE 5.3. - THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

The Secretary General shall be elected by the Assembly upon the President's proposal. His mandate shall be for four (4) years.

His functions are :

- a) To receive all correspondence to the Association.
- b) To safeguard and keep updated the Registers of the Minutes of the Assemblies and Meetings of the Executive Council, which shall remain available for consultation by representatives of Members of the Association duly authorized to this effect.
- c) To send the Minutes of the Assemblies or Executive Council Meetings - to each of their Members - within a period that shall not exceed ninety (90) days after the closing date of the corresponding Assembly or Meeting.
- d) To appoint and dismiss, with the President's approval, the technical and administrative personnel of the Association's Central Office.
- e) To carry out within his field of competence the decisions taken by the Assembly, the Executive Council and the President.

ARTICLE 5.4. - THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall be elected by the Assembly upon the President's proposal. His mandate shall be of four (4) years.

His functions, carried out in collaboration with the Central Office of ANOC, are :

- a) To represent the Association in all financial or accounting matters concerning the Association.
- b) To receive the amounts of money which, whatever their nature, are due to the Association.
- c) To safeguard and keep updated the Registers of accounts of the Association, together with their full and accurate justifications.
- d) To prepare and present for the General Assembly's consideration duly audited reports on the Association's incomes and expenditures, and on its economic and financial situation.

ARTICLE 5.5. - VACANCIES.

The Members of the Executive Council may be removed from office at a General Assembly, due to a serious failure in their obligations, by a vote of two-thirds of the Assembly Members entitled to vote, provided they have been notified and allowed the opportunity to be heard at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of said Assembly.

Any vacancy in the office of the President, Secretary General or Treasurer, due to resignation, death, destitution from office, or other cause, shall be immediately filled by the Executive Council. The person elected shall hold office until the next General Assembly or until removed. The General Assembly shall elect or approve the successor to fill the vacancy. The person so elected or approved shall hold office for the remainder of the term for which his predecessor had been appointed.

Any vacancy among the Vice-Presidents or any Representatives of the Continents shall be filled by the corresponding continental association to which the respective Vice-President or Representative belongs.

In all cases, the appointments shall be ratified at the following General Assembly. The person so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the term for which his predecessor had been appointed.

CHAPTER VI.- GENERAL

ARTICLE 6.1.- INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The interpretation of this Constitution shall be governed by the following rules :

- a) It shall be subject, regarding the language, to the provisions of Article 2.8.
- b) The principles laid down in the Olympic Charter shall be taken account of, and shall prevail over the present Constitution in case of discrepancy.
- c) The Executive Council has authority to interpret the present Constitution in case of discrepancy over the meaning of its articles.

ARTICLE 6.2.- AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution can only be amended, wholly or partially, through a General Assembly, subject to the following rules :

- a) The Assembly shall be convened in writing by the Secretary General, annexing the draft of the modifications proposed, with at least ninety (90) days' notice.
- b) The Constitution must be approved by a majority of at least two-thirds of the total number of Members of the Association.

ARTICLE 6.3.- DISSOLUTION.

The Association may be dissolved using the same procedure as outlined under Article 6.2. In case of dissolution, the assets of the Association shall be distributed according to the decision of the General Assembly.

In cases where the General Assembly cannot be convened, the assets of the Association shall be distributed in equal parts among its Members.

ARTICLE 6.4.- SUPERSEDING.

The original Constitution of ANOC was approved at the General Assembly held in Vienna, Austria, on 7-8 December 1988, and amended by the IX General Assembly held in Atlanta, USA on 14-15-16 December 1994. The present version has been approved by the XVI General Assembly held in Beijing, China on 7-8-9 April 2008.

Mario Vázquez Raña
President

Gunilla Lindberg
Secretary General