



WORLD PROGRAMMES – ATHLETES



# OLYMPIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ATHLETES “SOCHI 2014”



# OLYMPIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ATHLETES “SOCHI 2014”

## PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

### OBJECTIVE

To offer the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) a programme that provides Olympic scholarships to athletes preparing and attempting to qualify for the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi 2014.

The programme is designed to improve the competitiveness of the Olympic Winter Games rather than to expand artificially the universality of these Games. As such, access to this programme shall be offered only to NOCs that have a strong winter sports tradition and that can present athletes with a proven winter sports record and technical level.

### BENEFICIARIES

#### ATHLETES

All athletes proposed for an Olympic scholarship by their NOCs must have an adequate technical level to allow them to qualify for the Olympic Winter Games:

- **Olympic winter sport:** An international level athlete who practises an individual sport included on the Olympic winter programme.
- **Minimum technical level:** The athlete must have the technical level to be able to qualify for the Sochi Olympic Winter Games. Athletes included in this programme must have taken part in international level competitions, recognised by the International Winter Sports Federations.
- **Ethics:** The NOCs must ensure that athletes having been convicted of a doping offence or having been sanctioned for actions contrary to the standards of sporting ethics as established by the Olympic Charter and the IOC are not presented as candidates.
- **Profile:** Only athletes to whom a scholarship will make a significant difference to their training, and who do not have access to alternative means of paying for their preparation, may be put forward by their NOC/NF for a scholarship.

### NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

In accordance with the guiding principles approved by the Olympic Solidarity Commission and the wish to avoid increasing artificially the universality of the Olympic Winter Games, only NOCs that can present athletes with a proven winter sports record and technical level may apply for the programme. The participation numbers at the last Olympic Winter Games



in Vancouver will be used to define an NOC's eligibility for the programme. Taking into account the profile of the NOCs that participate in the Olympic Winter Games, Olympic Solidarity offers a programme customised to their specific needs:

**A: NOCS THAT HAD LESS THAN 10 ATHLETES AT THE VANCOUVER OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES**

These NOCs will be offered a fixed number of Olympic scholarships equal to the number of athletes who participated in the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games (with the exception of those NOCs that had only one athlete in Vancouver; in which case they can apply for a maximum of two scholarships).

**B: NOCS THAT HAD BETWEEN 10 AND 59 ATHLETES AT THE VANCOUVER OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES**

These NOCs will be offered a maximum of 10 Olympic Scholarships.

**C: NOCS THAT HAD OVER 60 ATHLETES AT THE VANCOUVER OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES**

These NOCs are invited to contact Olympic Solidarity to discuss a tailor-made preparation programme that will offer flexible use of a fixed budget per NOC.

In exceptional cases, Olympic Solidarity:

- may award a maximum of two scholarships to an NOC that did not have athletes in the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games but which has athletes with a proven winter sports record and technical level.
- reserves the right to modify the number of scholarships to be awarded per NOC, keeping within the maximum available budget.

## **PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK**

### **OLYMPIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ATHLETES**

An Olympic scholarship offers two benefits to selected athletes:

- A fixed monthly training grant to cover the athlete's training and coaching costs
- A fixed travel subsidy that can be requested at the end of the qualification period for the athlete's transport costs (including transport of equipment) to participate in Olympic qualification competitions

Once a scholarship is awarded by Olympic Solidarity, the athlete's NOC is responsible for agreeing with him/her on the use of the training grant and the subsequent management of these funds as well as for the periodic reporting to Olympic Solidarity.

In the majority of cases, Olympic Solidarity understands that athletes practising winter sports already have clearly defined training programmes and therefore the intention is to offer the NOCs the possibility to manage the scholarship programme in an individualised manner.



## TEAM SPORTS

The programme presented relies on the premise of Olympic scholarships being allocated to individual athletes only. Should an NOC wish to assist a team sport in their Sochi preparations they can do so separately by means of Olympic Solidarity's "Team Support Grant" programme.

In the context of the Olympic Winter Games, Olympic Solidarity defines "team sports" as being only ice hockey and curling. Sports such as bobsleigh and luge (which may have up to four athletes in one sled) or ice skating (which may have pairs or relay teams) are considered as individual sports and each athlete involved may be proposed for an Olympic scholarship.

## APPLICATION, AWARD AND CONTROL

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE BY THE NOC

NOCs fulfilling the criteria noted above may submit candidatures for an Olympic scholarship using the application form attached (Annex 1). The NOCs should make an effort to submit an equitable balance of male and female candidates and prioritise their candidates.

### ANALYSIS BY OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY AND THE IFs

Olympic Solidarity will analyse each candidature submitted in collaboration with the relevant International Winter Sports Federation and, if needed, the respective NOC Continental Association.

In view of the complexity of the analysis process and the number of candidatures expected, please note that a minimum of two months are needed to analyse an NOC's application for this programme.

### APPROVAL BY OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY

Olympic Solidarity will be responsible for the final approval of the Olympic scholarships.

Since the cost of athlete training varies widely between regions of the world, Olympic Solidarity and the NOC will agree upon the amount of the training grant offered to each athlete per month.

Each athlete awarded a scholarship will be required to sign a contract with his/her NOC and NF that will clearly list the responsibilities of each party and the monthly budget distribution of the scholarship.

### MONITORING BY THE NOC AND OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY

Olympic Solidarity requests regular information feedback from the NOCs to monitor each athlete's progress towards Olympic qualification by means of:

- A progress report for each scholarship holder, to be submitted every four (4) months.
- A signed acknowledgement from the athlete, NF and NOC that the scholarship funds have been distributed as agreed in the contract.



Since the primary objective of awarding an Olympic scholarship remains the athlete's qualification for the Sochi Olympic Winter Games, Olympic Solidarity reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship from any athlete in the following cases:

- Failure to qualify for the Sochi Olympic Winter Games.
- Decline in technical level making it unlikely that the athlete will qualify for the Sochi Olympic Winter Games.
- A medical reason that prevents the athlete from training.
- Unethical behaviour (doping, discipline).
- Contravention of the athlete/NF/NOC contract or Olympic Charter.
- Any other reason in mutual agreement with the NOC.

## BUDGET

The budget allocated to this programme by the Olympic Solidarity Commission for the 2013-2016 quadrennial plan is USD 10,000,000.

## TIMELINE

The Olympic scholarships will be available from Olympic Solidarity for the period of 1 November 2012 to 28 February 2014.

- March 2012: Programme guidelines and application forms sent to eligible NOCs
- 31 August 2012: Deadline for submitting applications to Olympic Solidarity to be included in first batch of allocations (starting on 1 November 2012)
- 1 November 2012: Programme operational and first scholarships activated
- 1 March 2013: Second batch of scholarships activated
- Additional allocation dates may be decided by Olympic Solidarity according to the number and timing of applications received
- 7-23 February 2014: XXII Olympic Winter Games

Please note that just one scholarship allocation will be made per NOC following receipt of their candidatures. Subsequent allocation dates will be only for NOCs that did not submit applications in time to benefit from a previous allocation batch.

## ANNEXES

### 1. Application form & Priority Order form

Olympic scholarships for athletes "Sochi 2014"

### 2. Qualification Travel Subsidy form

Olympic scholarships for athletes "Sochi 2014"

### 3. Evaluation form (for NOCs with individual scholarships – category A or B)

Olympic scholarships for athletes "Sochi 2014"