

To Presidents and Secretaries
General of International Sports
Federations

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Lausanne, 22 October 2025

Dear President,

Dear Secretary General,

The IOC has published a [statement on 17 October 2025](#) following the recent incident relating to the last-minute decision of the Indonesian government to cancel entry visas for the Israeli gymnastics team to participate in the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Championships which are currently taking place in Jakarta. This is the most recent incident of many similar cases in many sports that affect athletes' access to competitions across the world. The [IOC EB recently reiterated](#) that it *"is concerned by the disruption of competitions across the world, the restriction of access to host countries for athletes, and the boycotting and cancellation of competitions due to political tensions. These actions deprive athletes of their right to compete peacefully and prevent the Olympic Movement from showing the power of sport."*

The IOC EB met remotely this week and discussed this specific situation as well as the recurrent global issue regarding the access of athletes to international competitions. It highlighted again the IOC's principled position, that all eligible athletes, teams and sports officials must be able to participate in international sports competitions and events without any form of discrimination from the host country, in accordance with the Olympic Charter and the fundamental principles of non-discrimination, autonomy and political neutrality that govern the Olympic Movement.

As repeatedly mentioned in various communications, meetings and discussions with the IFs over the past few years, the IOC EB has reiterated its call upon all IFs to be extremely vigilant when allocating their respective international sports competitions and to make sure, in particular that:

- they receive all written contractual assurances from the organiser and the highest government authorities of the host country, ensuring that all eligible athletes and teams can access the host country and compete without any form of discrimination, including the right to be treated equally as per the applicable protocol for all participants; and
- such assurances are effectively implemented by the organiser and the host country, failing which the concerned IF should be ready to take appropriate action, including but not limited to postponing, relocating, or cancelling the event. The IOC recommends that IFs include financial guarantees to cover these eventualities in any hosting agreements that are entered into.

Accordingly, the IOC EB has decided to adapt the Qualification Principles for the Olympic Games LA28, which now mandate the IFs to include guarantees on country access for all athletes in their hosting agreements for any Olympic qualification competition around the world. A copy of the updated Qualification Principles is attached to this letter for reference. As per these principles and the Olympic Charter, the IOC EB has the final approval right on individual IF qualification systems and therefore this specific element will be strictly monitored prior to approval.

In relation to the specific case of Indonesia, the IOC EB decided to:

- end any form of dialogue with the NOC of Indonesia about hosting future editions of the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, Olympic events or conferences until such time as the Indonesian government provides the IOC with adequate guarantees that it will allow access to the country for all participants, regardless of nationality, to attend.

- recommend that the IFs do not host any international sports events or meetings in Indonesia until such time as the Indonesian government provides adequate guarantees to the IFs that it will allow access to the country for all participants, regardless of nationality, to attend.

As in the past, the IOC NOC Relations and IOC Sports departments are always ready to assist you, upon request and on a case-by-case basis, to coordinate and facilitate the process with the NOC of the host country, if necessary. However it is the primary responsibility of each IF to ensure full compliance with these fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter for their respective international sports competitions and events.

Thank you for your understanding and collaboration in this collective effort to preserve the unifying power of sport and the athletes' right to compete peacefully, in accordance with the values and principles which govern the Olympic Movement.

We remain fully at your disposal should you need any further information, clarification or assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heidi Countess". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heidi" and the last name "Countess" clearly distinguishable.