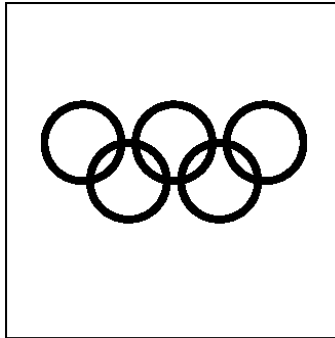


# OLYMPIC PROGRAMME COMMISSION



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## ***REVIEW OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROGRAMME OF THE GAMES OF THE XXIX OLYMPIAD, BEIJING 2008***

**REPORT BY THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, FRANCO CARRARO  
IOC EXECUTIVE BOARD, AUGUST 2002**

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# 1. INFORMATION ON THE WORK OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME COMMISSION

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In December 2000, the IOC Executive Board confirmed the recommendations from the Olympic Programme Commission that no new sports should be added to the programme of the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad, Athens 2004. This followed a review by the Commission of the continued growth of the Olympic Games since 1980, and acknowledged the organisational challenges facing the Athens 2004 Organising Committee at the time. Following this, in September 2001, the Executive Board finalised the programme of events and athlete quota of each sport for these Games.

The decisions taken in this regard led to a total of 28 sports, 301 events and approximately 10,500 athletes in the Athens 2004 Olympic Programme, effectively maintaining the framework of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Programme. As shown in the following table, this was the first time in 20 years that no growth to the Programme had been allowed from one Games to the next.

| <b>Games of the Olympiad</b> | <b>Sports</b> | <b>Events</b> | <b>Athletes (accredited)</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Moscow 1980                  | 21            | 203           | 5283                         |
| Los Angeles 1984             | 21            | 221           | 6802                         |
| Seoul 1988                   | 23            | 237           | 8473                         |
| Barcelona 1992               | 25            | 257           | 9368                         |
| Atlanta 1996                 | 26            | 271           | 10,630                       |
| Sydney 2000                  | 28            | 300           | 10,960                       |
| Athens 2004                  | 28            | 301           | 10,500                       |

Once these decisions on the programme of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games were finalised, the IOC President requested that, in addition to the planned development of recommendations on the programme of the XIX Olympic Winter Games, Turin 2006, the Olympic Programme Commission undertake further work in two main areas:

*i. General review of the Olympic Programme*

present an overview study of the key principles to be reflected in the Olympic Programme, an identification of the framework of the Olympic Programme, and a review of the structure of the Olympic Programme

*ii. Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, Beijing 2008*

develop recommendations on the sport, discipline and event programme to be presented to the IOC Executive Board in August 2002

The Commission held meetings in January 2002 and July 2002 in Lausanne (SUI), and developed the recommendations contained in the current document.

## **2. REVIEW OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME**

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### **2.1 KEY PRINCIPLES TO BE REFLECTED IN THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME**

The following principles should be reflected in the general composition of the Olympic Programme, and the discussions or review of specific sports:

#### **The general composition of the Olympic Programme**

- ❑ A key factor in the success of the Olympic Games is the Olympic Programme, and any changes in the structure of the Olympic Programme must result in a benefit for the Olympic Movement and an increased value and appeal of the Olympic Games
- ❑ Some flexibility should be inherent in the future Olympic Programme
- ❑ The Olympic Programme must contain a mixture of types of sports (team and individual, indoor and outdoor, sports of different nature)
- ❑ The traditions of the modern Olympic Games should be retained and reflected in the future Olympic Programme
- ❑ The inclusion of sports within the Olympic Programme should be supported through analysis of each sport against identified criteria
- ❑ As specified in the Olympic Charter, only sports practised on snow and ice should be included in the Olympic Winter Games Programme
- ❑ In the future, the admission or exclusion of a sport should fall within the competence of the IOC Executive Board

#### **Sport specific considerations**

- ❑ The Olympic Programme must not necessarily reflect the programme of a World Championships of the respective sport
- ❑ Similar events, artificial events and large numbers of events for the same athletes should be avoided
- ❑ Global public and media interest in a sport must be considered as key elements in the analysis of sports for these are fundamental elements in the success of the Games
- ❑ The social value of a sport (e.g. elements of environmental impacts, athletes' health, education, non-discrimination, fair-play, solidarity), while difficult to measure, should be considered
- ❑ To be considered for admission to the Olympic Programme, a sport must show a direct emphasis on youth and development. Sports should organise world and continental competitions for the youth/ junior age categories as well as for men and women
- ❑ The judging and adjudicating system of a sport must ensure objectivity, fairness and transparency
- ❑ The admission of a new sport to the Olympic Programme can only be considered if the sport is practised by both men and women. However, sports must not necessarily be represented by both men and women in the Olympic Programme

- Weight category events should not be allowed, except for the combat sports and for weightlifting
- Where possible, disciplines within a sport (e.g. water polo and trampoline) should be the subject of independent consideration in relation to a review of the Olympic Programme
- The long-term development/viability of a sport should be guaranteed to be considered for inclusion in the Olympic Programme.

## **2.2 THE FRAMEWORK OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME**

In reviewing the structure and model of the Olympic Programme, the Commission noted that it was important to identify the key elements of the framework in which a future structure would operate, in particular in relation to the Games of the Olympiad.

### Athletes

It was noted that while both the IOC 2000 recommendation and the Olympic Charter pointed towards a total of 10,000 athletes for the Games of the Olympiad, the total number for Athens 2004 is 10,500, and consideration could be given to retaining this figure for the Beijing 2008 Games.

### Team officials

The general percentage of 50% of team officials to athletes was noted, although the growing complications related to additional NOC accreditation categories was also discussed. It was generally felt that the Rule 42 calculations, transferable 'As' accreditation, training partners, personal coaches and replacements all needed to be grouped together in an integrated review.

It was felt that the different requirements between team sports and individual sports could be further explored, and the question of rotating accreditations must be further reviewed.

### Days of competition

It was agreed that the current number of 16 days of competition should be confirmed for the future Olympic Programme.

### Number of events

While acknowledging that reducing the number of events would in most cases directly reduce the number of athletes, it may be difficult to make a significant reduction in certain sports in the current total number of events without eventually affecting the quality of a programme of a sport.

### Venues

In accordance with the work currently being done by the Olympic Games Study Commission, the Programme Commission felt that the sport venue requirements (number, cost, capacity, complexity) should be controlled, and reduced where possible, and additionally these should be a consideration in determining the admission or exclusion of a sport or discipline.

## **2.3 THE STRUCTURE AND MODEL OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME**

The Commission reviewed several possible alternative structures of the Olympic Programme, noting the principles inherent in each structure.

### Recommended structure and model of the Olympic Programme

The Commission noted that the current structure was very successful, and therefore an argument could be made for not changing it. However, it was agreed that there may be opportunities to add value through change, and to allow access to the Olympic Games for different athletes and sports. This opportunity for change would realistically be limited, although it needed to be recognised and exercised when necessary.

The Commission concluded that the structure and model of the Olympic Programme should not be changed; however, the current model must allow for the possibility of changes in the Olympic Programme.

### Regional sports

The possibility of including 'regional sports' within the future Olympic Programme was reviewed. The Commission felt this would cause similar challenges to those acknowledged with the demonstration sports in previous Games, and would reduce the continuity which was a key success factor of the Programme. The Commission concluded that the regional popularity of a sport should be a factor in considering any requested changes; however, regional popularity should not be a sole factor permitting the admission of a sport to the Olympic Programme.

### Impact on athletes / IFs / NOCs of changing sports

It was agreed that the Commission needed to review the impact on the sport and athletes of any decisions taken in relation to the programme, and these needed to be clearly understood in the decision-making process. There was a general feeling that allowing sports to move in and out of the programme on a regular or cyclical basis would cause challenges for the long-term planning of athletes and NOCs, although a clear communication process and timeline could alleviate these concerns.

The heavy dependence of some Olympic IFs on IOC funding was discussed, and it was agreed the impact on the IF of excluding a sport from the Olympic Programme needs to be understood. It was felt that while moving a sport in and out of the Programme would obviously cause challenges for current Olympic sports, and for the long-term planning or more developed NOCs and national sports organisations, this would be accepted by IOC-recognised IFs if it meant they could join the Olympic Programme, even temporarily.

### Decision-making process

The current decision making-process as defined in Rule 52 of the Olympic Charter was reviewed. It was agreed that the current process should be simplified in the future, with the recommendation that the admission or exclusion of a sport fall within the competence of the IOC Executive Board (it is recognised that this may require a change to Rule 52 of the Olympic Charter).

## 2.4 SPORTS RELYING ON MECHANICAL PROPULSION

Rule 52.4.2 of the Olympic Charter states that in relation to the Olympic Programme “Sports, disciplines or events in which performance depends essentially on mechanical propulsion are not accepted”. Following discussions on this subject in relation to the requests for certain sports to be admitted to the Olympic Programme, the Commission believed that a decision should be made by the IOC on the interpretation of Rule 52.4.2.

The differing interpretations expressed on this Rule essentially relate to the role of the mechanical propulsion (defined as being the use of engines or automated propulsion) in respect to the competition, and in this regard there are three possibilities to be discussed:

- i. use in the technical support of competition
- ii. use in competition, but not by the athletes
- iii. use in competition by athletes

### i. Use in the technical support of competition

As the text of the Rule is not explicitly related to competition performance only, it is possible to interpret this to include the prohibition of any events which depend on mechanical propulsion in the technical support of competition.

Examples of sports of IOC-recognised IFs in this situation include sport parachuting, in which aeroplanes or helicopters are essential to actually allow the competition to take place. There are also a number of Olympic sports which have clear requirements for mechanical propulsion through the use of cars or boats by technical officials (e.g. rowing, canoe-kayak, sailing, triathlon, cycling, athletics road events), or for winter Olympic sports for the transfer of athletes to their starting point (e.g. ski jumping, sliding sports, Alpine events).

Therefore, in recognition of the realities of technical support for competition, it is clear that mechanical propulsion should be permitted in areas not related to competition performance.

### ii. Use in competition, but not by the athletes

In certain sports, such as water skiing, mechanical propulsion is used as a component of competition, and the mechanical propulsion is necessary to allow the athlete to perform in competition. However, the propulsion is not controlled by the athlete, nor does it constitute the performance itself through the result being determined by speed.

In such cases, where the propulsion allows the athletes to perform the competition but is not an element of the competition itself, and it is provided in an equal way to all athletes, it could be considered as technical support for the competition, and included in the same recommendation as on point i.

### iii. Use in competition by athletes

The intended interpretation of Rule 52.4.2 could therefore be understood to be that mechanical propulsion through the use of engines and automated propulsion by athletes in competition should not be allowed. This would apply primarily to cases where differing levels of automated propulsion may be used and controlled by athletes as a component of competition (allowing athletes using superior technology to have a material advantage - a criticism often levelled at elite motor sport such as Formula 1 motor racing).

Following these considerations, the Commission makes the following recommendations in relation to sports relying on mechanical propulsion:

- *that Rule 52.4.2 be interpreted as relating to the use of engines or automated propulsion in competition performance only, not as prohibiting mechanical propulsion in the technical support for the competition*
- *that sports and events in which athletes directly use and control automated propulsion as a component of competition should not be eligible for inclusion in the Olympic Programme.*
- *the recommended interpretation be incorporated in the text of Rule 52.4.2 of the Olympic Charter*

## **2.5 'MIND SPORTS'**

In 1995, the IOC recognised the international bodies of the 'games' of bridge (WBF) and chess (FIDE) as IOC-recognised organisations. Following this, an increasing number of NOCs began officially affiliating the national federations of these bodies, and the IOC therefore reviewed the status of the International Federations within the Olympic Movement. The status of the two Federations changed in 1999, when the IOC acknowledged that bridge and chess should be considered as sports, and therefore the status of the respective IFs changed from recognised organisations to Recognised Federations.

However, in reviewing the requests of these sports for entry to the Olympic Programme in January 2002, the Programme Commission believed that the IOC should clarify the position of mind sports in relation to the Olympic Programme, and expressed the opinion that they should not be eligible for admission.

In this regard, while making reference extensively to 'sports', the Olympic Charter does not provide a definition of a sport. Therefore, the Olympic Programme Commission could present a broad definition of 'mind sports' to allow the position of the Commission and the IOC Executive Board to be applied in current and future cases.

While there is no global definition of what constitutes a sport, and what the difference between a sport and a game is, the most commonly accepted element of a sport is physical exertion in the conduct of competition. In this regard, 'mind sports' could be considered as sports where the physical elements are not necessarily performed by the player in the conduct of the competition.

The Commission therefore makes the following recommendation in relation to 'mind sports' and the Olympic Programme:

- *that 'mind sports' be defined as being sports where the physical elements are not necessarily performed by the player in the conduct of the competition*
- *that 'mind sports' should not be eligible for admission to the Olympic Programme*
- *the recommended interpretation be incorporated in the text of Rule 52 of the Olympic Charter*



## **2.6 SPORTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR INCLUSION IN THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME**

It was agreed that Federations of sports which are not eligible to be considered for the Olympic Programme should be informed of this to avoid any unnecessary communication, lobbying and expense on their behalf. This eligibility included the Olympic Charter provision of the minimum number of National Federations and continental participation, and the eligibility of sports relying on mechanical propulsion and 'mind sports'.

## **2.7 CONCLUSIONS**

It was agreed that the majority of current Olympic sports warranted an ongoing place in the Olympic Programme, and should not be fully reviewed for each edition of the Games. However, it was felt that for each edition of the Games of the Olympiad, an additional review of a small number of current Olympic sports and certain sports of IOC-Recognised IFs may be valuable to determine the actual need for changes in the Olympic Programme. This review will reflect the identified principles of the Olympic Programme, and be made within the identified framework of the Programme.

### **3. GAMES OF THE XXIX OLYMPIAD, BEIJING 2008**

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In regard to the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, Beijing 2008, the Commission conducted a review of all sports in the Programme of the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad, Athens 2004, the requests for new disciplines in these sports, and also all requests for new sports received from IOC-recognised International Federations.

In this review, the Commission noted that decisions taken in relation to the Olympic Programme had historically been related to the addition of new sports, disciplines and events, and the increase in athlete quotas. This is seen clearly in the table contained in the introduction to this paper (p.3).

In this regard, the decisions taken in relation to the programme of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games resulted in maintaining the current framework of approximately 10,500 athletes, 28 sports and 300 events. This was the first time in the last 20 years no growth in the Olympic Programme was permitted.

Therefore the Programme Commission has noted that there is currently no scope for further increasing the framework of the programme, and in fact there has been a challenge expressed by the public and also within the Olympic Movement to reduce the size of the Programme.

This challenge has also been noted in the current work of the Olympic Games Study Commission, in particular the direct operational demands and costs resulting from the definition of the number of sports, disciplines, events and athlete quotas in the Olympic Programme.

Noting the large number of demands for new sports, disciplines and events, and for additional athletes, the Commission underlined the fact that it is not possible to include all events and all sports within the Olympic Programme, and for all athletes to attend the Olympic Games.

In regard to the timing of the necessary decisions, the Commission believes it is important for the IOC to take the final decisions on the identified recommendations in the period six years prior to the Olympic Games, to allow the full planning and preparation period for athletes, IFs and NOCs.

The Commission has conducted a review of all sports and disciplines currently within the Olympic Programme with consideration to ensuring the ongoing strength and balance of the programme, both as a collection of independent sports and as an integrated multi-sport programme.

In this review, the Commission considered research which had been completed in the following areas:

- Olympic Games participation statistics
- National federation affiliation and participation in major events
- Olympic Games broadcast research – Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000
- Olympic Games press coverage research – Sydney 2000
- IF venue construction and venue / sport operations costs – Sydney 2000

It also considered the application of the recommended principles identified in the review of the Olympic Programme, outlined in section 2 of this report, noting that these principles

may cause a reconsideration of certain decisions previously taken in relation to the Olympic Programme.

The recommendations reached at the conclusion of this review are intended to present options to the IOC Executive Board in regard to the definition of the programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, Beijing 2008, should the Board feel changes are required.

### **3.1 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SPORTS ON THE PROGRAMME OF THE GAMES OF THE XXVIII OLYMPIAD, ATHENS 2004**

#### **3.1.1 Exclusion of sports currently in the Olympic Programme**

##### Baseball (IBAF)

Participation on a global level was reviewed, and it was concluded that baseball is very popular in certain countries, but this popularity is not reflected throughout entire regions or continents. This has resulted in relatively strong broadcast levels in certain nations (for example Japan) but relatively low global broadcasting and press levels.

In addition, the high cost of venue construction for the Olympic competition was noted. In particular this is caused by the need for baseball-specific venues for competition and training, and the fact that due to the relatively low global participation, there are few cities outside North America and parts of Asia which have existing venues at the required level, or a demand for the use of such venues following the Games.

Regarding athlete participation, the Commission acknowledged the efforts of the IBAF to integrate the best professional athletes in the Olympic competition, but noted that in relation to the structure and schedule of professional baseball in North America, it will be very difficult to ensure that the best athletes are available for national selection at the Olympic Games.

As a result of these considerations, the Commission recommends the exclusion of baseball from the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

##### Modern Pentathlon (UIPM)

Although the Commission noted the positive efforts of the UIPM to adapt the competition format, the statistics indicating global affiliation and participation indicate a lack of global participation by nations and individual athletes.

This is understood to be related to the significant expense of practising the sport, with resulting difficulties in significant development. In relation to the Olympic competition, the high operational complexity was noted, as was the low relative broadcast and press coverage.

As a result of these considerations, the Commission recommends the exclusion of modern pentathlon from the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

### Softball (ISF)

Participation on a global level was reviewed, and it was concluded that softball is popular in certain countries, but this popularity is not reflected throughout entire regions or continents. This has resulted in relatively low global broadcast and press levels.

In addition, the high cost of venue construction for the Olympic competition was noted. In particular this is caused by the need for softball-specific venues for competition and training, and the fact that due to the relatively low global participation, there are few cities having existing venues at the required level, or a demand for the use of such venues following the Games.

As a result of these considerations, the Commission recommends the exclusion of softball from the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

These venue requirements cause challenges in reaching a high global participation, and the danger for athletes and horses was also noted.

The Commission therefore recommends the exclusion of the eventing equestrian discipline from the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

#### Wrestling (FILA) – exclusion of one discipline

The low public and media comprehension of differences between the two wrestling disciplines currently in the Olympic Programme were noted by the Commission, which has resulted in relatively low broadcast and press coverage. In comparison to this lack of global popularity, the Commission noted the high athlete quota and number of events in the sport of wrestling.

The Commission therefore recommends the exclusion of one of the wrestling disciplines from the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

#### Athletics (IAAF) – Racewalk events

The Commission reviewed the judging difficulties experienced in the recent editions of the Olympic Games, and noted the resulting poor image of the racewalk events. In addition, the operational difficulties for OCOGs in conducting racewalk events were noted.

The Commission therefore recommends the exclusion of racewalk events from the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

### **3.1.4 Recommendations on the events/athlete quotas of sports currently in the Olympic Programme**

While noting that a full review of the event programme and athlete quotas for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad would be conducted following the decisions on sports and disciplines, the Commission developed certain recommendations on the events or athletes quotas in the following sports on the programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad:

#### Sailing (ISAF) – Reduction in athlete quota and number of events

In comparison with other individual sports, the Commission noted the high quota and number of events in sailing, in comparison to the low broadcast and spectator appeal. In addition, the cost and complexity of the operations of the sailing competition were discussed, with the resulting challenges for general practice and development of the sport.

The Commission therefore recommends the reduction of the athlete quota and number of events in the sport of sailing for the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

It was noted that the Keelboat class are very expensive boats and demand costly infrastructure for Olympic competition, and for general practice and development in comparison to other classes. Therefore, if the Executive Board recommends the reduction in the number of athletes and events, the Commission believes these reductions could be made through the exclusion of keelboat sailing events from the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, which would also reduce the construction and operational costs and complexity.

### Swimming (FINA) – Synchronised swimming team event

The low global participation in qualification events for the Olympic Games were noted, as was the difficulty for many nations to assemble, train and compete with a national synchronised swimming team.

The Commission therefore recommends the exclusion of this event from the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

### Shooting (ISSF) – Reduction in athlete quota and number of events

In comparison with other individual sports, the Commission noted the high quota and number of events in shooting. In addition, the costly infrastructure and Games operations were discussed, particularly in relation to the low appeal for spectators, broadcasters and press.

The Commission therefore recommends the reduction of the athlete quota and number of events in the sport of shooting for the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

### Rowing (FISA) – Light-weight events

The Commission noted the recommended principle of not having weight category events in the Olympic Programme outside combat sports and weightlifting, and the fact that if this general principle is supported by the Executive Board, a review on the previous decision to include light-weight rowing events in the Olympic Programme is required.

In this regard, the Commission noted the very high athlete quota and the high number of events for the sport of rowing, and the possible lack of significant additional universality resulting from the inclusion of light-weight rowing events in the Olympic Programme.

The Commission therefore recommends the exclusion of light-weight rowing events from the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, which would also reduce the athlete quota and number of events.

### Badminton (IBF) – mixed doubles event

The Commission noted the recommended principle of the Olympic Programme not necessarily reflecting the programme of general events and the World Championships in each sport.

If this general principle is supported by the Executive Board, the Commission recommends further review of the decision to include this event in the Olympic Programme for badminton. In particular the additional value of the mixed doubles event in the badminton programme was questioned, and it was noted that this event is not included in the Olympic Programme of other racquet sports.

The Commission therefore recommends a review of the retention of this event in the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

### **3.1.5 Recommendation for further reductions in number of events**

Should the Executive Board support the recommendations previously presented, and wish to make additional reductions in the Olympic Programme, the Commission recommends that the following aspects are considered for further review.

#### Application of recommended principles to the existing Olympic Programme

If the Executive Board agrees with the recommended principles identified in the review of the Olympic Programme, outlined in section two of this report, it is necessary to determine whether these principles shall be applied only to new requests for sports, disciplines and events in the Olympic Programme, or whether they should be applied to the existing programme, and the decisions previously taken in regard to this programme.

In this regard, the Commission recommends the application of the principles as part of the general review of the current Olympic Programme.

#### Review of team events in individual sports

The Commission questioned the place of team events in individual sports, where such sports do not involve competition interaction between individuals within a team.

The additional value of these events was questioned, with the consideration that in many cases, the same countries feature in the final stages and win medals in the team events as in the individual events. In addition, the significant financial impact of these additional events for the OCOG was also discussed.

The Commission therefore recommends, if further reductions are requested by the Executive Board, that there be a review of the retention of the team events in individual sports in the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, where such sports do not involve competition interaction between individuals within a team.

## **3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REQUESTS FOR NEW DISCIPLINES**

As the task of the Commission is to propose changes within the current framework, or reduce the overall size of the Olympic Programme, the addition of new disciplines within existing sports was not supported by the Commission.

In reaching this conclusion, the Commission also noted the following points with regard to the requested new disciplines:

#### FIFA - Futsal

The Commission considered the low global participation in this discipline, and also the principle of not including events of a similar nature within a sport was noted. The requirements of a separate venue for this sport were taken into consideration.

The Commission therefore does not recommend the admission of futsal in the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

#### AIBA – Women’s boxing

As the Commission has reviewed the general place of boxing within the Olympic Programme, it does not consider it the appropriate time for consideration of the addition of women’s boxing.

Additionally, the Commission, considering the low global participation and current development in this discipline, does not believe this would bring additional value to the Programme.

### FIG – Sport Aerobics and Sport Acrobatics

Considering the overall balance of sports within the existing Olympic Programme and the three gymnastics disciplines (artistic, rhythmic and trampoline which was added only recently), the Commission does not recommend the admission of additional gymnastics disciplines in the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

However, if FIG wish to introduce a new discipline, the Commission believes they may request the addition of one of the specified disciplines as a replacement of an existing discipline.

## **3.3 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REQUESTS FOR NEW SPORTS**

Some 18 requests were received from IOC-Recognised International Federations for the inclusion of new sports in the Programme of XXIX Olympic Games, Beijing 2008.

### **3.3.1 Sports ineligible through Olympic Charter Rule 52 1.1.1**

The Commission recommended that Rule 52 1.1.1 of the Olympic Charter be applied to the applications for new sports. This Rule specifies that “only sports widely practised by men in at least 75 countries and on four continents, and by women in at least 40 countries and on three continents, may be included in the programme of the Games of the Olympiad”.

Based on this recommendation, the following requests were considered ineligible for further consideration:

- Roller sports (FIRS)
- Polo (FIP)
- Surfing (ISA)

### **3.3.2 Sports ineligible through the position of ‘mind sports’ in relation to the Olympic Programme**

Following the principle considering ‘mind sports’ ineligible for the Olympic Programme, the following requests were considered ineligible for further consideration:

- Bridge (WBF)
- Chess (FIDE)

### **3.3.3 Sports not to be admitted**

The Commission held general discussions regarding the addition of new sports, and it was noted that the recommended principles of the Olympic Programme indicate that any sports which were to be considered for the Olympic Programme must bring additional value to the Programme.



Statistics reviewed on federation affiliation, nations competing in major events and broadcast and press coverage of major events for most requested sports did not indicate a higher level of global participation and interest than sports currently in the Programme, and therefore could not be considered to bring additional value.

The Commission therefore recommends not to admit the following sports to the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad:

- Air sports (FAI)
- Billiards (WCBS)
- Boules (CMSB)
- Dance sport (IDSF)
- Bowling (FIQ)
- Racquetball (IRF)
- Water ski (IWSF)
- Squash (WSF)
- Underwater sports (CMAS)
- Wushu (IWUF)

### **3.3.4 Sport for possible further review**

#### Karate (WKF)

The Commission noted the high global participation and the significant development of the sport even though not included in the Olympic Programme. Additionally, the low cost of organisation for the Olympic competition was discussed.

However, in considering the principle of maintaining a balance between different types of sports within the Olympic Programme, and noting the number of combat and martial arts sports within the current Programme, the Commission does not recommend the addition of the sport of Karate to the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

Should the Executive Board believe that a new programme of martial arts and combat sports could be considered, the Commission will undertake further review on karate in comparison with the other martial arts sports already in the Olympic Programme (judo and taekwondo).

### **3.3.5 Sports recommended for consideration for admission to the Olympic Programme**

#### Golf (WAGC)

The Commission noted the simplicity to understand and follow the sport of golf, and the very high spectator and broadcast appeal of this sport. The lack of other similar sports in the Olympic Programme was also considered. The question of the participation of the best athletes in an Olympic competition was discussed, and it was concluded by the Commission that the WAGC and other appropriate bodies must guarantee the participation of the best athletes in the Olympic Games, should golf be admitted to the Olympic Programme.

The Commission therefore recommends the admission of golf in the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, on the condition that participation of the best athletes in the Olympic competition is guaranteed.

### Rugby (IRB)

The Commission noted the global participation in the sport of rugby, and the high spectator and broadcast appeal of major rugby competitions. The low cost of venue requirements and operations for the Olympic competition were also considered, with the possibility of using existing stadia in most cities.

As the IRB had presented applications for consideration of both 15-a-side and Rugby 7s, the Commission believes that Rugby 7s would be the most appropriate discipline of the sport to include in the Olympic Programme. This discipline would allow more depth and universality within the Olympic competition, and would be better integrated within the existing competition schedule. In this regard, the Commission noted the possibility of use of the Olympic Stadium during the first week of the Games, prior to the start of the athletics programme.

Additionally, the Commission noted the importance of having the best athletes in the sport available for the Olympic competition, and concluded that this should be a condition on the admission of Rugby 7s into the Olympic Programme.

The Commission therefore recommends the admission of Rugby 7s in the Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

## **3.4 CONCLUSIONS**

The recommendations noted in this report are presented for the consideration of the IOC Executive Board at its August 2002 meeting.