



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

NOC Relations Department

Public

Presidents
Secretaries General
Chefs de Mission
National Olympic Committees

Lausanne, 2 April 2020

Revised Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 qualification principles

Dear NOC Presidents, Secretaries General and Chefs de Mission,

Further to the initial information provided in the circular letter sent to the NOCs earlier this week, [we have posted on the NOCNet the revised Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 qualification principles](#) that have been approved by the Qualification Taskforce and recently communicated to the International Federations.

Please note the following key points relating to the revised Tokyo 2020 qualification principles:

- The new qualification period deadline is **29 June 2021** and IFs can define their own qualification period deadlines should the deadline be prior to this date.
- The revised final sport entries deadline has now been set for **5 July 2021**.
- The revision of the qualification systems will be finalised as quickly as possible to give certainty to the athletes and NOCs. We understand that at this time these are unlikely to include the full details now on the dates and locations of the specified events, recognising that these will follow later as the impacts of COVID-19 and its related restrictions become clearer. We aim to finalise the adapted qualification systems by mid-April, with the details on specific events to follow when available. These will be posted as soon as available on the Games Preparation pages of the NOCNet.
- The priority remains to reflect, where possible, the allocation method/pathway of the original qualification systems for each sport. This principle encourages IFs to follow a like-for-like approach by replacing those lost opportunities that were allocating quota with the same number of events.
- Regarding the scenario where quota allocation was originally based on ranking, IFs retain full discretion to define the new ranking deadline and pathway. The IOC recognises the sensitivity of such decisions. A sport-specific balance needs to be found between protecting those athletes who were close to qualifying based on the previous 2020 deadlines whilst also

ensuring the participation of the best athletes at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 by allowing the top performers of the 2021 season to qualify.

- In line with the principle that athletes who have qualified for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 remain qualified, it is possible for IFs to extend the age eligibility criteria, if any, and allow athletes who are eligible in 2020 to remain eligible to compete at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 from 23 July to 8 August 2021. The only exception will be if the IF establishes that the one-year relaxation of the upper age limit represents a safety and/or medical risk for athletes. Regarding the eligibility criteria for the lower age limit, if any, the IOC recognises the full authority of IFs to assess the eligibility of those athletes who are not eligible in July 2020 but meet the lower age limit in 2021.
- In some cases, the qualification quota places are gained by the NOC and in some cases, they are gained directly by a specific athlete. In all cases, and as per the Olympic Charter, the respective NOC retains the right to select the athletes to represent their NOC at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Please note that you will also find this information in NOCnet, specifically in the [section for Tokyo 2020](#) in the NOCnet-Games Preparation area.

Should you need more information on this, please do not hesitate to contact Toshio.tsurunaga@olympic.org or myself for further clarification.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Macleod". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and the last name "Macleod" clearly legible.

James Macleod

Director of Olympic Solidarity and NOC Relations