



Olympic Scholarships for Athletes “Beijing 2008” *Programme Guidelines*

Objectives

Assist elite athletes nominated by their respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in their preparation and qualification for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing.

Description

The Olympic scholarship programme offers NOCs the possibility to obtain financial and technical assistance for a select number of elite athletes who are training, and attempting to qualify, for the Beijing Olympic Games.





1. Content of an Olympic Scholarship

Should an athlete be awarded an Olympic scholarship, Olympic Solidarity and the NOC will ensure that he/she will be provided with the following:

- Access to appropriate training facilities
- A coach specialised in the relevant sporting discipline
- Regular medical and scientific assistance and control
- Accident and illness insurance
- Board and lodging costs
- Adequate pocket money
- Access to technical information on the Beijing Olympic Games

2. Athlete training options

In its decision to allocate an Olympic scholarship, Olympic Solidarity will strive to ascertain the optimum training environment for each athlete. Olympic Solidarity's decision as to whether athletes will train in their home country or abroad in a high level training centre will be exclusively focused upon the needs of the athlete and the requirements of his/her sport. The principal partner in this decision process will be the NOC, whose advice and proposals will be taken into consideration. Two training options exist:

a) TRAINING CENTRE OPTION

Olympic Solidarity will assist certain scholarship holders to train in an international high level training centre with which Olympic Solidarity has a service agreement for this programme. The agreements should enable athletes to access training in all of the most popular sports within each Continent. There are three types of options available:

- Individual training centres: Olympic Solidarity has entered into a limited number of service agreements with specialised training centres.
- Partner NOCs: Olympic Solidarity will use the national training centre networks of certain large and well-developed NOCs.
- Partner IFs: Olympic Solidarity will use Continental or Regional training centres managed by certain IFs.

The choice of the high level training centre will be determined by Olympic Solidarity in collaboration with the NOC and, where need be, the Continental Association concerned on the basis of the personal profile of the athlete and their sporting needs. In these cases, the responsibility for the administration of the Olympic scholarship will be primarily with Olympic Solidarity and the training centre. Olympic Solidarity will ensure that the training centre provides the athlete with the content of the Olympic scholarship as noted above.

Further information on the training centre network is available from Olympic Solidarity directly.



b) NOC TRAINING OPTION

Olympic Solidarity recognises that a majority of athletes are training within an environment in which they feel comfortable and which offers all the necessary facilities. This environment is normally within their national territory, however, in some particular circumstances, it could be in an independent training centre or university overseas that is not part of the training centre network noted above.

In this option, the responsibility for the administration of the Olympic scholarship will lie exclusively with the NOC. Olympic Solidarity will ensure that the NOC provides the athlete with the content of the Olympic scholarship as noted above.

The base of calculation for an "NOC training option" per athlete, per month will be negotiable and will be dependent upon the cost of training the athlete in his/her chosen training environment (i.e. in their home country or abroad).

3. *Olympic qualification process*

Since the principal objective of this programme is the qualification of the Olympic scholarship holders for the Beijing Olympic Games, Olympic Solidarity will cover a limited number of air tickets for scholarship holders to participate in relevant Olympic qualification competitions.

Once a scholarship is awarded, Olympic Solidarity will ask the NOC to submit a detailed competition schedule that will maximise the athlete's chances of qualifying for the Beijing Olympic Games. Olympic Solidarity and the NOC will then agree for which competitions Olympic Solidarity may offer air tickets.

Athletes who manage to qualify and who are entered to participate in the Beijing Olympic Games by their NOC will have their scholarships confirmed up until 31st August 2008. Scholarships awarded to athletes who fail to qualify for the Beijing Olympic Games will be withdrawn from the date of the final qualification opportunity.

External Partners

The Summer Olympic International Federations will assist Olympic Solidarity in the analysis of the NOC candidatures, in offering technical advice and in the follow-up of the results of the athletes who are awarded scholarships.

Olympic Solidarity will work with certain Partner NOCs, IFs and independent training centres to provide training opportunities to the scholarship holders.

The Continental Associations of the NOCs and the IOC Sports Department will be regularly consulted and informed on the situation of the programme and of the results obtained.



Beneficiaries

NOC profile

This programme aims to promote the universal representation at the Olympic Games. Consequently, candidates from NOCs that have traditionally sent small delegations to the Olympic Games will be prioritised. Olympic Solidarity intends to enforce the principle of solidarity whilst allocating scholarships; thus favouring the NOCs with the most needs.

Athlete profile

Athletes must have the following profile to be considered for a scholarship:

- Olympic Sport: An international level athlete who practises an individual sport included on the Olympic programme.
- Minimum technical level: The athlete must have the technical sports level to be able to qualify for the Beijing Olympic Games. Proof of the athlete's technical level must be shown through results obtained at national and international competitions.
- Maximum technical level: Following the decision of the Olympic Solidarity Commission and contrary to the Athens 2004 edition of this programme, it has been decided that athletes having won a medal at the Olympic Games or the World Championships may be put forward by their NOC for an Olympic scholarship. However, these candidatures will be specifically reviewed on a case-to-case basis with Olympic Solidarity's technical partners.
- Personal income: The NOCs are asked to not submit candidates having a substantial personal income obtained through government grants, commercial sponsorship or prize money.
- Ethics: Please note 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 may not be presented as scholarship candidates.

Application Procedure

NOCs may submit candidatures for scholarships by using the application form attached (ANNEX 1).

- Olympic Solidarity will not establish a maximum number of candidates per NOC, however, the NOCs must understand that the number of scholarship places is limited and allocation is dependent upon the global budget distribution for this programme.
- Olympic Solidarity will ask the NOCs to prioritise the candidates submitted.



- The NOCs should make an effort to submit an equitable balance of male and female candidates.
- Applications submitted after 1st January 2006 will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Analysis and Approval

Olympic Solidarity will analyse each candidature submitted in collaboration with the relevant IFs and, if needed, the respective Continental Association of NOCs.

Olympic Solidarity will be responsible for the final approval of the Olympic scholarships and of the training option for the athletes.

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

Financial Conditions

The budget allocated to this programme for the 2005 – 2008 quadrennial plan is US\$16'000'000.-

Budget allocation

1. TRAINING CENTRE OPTION:

Olympic Solidarity will negotiate a fixed monthly rate with the training centres with which an agreement will be signed so as to guarantee that the athletes benefit from all aspects of the Olympic scholarship as listed above. Olympic Solidarity will make all payments relating to athletes in the high level training centre network directly to the centre.

2. NOC TRAINING OPTION

Our experience has shown that the cost of athlete training varies widely between regions of the world. Therefore, Olympic Solidarity and the NOC will agree upon the monthly amount of the scholarship per athlete per month. The number of scholarships allocated to an NOC will depend upon the amount offered to each athlete. Olympic Solidarity will make all payments relating to this training option directly to the NOC, which will then administer the funds in relation to the scholarship holders regardless of where they are training.

Follow up and Control

The detailed administrative procedures, together with the athlete evaluation form, for this programme will be sent to NOCs to which scholarships have been awarded.

Athlete Evaluation

Olympic Solidarity will request a constant information feedback by means of:



- An evaluation report for each scholarship holder, to be submitted every four (4) months from the date of the award of the scholarship by either the NOCs or the training centres.
- An acknowledgement from the athlete and the NOC that the scholarship funds have been distributed as agreed in the contract.

Termination of an Olympic Scholarship

Following consultation with the NOC, Olympic Solidarity reserves the right to terminate any Olympic scholarship at any time in cases where there is:

- non-qualification for the Beijing Olympic Games;
- decline of technical level;
- medical reason, including injury;
- a conflict of sporting ethics (discipline, doping etc...) or
- any other reasons in mutual agreement with the NOC or in contravention of the Olympic Solidarity/NOC/athlete contract.

Timeframe

This programme will be operational from 1st January 2006 until 31st August 2008.

- July 2005: Programme guidelines sent to the NOCs
- From July to December 2005:
 - NOC: National consultation process and submission of candidatures.
 - Olympic Solidarity: Evaluation of candidatures with IFs.
 - Olympic Solidarity: Selection and award of Olympic scholarships.
- 1st January 2006: First batch of scholarships awarded and operational.
- 1st May 2006: Second batch of scholarships awarded and operational.

Annexes

1. Application form "Olympic Scholarships for Athletes - Beijing 2008"