“NOC ATHLETES’ SERVICES”

NOC‘s Commitment to Assist Athletes

8th Annual EAS Conference

Dr. Zsigmond Nagy
Director of International Relations
Hungarian Olympic Committee

The NOC Mission

The mission of the NOCs is to develop, promote and protect the Olympic Movement in their respective countries, in accordance with the Olympic Charter.

Olympic Charter Rule 28.1

NOC Responsibilities from the Aspect of Athletes

The NOCs' role is to promote the fundamental principles and values of Olympism in their countries, in particular, in the fields of sport and education, by promoting Olympic educational programmes in all levels of schools, sports and physical education institutions and universities, as well as by encouraging the creation of institutions dedicated to Olympic education, such as National Olympic Academies, Olympic Museums and other programmes, including cultural, related to the Olympic Movement.

Olympic Charter Rule 28.2.1

The Athletes

1. ***"Athletes have the responsibility to represent the three values of the Olympic Movement, excellence, friendship and respect."***
2. ***"The sports movement has a moral responsibility to help athletes integrate into the labour market at the end of their sporting careers. Athletes dedicate their lives to sport and it is only right that sport should give them something back"***

   IOC President Jacques Rogge
3. ***"From the very start of athletes' career in sport, they should be given opportunity to prepare for life and that the Olympic Movement and national sporting bodies should provide specific support or assistance in achieving social and professional stability during and after elite competition."***

   FRANK FREDERICKS

Athletes' Values and Sacrifice

- **The athletes must be in the center of focus;**
- **NOCs must recognize the value generated and sacrifice given by athletes;**
- **Elite athletes strive for success; they possess unmatched dedication, commitment and proven ability to produce under pressure. It inspires and helps develop a positive team environment in the workforce.**
- **Pursuant to the recommendation of the IOC 2000 Reform Commission that *"athletes should be well represented at all levels of the sports movement: IOC, IFs, NOCs and NFs"*;**
- **NOC Athletes' Commission: *"The athletes' voice"* *FRANK FREDERICKS***
- **The mission of an NOC Athletes' Commission is to represent the views of the athletes within the NOC.**
- **LOCOG Athletes' Commission representative sit on the LOCOG Executive Board with veto right.**

LOCOG Athletes' Committee

[left to right from top]

- **Jonathan Edwards (Chair)** – Athletics
- **Tanni Grey-Thompson (Deputy Chair)** – Paralympic Athletics
- **Debbie Jevans – LOCOG Sport Director**
- **Aileen McGlynn** – Paralympic Cycling
- **Karen Pickering** – Swimming
- Ade Adepitan – Wheelchair Basketball
- **Stephanie Cook** – Modern Pentathlon
- Simon Mason – Hockey
- **Shirley Robertson** – Sailing
- **Tim Henman** – Tennis
- **Tim Brabants** – Canoeing
- **Phil Lane**
- **John Steele**
- **Andrew Hunt**



Collectively, the athletes in the group have competed at 22 Olympic Games and 9 Paralympic Games, making a total of 31 Games, and between them have won 9 Olympic and 20 Paralympic medals.

LOCOG Athletes' Commission

- **They are to ensure that sport remains at the heart of London 2012 Games planning over the next four years, LOCOG has established the Sports Advisory Group.**
- **Athletes are playing a major role in helping LOCOG to plan and stage the Games in London.**
- **The 2012 Games will be designed by athletes for athletes.**
- **They advise on all areas of sport and athlete welfare.**
- **Members include Olympians such as Triple Jump Champion Jonathan Edwards and Tennis star Tim Henman, Gold medallists Shirley Robertson and Stephanie Cooke as well as Great Britain's greatest ever Paralympian Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson.**
- **They have the experience to help LOCOG create an unforgettable experience for athletes.**

Olympic Job Opportunities Program (OJOP)

- **OJOP (1992) by the Australian Olympic Committee in conjunction with international professional services firm, Ernst & Young.**
- **OJOP: career placement program for athletes designed to help resolve the conflict in having to choose between pursuing their Olympic goals and beginning to lay the groundwork for their professional lives.**
- **Between 1992 to July 1998, 200 athletes were placed in career path employment, with the support of more than 70 employers.**
- **To be part of the program, companies need to provide athletes with a career position in their chosen field and a flexible work schedule to allow for training and competition. OJOP is not a 'make work' program. OJOP athletes are job ready and have clearly defined career goals. Through OJOP, Ernst & Young is bringing employers and athletes together, ensuring the needs of both are fulfilled.**
- **Competition and teamwork are fundamental business skills. High standards, sustained performance, time management, motivation, discipline, reliability and hard work are just some of the qualities OJOP candidates bring to employers and their corporations.**

NOC Athletes' Services 1.

- **Highly developed and properly managed NOCs have a designated department (section) called *"Athletes' Services"* to 1) assist and 2) support athletes from the very beginning of their sporting career and even beyond after their retirement.**
- **HOC has not had such a department (section) yet.**
- **HOC is committed to create such department (section) within the NOC structure in order to help and provide for athletes in the most effective manner for the sake of our athletes' welfare.**

NOC Athletes' Services 2.

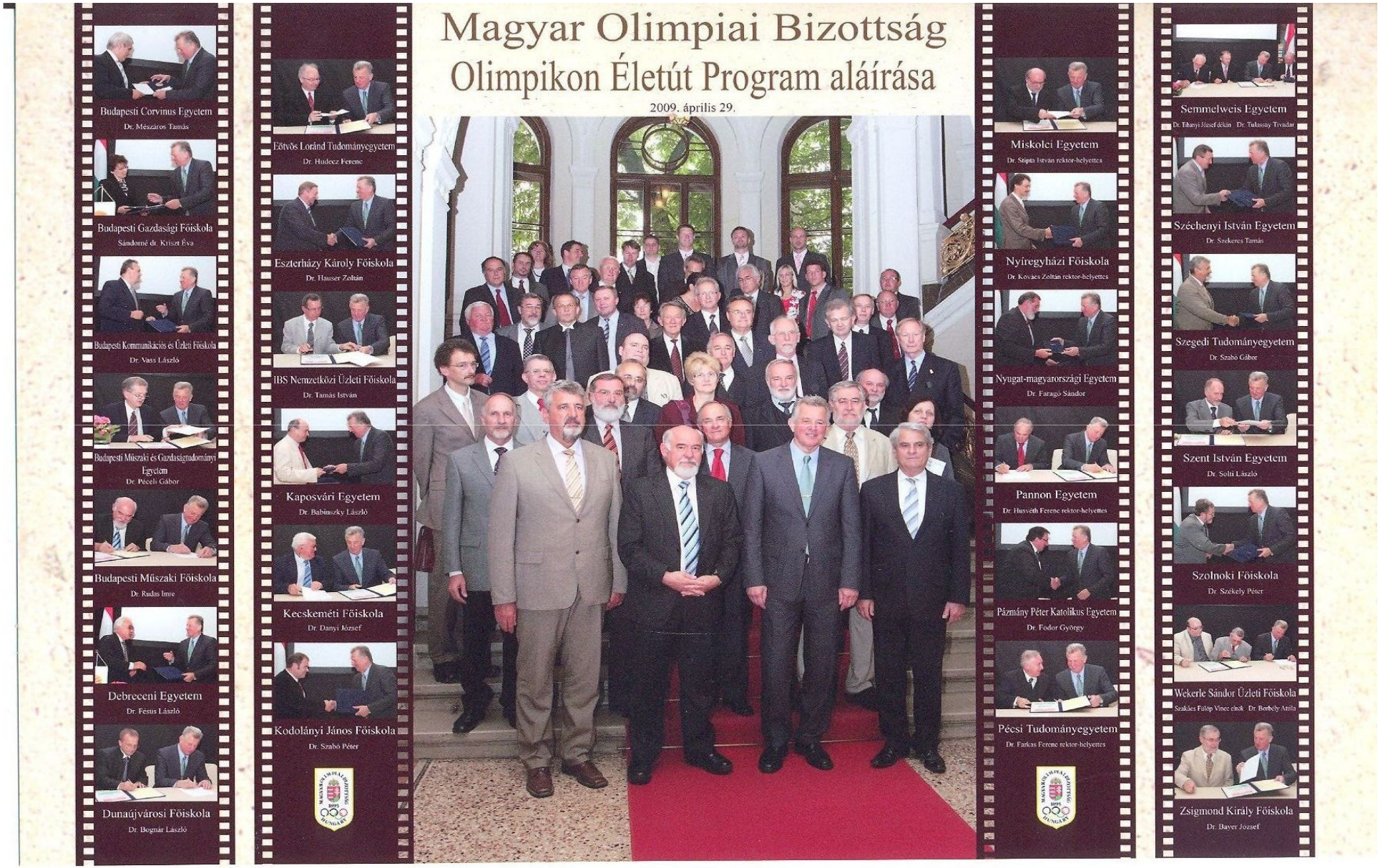
Services may include:

- **sporting assistance and support;**
- **anti-doping regulations;**
- **health and medical assistance and support;**
- **social and family assistance;**
- **legal assistance;**
- **retirement / integration into society;**
- **education.**

HOC “Olympic Career Path”

- August 2002: questionnaire sent out to 853 Olympic hopes, national team members ;
- 332 returned:
  - 43 had already university degree
  - 139 was already university student
  - 166 were interested in pursuing university studies
- HOC invited universities for cooperation. All accepted the invitation;
- By May 2010: 29 universities on board;
- Bi-lateral cooperation agreements – strong legal bond;
- Always HOC President signs with Rector / Dean at University Senate meeting (strong / effective publicity)

April 2009, Renewal of Cooperation Agreements



HOC Supports Universitites with the Following

- Partner universities are allowed to use HOC logo
- Contributes to prepare a joint logo with universities
- Posts on web and printed materials about universities
- Invites university representatives to HOC events
- Helps university events related to Olympic Movement
- Places university advertisements in HOC official publications
- Reports on supported athletes annually

Universities Support Athletes with the Following

- Extra points in the application/entrance exam system
- In case of vacancy at the tuition-free category, athletes is replaced there from tuition category
- In case of being in a tuition category, athlete receives reduction in payment
- Allows athlete to follow an individual study and exam plan
- Allows athlete to change major (study field) or transfer to other HEI
- Provides tutor, extra consultations for free
- Advanced placement in dormitory (single/double rooms)
- Reducing fee or free placement in dorm
- Use of sports facilities

HOC Supports Athletes with the Following

- Contributes to fees of preparatory studies
- Free foreign language courses
- Covers fees of tutors
- Covers tuition fees at university
- Helps in transferring to job market
- Olympic gold/silver/bronze medalists can enroll to universities without time or study field restrictions

Beneficiaries

- 2003/04 35 persons
- 2004/05 104
  2005/06 93
  2006/07 85
  2007/08 55
  2008/09 64
  2009/10 170 (46 at TF, 10 are Olympic Gold medalist – some are 2-3x)
- **Total 408**

Thank you for your attention! Questions and comments are welcome!