

International Olympic Committee - UPSC Notes

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is an important non-governmental organization that looks after the administration of the Olympic Games held all over the world. In this article, students preparing for the [IAS Exam](#) or any other Government Exam can find the relevant details regarding the IOC.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is one of the important **International Organizations** which is a significant topic for the [UPSC Prelims](#). The topic is also important for UPSC Mains for International Relations in the General Studies paper 2 of the [UPSC Syllabus](#).

Tokyo Olympics 2020

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics, originally scheduled to be held from July to August 2020, has been postponed to 2021.

- It is the first such delay in the Olympic Games' 124-year modern history.
- The decision was taken in light of the [COVID-19](#) pandemic spreading swiftly across many countries of the globe.
- The decision is a huge blow to Japan, which invested \$12 billion in the run-up.

Origin of IOC

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is a non-governmental international organisation which came into existence in 1894.

Objectives of IOC

The IOC has the aim of ensuring the regular holding of the Olympic Games and fostering Olympism and the Olympic movement.

What is Olympism?

- Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining, in a balanced whole, the qualities of body, will and mind.
- Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.
- The goal of the Olympic movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair-play.

Structure of IOC

The IOC is a permanent organisation that elects its own members.

- Each member must speak French or English and be a citizen of or reside in a country that has a National Olympic Committee.
- With very few exceptions, there is only one member from any one country.
- Members were originally elected for life, but those elected after 1965 must retire at 75.

- The IOC is the final authority on all questions concerning the Olympic games and the Olympic movement.
- It was for the first time that 204 National Olympic Committees represented their countries at the 2012 London Olympic Games.
- The Executive Board which meets four-five times a year to manage the IOC's affairs has a President elected for an eight-year term and four Vice-Presidents who are each elected for a four-year term.
 - There are usually six members on the Executive Board. These members are elected for a four-year term.
- The administration is carried under the authority of a Director-General and a Secretary-General.
- The Olympic Charter is the codification of the fundamental principles, rules and bye-laws adopted by the IOC.
- It governs the organisation and operation of the Olympic movement and stipulates the conditions for the celebration of the Olympic Games.

Activities of IOC

Under the supreme authority of the IOC, the Olympic movement encompasses organisations, athletes and other persons who agree to be guided by the Olympic Charter.

- The criterion for belonging to the Olympic movement is recognition by the IOC.
- The activity of the Olympic movement is permanent and universal.
- It reaches its peak with the bringing together of the athletes of the world at the great sport festival, the Olympic Games.
- The **Olympic Summer Games** take place during the first year of the Olympiad (period of four years) which they are to celebrate.
- They are the exclusive property of the IOC, which entrusts their organisation to a host city seven years in advance.
- The programme of the Games must include at least 15 of the total number of Olympic sports (sports governed by recognized International Federations and admitted to the Olympic programme by decision of the IOC at least seven year before the Games).