



Towards Torino by Chris Farstad

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1. What are the eligibility requirements for an athlete wishing to participate in the 2006 Torino Games?

To participate in the Torino Games (hereinafter referred to as the “Games”) you must qualify within your national and international sport federations, be selected by your Olympic or Paralympic Committee (COC/CPC), and be eligible according to the rules of your respective international committee (IOC/IPC).

2. What's involved in qualifying, being selected¹ and being eligible for the Games?

1. You must meet the selection criteria established by your international sport federation;
2. You must meet the selection criteria established by your national sport federation;
3. Your national sport federation must select and recommend you to the COC/CPC (for the Games, the COC and CPC are the only bodies authorized to register athletes with the organizing committee);
4. You must meet all of the other conditions established by the COC/CPC, as applicable, such as signing an athlete agreement, and be named to the Canadian team by the COC/CPC.
5. You must respect the eligibility rules established by your respective international committee².

3. Can I contest the selection criteria if I believe they are unfair or inadequate?

It is always possible to contest selection criteria, but you must have a good reason for doing so, particularly as the Games approach, as many potential participants will already have prepared their training and competition schedule according to the qualification criteria (which are often published and communicated far in advance of the event). The best way to avoid disappointment with respect to the selection criteria is to participate in their preparation within your sport federation. We suggest that you consult the *Guidelines on Selection* document available online at www.adrsportred.ca (under the “Resource and Documentation Centre” tab) for more information on this subject.

4. A few practical suggestions to help you succeed while avoiding unnecessary disappointment:

1. We suggest you prepare a calendar that includes all of the following deadlines and information:
 - : : the qualification deadlines stated in the selection criteria of your national and international federations, as applicable;
 - : : the COC/CPC³ deadline for recommendations of participants selected by your national sport federation;

¹ The Olympic selection criteria are available online at www.olympic.ca in the “Torino 2006” section. For information concerning the selection criteria for the Paralympic Games, please contact the appropriate person in your own organization or Rob Needham of the CPC at 604-678-6241.

² These eligibility requirements are outlined in the Olympic Charter (for the Olympic Games) and in the IPC Handbook (for the Paralympic Games). You can consult these documents online by visiting www.olympic.org and www.paralympic.org, and clicking on the sections “Organisation / Mission” and “IPC” respectively.

³ The recommendation deadline is January 20, 2006, for the COC, and February 17, 2006, for the CPC.



:: the COC/CPC deadline to register participants with the Torino Games organizing committee⁴;
:: the dates and locations of training camps and/or qualifying events;
All of this information is very important and could make the difference between your participation in the Games or not, because if a deadline is missed, it may very well be that no one - including the Dispute Resolution Secretariat of the SDRCC - will be able to help you.

2. We suggest that you read carefully the selection and eligibility criteria of your sport federation, the COC/CPC, and the IOC/IPC; if you have questions concerning the criteria, it is a good idea to ask them now to avoid unpleasant surprises or irreversible situations;
3. We suggest that you ensure that your national sport federation and Olympic or Paralympic committee have your complete and current contact information (e-mail, telephone and fax numbers, mailing address, etc.) to allow them to communicate with you quickly if the need arises;
4. We suggest that you find out how your national sport federation plans to communicate any changes made to the selection criteria, internal rules, or other important decisions regarding the Torino Games. Changes are made from time to time, and you should be aware of them immediately in order to make the necessary changes to your own schedule;
5. We suggest that you consult the decisions rendered by the Dispute Resolution Secretariat of the SDRCC with respect to the selection cases for the 2002 Salt Lake City Games and the 2004 Athens Games⁵. These decisions, as well as our straightforward, illustrated **Case Summaries**, will allow you to better understand the legal aspects of this subject as well as the lessons learned from past cases;
6. And finally, we suggest that you communicate with the SDRCC staff at **1-866-733-7767** if you have questions or wish further information.

5. How can I appeal a decision by my national sport federation not to recommend me to the COC/CPC?

You must first refer to the internal appeal policy of your national sport federation in order to understand the applicable appeal deadlines and conditions. In addition, these rules normally provide for a second and final level of appeal to the SDRCC. If time is at a premium and the parties are in agreement and sign an agreement to this effect⁶, it is also possible to submit a request directly to the SDRCC, thus bypassing the internal appeal step.

6. How can I appeal a decision by the COC/CPC not to select me for the Games?

In accordance with the COC/CPC rules applicable to the Games, you may submit a request to the SDRCC, and our mediators or arbitrators will help you resolve the dispute concerning selection by the COC/CPC to the Canadian team.

⁴ The registration deadline for the Torino Organizing Committee is January 30, 2006, for the Olympic Games and February 24, 2006, for the Paralympic Games.

⁵ To access electronic versions of the complete texts and summaries of decisions rendered with respect to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, please refer to the "December 2001 to February 2002" and the "May 2004 to July 2004" sections of the "Jurisprudence Database" on the SDRCC Web site at www.adrsportred.ca

⁶ Templates of mediation and arbitration agreements are available online in the "Resource and Documentation Centre" section of the SDRCC Web site at www.adrsportred.ca.



7. How do I submit a request to the SDRCC?

Simply complete the request form⁷ and send it to the SDRCC. If your right to submit a request to the SDRCC is not covered in the applicable internal appeal policy or the COC/CPC rules applicable to the Games, we will ask you to include with your request a mediation or arbitration agreement signed by the parties⁸.

8. What should I do if I have other questions?

Visit our Web site at www.adrsportred.ca, and contact a member of the SDRCC staff by dialling 1-866-733-7767 (toll-free) or by writing to us at info@adrsportred.ca.

⁷ Request forms are available online in the "Dispute Resolution Secretariat/Forms" section of the SDRCC Web site at www.adrsportred.ca.

⁸ Templates of mediation and arbitration agreements are available online in the "Resource and Documentation Centre" section of the SDRCC Web site at www.adrsportred.ca.