



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

**Sports Department**

Presidents and Secretaries General of the  
**National Olympic Committees**

Presidents and Secretaries General of  
**National Boxing Federations**

Lausanne, 20 July 2020

## **Boxing Road to Tokyo 2020**

Dear NOC and boxing community friends and colleagues

We hope you and your families and sports communities are staying healthy and staying strong. On behalf of the IOC Olympic Boxing Task Force, we would like to thank you once again for your support for the Boxing Road to Tokyo. We would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with a brief update on this important project following our last circular sent on 15 May.

In doing this we would like to reiterate to our friends in the Olympic Movement and the global boxing community that we stand together and remain committed to the boxing pathway towards Tokyo 2020, putting the athletes first and focusing on transparency and credibility.

### **Olympic qualification process**

#### Status of Olympic qualification

Currently, the Boxing Road to Tokyo qualifying events have allocated 112 Olympic quota places through the continental qualifiers (including 16 before the suspension of the European event) out of a total Olympic quota of 286. Together with the already confirmed allocations of the 03 host country quotas, following the conclusion of the

Asian/Oceanian qualifying event, this represents an allocation of 40% of the overall boxing quota places for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The remaining Olympic quotas will be distributed through the two remaining continental events, before the World Final Qualification Event allocates the 53 quotas reserved for worldwide distribution. The IOC Tripartite Commission Invitation Places will then allocate the final 8 Olympic quota places.

#### Updated Tokyo 2020 qualification system text

As communicated previously, the joint [decision](#) by the IOC, Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee and the Japanese Government to reschedule the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 to start on 23 July 2021 has led the Boxing Task Force to publish the updated Tokyo 2020 [Boxing Qualification System](#).

#### Status of remaining qualification events

We remind you that important information on topics such as earned and allocated Olympic quota places thus far in the Continental Olympic Qualifiers for boxing (including the first three days of the European Olympic Qualifier in London), as well as the updated Age Requirements to be respected in the Boxing Road to Tokyo Qualification Events and the boxing tournament in the upcoming Olympic Games can all be found in the Boxing Qualification System at the link above.

We would also like to share a more specific timeline related to the current planning of the Qualifying Events calendar. The Boxing Task Force has the intention of hosting the pending qualification events in the following months of 2021:

#### Europe qualifier (continuation)

Competition dates: February 2021

#### Americas qualifier

Competition dates: March 2021

#### World Qualification Event

Competition dates: May 2021

As previously communicated, the World Qualification event will give athletes a second chance to qualify, and thus, the event will only be open for those boxers who have not yet qualified in their respective weight categories for the Olympic Games.

We understand that like in all other sports, the uncertainty regarding the remaining qualification events is challenging for boxers, teams, NFs and NOCs. We will take the necessary decisions for the benefit of boxers and will provide you with any further updates as soon as possible. Final event details will be communicated no later than 3 months prior to each qualification event.

### **AIBA status**

For the avoidance of doubt, the IOC also has confirmed that the suspension of the IOC's recognition of AIBA will continue until after the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 in 2021, in line with the initial decision. Therefore, all aspects of the Olympic boxing competitions, including but not limited to any and all qualifying competitions and at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, shall remain being organised and operated under the authority of the IOC Executive Board though the Olympic Boxing Task Force.

The enforcement of the regulations and the qualification criteria will be the responsibility of the Boxing Task Force, the respective national federations of the sport and the NOCs in the fields of their respective responsibilities.

### **Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 Update**

The Boxing Task Force is pleased that the competition and training venues originally scheduled to host boxing in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 have been confirmed for the event in 2021.

This is good news for all the boxing National Federations and numerous NOCs who have visited the installations on site visits, and for all those who have prepared the logistical planning for their delegation with the Kokugikan arena and the Sumida Ward Gymnasium as the houses of Olympic boxing at Tokyo 2020.

Furthermore, for the Boxing Task Force and the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Organising Committee, it means that preparations made prior to and after the Boxing Test Event remain valid to a great extent.

The boxing competition and session schedules have also not changed, apart from the change in year from 2020 to 2021.

Because of the delayed Games, you may have heard of the efforts that the IOC, the International Federations and the Organising Committee have been making in order to find optimization opportunities in many aspects of the organisation surrounding the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. All parties involved are fully committed to ensure that the athletes and their experience, along with all technical arrangements, are protected while savings are made, and operations simplified.

In this regard we can confirm that the Field of Play, warm-up areas, training facilities and other areas dedicated to the boxers will be delivered as planned. Other important decisions taken prior to the postponement of the Games, such as the supplier of sport equipment (Taishan) and the athlete-services also remain unchanged.

### **Athlete engagement**

The IOC has built dedicated athlete-focused platforms along with athlete support programmes and athlete engagement strategies. These have been highlighted in recent weeks with campaigns such as the #StayActive and the [Olympic Day](#).

This year's Olympic Day, celebrated on 23 June, featured the world's largest 24 hour digital-first Olympic workout. It included athletes from 22 different sports and was watched by 428 million social media followers. Boxing was well represented by Zeyad Eashash (JOR), who shared his home workout live with the world. It can be seen [here](#).

### **Athlete 365**

We continue to encourage NOCs to visit the [NOCnet](#) and ensure your NFs, athletes and their entourage visit the [Boxing Athlete 365](#) platform for all information related to the Boxing Road to Tokyo. Furthermore, everyone has access to the [Athlete 365](#)

[main page](#), a resourceful site available in 9 different languages. It has a wide range of useful information such as athlete support guides, learning opportunities, and a FAQ section on the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. It also includes programmes, and information related to mental health, athlete safeguarding and a dedicated section on COVID-19, which we have elaborated on further below.

### Athlete Ambassadors

Our [Athlete Ambassadors](#) have placed themselves at the disposal of your boxers to serve as points of contact, as they have their own experience and thoughts to share. They remain in direct contact with the Boxing Task Force, providing their views and concerns in all major decision-making processes. If you or your boxers would like to make contact with them, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@olympicboxing.sport](mailto:info@olympicboxing.sport).

### Feedback

Since the formation of the Boxing Task Force, it has been our priority to establish a transparent relationship with the boxing community worldwide. Throughout the almost one year of this project, established to secure the presence of boxing in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 through a fair and athlete-focused pathway, we have continued to engage and collect feedback.

The publishing of the Boxing Task Force's [Event Regulations](#) in November 2019 was an important step. The feedback received after the implementation of the rules and its modifications in the three qualification events has reiterated the value of the transparency introduced to the qualifier events. The end-of-round display of scores were highly welcomed by both boxers and coaches alike, as well as the many changes implemented regarding the selection process of Referees and Judges.

We very much appreciate the support and words of encouragement received so far and would like to reiterate that it is through these forms of open discussions that we can grow together as a sport, ensuring that the pathway to Tokyo is fair and transparent. We count on you continuing to provide us with your thoughts at [info@olympicboxing.sport](mailto:info@olympicboxing.sport).

### Online seminars

In order to maintain the open dialogue with the boxing community, we are preparing to host online seminars at a continental level, sharing updated information, and getting input from you on all aspects of the Boxing Road to Tokyo.

We encourage the participation of all National Boxing Federations, through athletes, coaches, and other representatives in the online seminars. We will return to you by the end of July with further information including dates, times, and content of the seminars.

### **COVID-19 countermeasures**

The IOC constantly monitors COVID-19 and shares the most updated and accurate available information on the matter, focusing on the health and wellbeing of the athletes. For this, a dedicated [Athlete 365 Coronavirus section](#) containing the latest information is available.

At this site, you can find information on numerous related topics, including training schemes before full opening of training facilities, mental health and the latest anti-doping information from WADA and the ITA.

When it comes to the specifics of boxing and the return to training and competing, our recommendation is to, first and foremost, follow your local governmental instructions. To avoid the spread of the coronavirus, many restrictions and public health guidelines were put in place by the national and regional governments around the globe, and our request is that such measures are followed in respect to the seriousness of the pandemic and its effect on society as a whole.

#### **Boxing-specific considerations:**

The following considerations are suggested by the Boxing Task Force when preparing your personal or collective return to training and competition.

- Resumption of boxing should not compromise the health of individuals or the wider community.

- International evidence suggests, given how the virus is transmitted, that outdoor activities present less risk than indoor activities. So, consideration could be made in the first instance of collective activity in local accessible public outdoor spaces, allowing for social distancing, appropriate hygiene etc.
- Resumption of boxing activity requires a carefully phased return, with clear communication to and from club/gym members as to what will be required. There is a need for widespread education and training of every individual taking part in the resumption of activities in order to understand, enforce and respond to the measures being implemented.
- Combat sports may fall into specific sets of governmental COVID regulations and, therefore, resumption of activities in other sports and their guidelines may not be fully applicable to the resumption of boxing.
- It should also be factored in that anyone returning to boxing and exercise after a period of social isolating and not exercising regularly may be at a greater risk of increased injury. Clubs and individuals should apply a gradual return to mitigate injury risk.
- Risk mitigation is an ongoing exercise, expected to be updated in accordance to availability of new information.

Prior to the resumption of any boxing training within a club / gym environment, a thorough risk assessment must take place with consideration of the factors highlighted above, and the appropriate safety procedures implemented.

It should be noted that consideration can - provided the same risk assessment process is followed and when permitted – be given as to what collective training could take place in local accessible public outdoor spaces. Always allowing for social distancing, appropriate hygiene, cleaning of equipment etc.

**For the avoidance of doubt, none of the above should be implemented until government restrictions and public health guidelines allow for sporting activity to be enacted outside the home environment and household context.**

Returning to boxing after confirmed case of COVID -19:

Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 need firstly to ensure they no longer pose a risk to the local community, and secondly to ensure they have sufficiently

recovered to safely participate in physical activity. **It is recommended that clearance from a doctor is obtained, regardless of local regulation requirements.**

Thank you for your attention and support and we look forward to engaging with you all soon. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to be in contact with us at [info@olympicboxing.sport](mailto:info@olympicboxing.sport) with any questions you may have.

We wish you and your families all the best.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Morinari Watanabe.

Morinari Watanabe

Chair Olympic Boxing Task Force