



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

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

Sports Department

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Boxing Road to Tokyo 2020

As these unprecedented and difficult times linger on, due to the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IOC Boxing Task Force (BTF) would like to share an update on its activities and the revised pathway to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 since the BTF online seminars held on 31 August.

As always, our objective here is to keep the boxing community fully informed of any developments and updates from our side.

Olympic qualification events

Following the rescheduling of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 to start on 23 July 2021, the BTF had published on 11 May 2020, an updated Tokyo 2020 Boxing Qualification System with the hope of being able to confirm the dates and host cities of the remaining qualification events no later than three months prior to the first event (November 2020).

Given the recent developments and ongoing effects of COVID-19 worldwide and in order to ensure a fair and equitable opportunity for all athletes to be able to participate in the qualification events, the BTF has decided to further postpone the remaining Boxing Road to Tokyo events and publish an updated version of the [Boxing Qualification System](#) on 3 November 2020.

New dates for the remaining qualifying events

- **European Olympic Qualifier – Phase 2** (continuation from the day after it was suspended - day 4 of competition): April - May 2021
- **Americas Olympic Qualifier:** May 2021
- **Final World Olympic Qualifier:** June 2021

The exact dates and locations will be confirmed at a later date as we continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and the development of testing measures continue

to evolve. We remain committed to confirming all final details at least 3 months prior to the start of the qualification events.

We would like to reiterate that our main objective is to qualify all athletes through competition, providing the most fair and safe quota allocation process and respecting the structure of the Qualification System. However, more than ever, medical and safety concerns are paramount in any BTF decision.

As a reminder, the existing results and the Olympic quota places earned and allocated thus far in the Continental Olympic Qualifiers for boxing (including the first three days of the European Olympic Qualifier in London) remain valid for the boxing tournament of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Athlete Replacement Policy for the European Olympic Boxing Qualification Event

With the decision of further postponing the remaining qualification events, the European qualifier is now scheduled to finish over a year since its start in March 2020. Taking this into consideration and after consulting our non-competing Athlete Ambassadors, the BTF has decided to implement an Athlete Replacement Policy exclusive to the event in hand.

As you will note in the document [downloadable](#) on our Athlete 365 Boxing page, replacements will be limited to a certain criteria, as summarised below:

Requests to replace an athlete still due to compete will only be considered if the athlete meets all of the following conditions:

- The athlete has not competed (no official result) on the first three days of the event.
- The athlete did not benefit from a seeding position in the Official Draw conducted on 13 March 2020.
- The athlete suffers from a medical condition or has voluntarily retired from the sport.
- The athlete's NF/NOC registers a replacement athlete (reserve boxer) for the given weight category during the registration period (dates TBC).

If the above conditions are met, the approval of the requests is only possible provided that:

- An official request for athlete replacement is jointly submitted by the boxer's NOC and NF, alongside the original registered boxer's written consent.
- The athlete replacement request is made 45 days prior to the first day of competition of the re-start of the European Olympic Boxing Qualification Event in 2021.

The above does not apply to the Americas and World Final qualifiers as competition has not begun and NOCs and NFs will have the opportunity to confirm their athlete participation.

Tokyo 2020 Update

The Organising Committee of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 has been focused on ensuring the best possible experience for delegations and other stakeholders due to participate in the upcoming Olympic Games, with intense COVID-19 countermeasure planning. The IOC, together with Tokyo 2020 and the All Partners Task Force, which includes the World Health Organization (WHO), the IPC and the different branches of Government in Japan, are currently studying a range of scenarios.

The BTF is working alongside the Organising Committee, helping identify the potential countermeasures that may be needed in the Boxing events, while ensuring that the practice of the sport remains as unaffected as possible.

We want to reassure you that the current studies and planning exercises are not considering “if” the Olympic Games will take place in 2021, but rather focused on “how” it will take place. The athletes continue to be the centrepiece of the Games, and all efforts are being taken to ensure that their experience as Olympians are a safe and memorable one.

2nd Online Seminars

Following the success of last August’s online seminars, the BTF would like to host a second round of online seminars on Thursday, 26 November 2020, in order to allow the boxing community to continue to engage with our team.

The online seminars are an opportunity to have questions answered and doubts clarified. We kindly ask you to send your questions in advance to info@olympicboxing.sport by **16 November**, as we intend to share the questions and answers during the seminars.

More details on times and on how to connect will be shared in the upcoming weeks.

We continue to encourage the NOCs and NFs to inform their athletes and entourage about the [Boxing Athlete 365](#) platform for all relevant information on Boxing. The [FAQ section](#) has been updated following the questions we received during the online seminar and over the last couple of months. For the latest IOC-provided general information on COVID-19 considerations for athletes, physical and mental health advice, anti-doping, and details on the IOC’s #StayStrong campaign, please visit the [Coronavirus page](#) on Athlete 365. It’s available in 9 languages. NOCs also have access to the boxing section of the [NOCnet](#) Games Preparation.

AIBA Status

As per the IOC Executive Board’s decision dated 22 May 2019, approved by the IOC Session on 26 June 2019, the IOC recognition of AIBA remains suspended and its review shall not start before the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, which will now take place in 2021. As also provided in this decision, the evolution of AIBA’s situation and progress towards compliance with Rule 25 of the Olympic Charter and the IOC Code of Ethics will continue to be monitored through the Special Monitoring Committee including the outcome of the AIBA Ordinary Congress 2020 due to be held virtually on December 12-13.

As the abovementioned falls outside the BTF mandate we want to take the opportunity to simply confirm that for the remaining Olympic Boxing Qualifying Events and the boxing tournament at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 AIBA will not be involved at any level.

Closing remarks

Your understanding and partnership during these challenging times are much appreciated by the BTF, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with the world boxing community during these difficult times. The Boxing Road to Tokyo may have become a bumpier one for many of us, but we are certain that the efforts we are all putting in place will be worthwhile when we meet in the Kokugikan Arena, in Tokyo next year.

We remain at your disposal should you have any questions and look forward to staying in close contact.

Please take care and stay safe.

With many thanks and very best regards,

Boxing Task Force