



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

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

Lausanne, 15 February 2021

Subject: Tokyo 2020 boxing Olympic qualifying path to be restructured

Dear NOCs and Boxing NFs, dear friends in boxing,

We hope this letter finds all of you and your boxing communities well.

We greatly appreciate the very open dialogue and partnership we have shared with each of you as we have developed and delivered the Boxing Road to Tokyo. Each step of this journey has been built on putting the boxers first and reflecting the input we have received from athletes, technical experts, National Federations (NFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

In this regard, like the International Federations for each of the sports on the programme of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, we have been reviewing the current challenges to international travel and related restrictions in many countries, and the resulting impacts on a fair and equitable Olympic qualification process.

In the past 10 days, we have consulted all NOCs, NFs, our technical experts, our boxing Athlete Ambassadors and medical experts for their input, to understand the individual situations and considerations for the remaining Olympic boxing qualification events.

The main consensus of your feedback on the remaining Olympic qualification process was as follows:

- i. The importance of safeguarding the minimum period of 30 days between consecutive events (i.e. the last Continental Olympic Qualifier and the Final World Qualifier, and the Final World Qualifier and the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020), especially given the current situation;
- ii. To ensure fair and safest possible conditions for the boxers from all regions, including having the same opportunity to recover and properly prepare for both the qualifiers and, more importantly, the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020; and
- iii. Additional concerns regarding the ever-evolving travel restrictions, quarantine requirements and your respective governmental policies that could affect the

athletes' preparation timelines, their ability and ability to participate in the Olympic qualifiers and the presence of technical officials at these qualifiers.

The IOC Boxing Task Force (BTF) met on 12 February 2021 to discuss your feedback and possible scenarios. It fully agreed that the health and safety of the athletes had to be the focus, along with prioritising the Continental Olympic Qualifiers. This prioritisation of the continental events:

- a. Ensures that athletes of all regions have a fair and equal opportunity to qualify;
- b. Increases the time for athlete recovery and appropriate preparation for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, reinforcing our focus on medical and safety considerations; and
- c. Protects the BTF rankings and seeding system for the Tokyo 2020 boxing tournament.

Therefore, after exploring all possible scenarios, the BTF has reflected your feedback and decided to restructure the remaining parts of the boxing qualification pathway for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 as detailed below.

Completion of continental qualification events

As you know, we have completed the African and Asian/Oceanian continental qualification events, and partially completed the European qualification event.

European Olympic Qualifier

Reflecting the challenges reported by many European NOCs and NFs, and to maximise time for preparation and the opportunity for participation, the European Olympic Qualifier, initially scheduled to be held in London (GBR) in April 2021, has now been pushed back to June 2021. The location and dates will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Americas Olympic Qualifier

The Americas Olympic Qualifier has been confirmed to take place in Buenos Aires (ARG) from 10 to 16 May 2021.

Replacement of World Olympic Qualifier with use of BTF rankings

As a consequence of prioritising the Continental Olympic Qualifiers, and the rescheduling of the European Olympic Qualifier, the final stage of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic boxing qualification process has been restructured. The final World Olympic Qualifier, scheduled to take place in Paris (FRA) in June 2021, will not be held.

The 53 quota places (32 men and 21 women) planned to be allocated at the final World Olympic Qualifier will now be allocated equally across the four regions (Africa, Americas, Asia/Oceania and Europe) and all the weight categories. Following the fundamental principle of universality, one nominal quota (by name) will be allocated to the best ranked athlete not yet qualified per region and per weight category, as per the [BTF rankings](#) upon the conclusion of each respective continental event.

This ensures a new reallocation pathway, which is based on international on-field results recorded over the past four years (2017-2021), including but not limited to the BTF Olympic Qualification Events.

To ensure the utmost transparency and integrity of the allocation process, the BTF rankings were reviewed by an external auditor to ensure that all results have been accounted for accurately and in compliance with the BTF's "[Summary on Ranking & Seeding for the Olympic Boxing Qualifying Events and the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020](#)".

Updating the qualification system text

Please be assured that all quota places that were allocated at the Africa, Asia-Oceania and European Olympic Qualifiers in 2020 will remain allocated.

In addition, the allocation of the remaining quota places at the upcoming Americas Olympic Qualifier and resumption of the European Olympic Qualifier is confirmed as per the current version (published in November 2020) of the [Tokyo 2020 Qualification System for Boxing](#).

An updated version of the Tokyo 2020 Qualification System for Boxing - reflecting the aforementioned changes - will be notified to you as soon as possible following the formal approval of the IOC Executive Board, which is expected by the end of February 2021.

The BTF would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing collaboration and commitment to protecting the athletes and the sport of boxing, and for your great partnership on the Boxing Road to Tokyo.

Stay safe and stay strong.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Morinari Watanabe', written in a cursive style.

Morinari Watanabe
IOC Boxing Task Force Chair