

INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

International Olympic  
Committee (OLYMPICS)

MUNUC 34



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## CHAIR LETTERS

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC 34 and the International Olympic Committee! On behalf of myself and the rest of the dias team, we are so happy to have you. This year we are so excited to be running this committee seeing as this is an Olympic year and the topics we are discussing here at the conference will be playing out in real-time on the world stage. In this committee, you will be debating and proposing new criteria for potential host cities and/or how to combat doping among Olympic athletes. Both of these topics are currently being discussed and debated in the real world and we are eager to hear your ideas.

For a little bit of background about me, I am a second year here at the University of Chicago and I have participated in Model UN since I was a sophomore in high school. Last year, I was also an assistant chair for the INTERPOL Committee at MUNUC 33. I am a political science major, with a minor in biology, and outside of school and MUN, I am a member of the Delta Gamma sorority. I also am a huge movie buff, a big college football fan (go Irish!), and my hobbies are that of a seventy year old (think reading, needlepoint, and watching Downton Abbey on PBS).

I am so looking forward to meeting all of you and seeing what inventive solutions you are going to bring to our committee. If you have any questions about the conference, UChicago, or just want to talk about the Olympics, please feel free to reach out!

I leave you with the slogan of the IOC: faster, higher, stronger together.

Kind regards,

Anna Katz

[annakatz29@uchicago.edu](mailto:annakatz29@uchicago.edu)

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the IOC! My name is Pierce, and I'll be your Co-Chair this year. As Anna said, we can't wait to work with you over the course of the conference! I'm a sophomore at UChicago and a public policy major (national security specialization) on a pre-med track. I'm also a cadet in the US Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps which I hope will lead me to serve as a doctor. When I'm not cramming for exams I like to spend my time outdoors or watching the classics of animated comedy (like Archer and South Park). Like my Co-Chair, Anna, I was an assistant chair on the INTERPOL Committee during MUNUC 33. I attended my first MUN conference as an eighth grader and I've loved it ever since. I'm really excited to be a part of your MUN experience this year.

Who doesn't love the Olympics? Cheering on your country's athletes in your favorite sports has become a global phenomenon; however, few people understand the amount of effort and complexity that goes into planning and running the Olympics. Over the course of this conference you'll be considering two topics that are some of the most pressing for the future of the Olympics: ensuring hosts are environmentally friendly, economically stable, and human rights conscious as well as tackling the pervasive use of performance enhancing drugs in the games. These wouldn't be our topics if they had simple answers, and we expect debate to be complex. By the end of the conference our hope is that you'll gain a better understanding of the Olympics, as well as the importance and impact they hold even after their closing ceremonies. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. I can't wait to meet you all!

Sincerely,

Pierce Pramuka

[piercep@uchicago.edu](mailto:piercep@uchicago.edu)

## HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

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Established in 1894, the International Olympics Committee (IOC) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit sport organization.<sup>1</sup> The organization is tasked with the mission of “promot[ing] Olympism throughout the world and [leading] the Olympic Movement.”<sup>2</sup> The key values of Olympism have evolved over the years since they were first written down in the Olympic Charter. As of now, Olympism represents “excellence, friendship and respect.”<sup>3</sup> Together, these values form the foundation of the Olympic Movement which aims to build a better world through the education and practice of sport.<sup>4</sup> As is hinted in its mission, the main responsibilities of the IOC go beyond overseeing the celebration of the Olympic Games, although this is definitely one of the most important tasks. Other key areas of the IOC's job include supporting other sport organizations, facilitating the development of sport activities that abide by Olympism, promoting social justice and equity through sport, and strengthening sport integrity.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “International Olympic Committee - History, Principles & Financing,” International Olympic Committee, November 10, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/overview>.

<sup>2</sup> “International Olympic Committee - History, Principles & Financing,” International Olympic Committee, October 6, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/mission>.

<sup>3</sup> “International Olympic Committee - History, Principles & Financing,” International Olympic Committee, October 6, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-values>.

<sup>4</sup> “Olympic Movement - People Inspired by the Values of Olympism,” International Olympic Committee, November 25, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-movement>.

<sup>5</sup> “International Olympic Committee - History, Principles & Financing,” International Olympic Committee, November 10, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/overview>.

# TOPIC A: PROPOSING HOST COUNTRY CRITERIA

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## Statement of the Problem

Who should get to host the Olympic Games? Since the first modern Olympics in 1896, twenty-three different countries have hosted the Olympics, nine of whom have hosted both Summer and Winter Games.<sup>6</sup> To be granted the privilege of hosting the games is a great honor and provides nations with a unique opportunity to showcase their country and culture, as well reap potential economic and social benefits. On the other hand, the Olympics can also be a tremendous burden for the host nation, and if mismanaged, a logistical nightmare. It is the job of the International Olympic Committee to choose a country that is up to the task and worthy of this prestigious opportunity. Your task as delegates is to improve upon the existing criteria for potential host nations so that the Olympics can logistically be the best event possible while continuing to be a celebration of athleticism and international cooperation.

### *Existing Selection Process*

The IOC Session, the most powerful of all IOC organs, meets once a year to discuss and vote on the most pressing and important issues facing the Olympic Games. It is at the Session where host cities are chosen. Each Session member (with the exception of the member from the candidate nation) has one vote, cast by a secret ballot. If multiple cities are in contention, there are multiple rounds of voting in which the city with the fewest votes is eliminated each round until one city has a majority of votes.<sup>7</sup>

Each country may only put forward one city per session, decided upon by that country's National Olympic Committee. The IOC Executive Board then creates Future Host Commissions (FHC). These commissioners draft reports on interested host cities, including information on economic,

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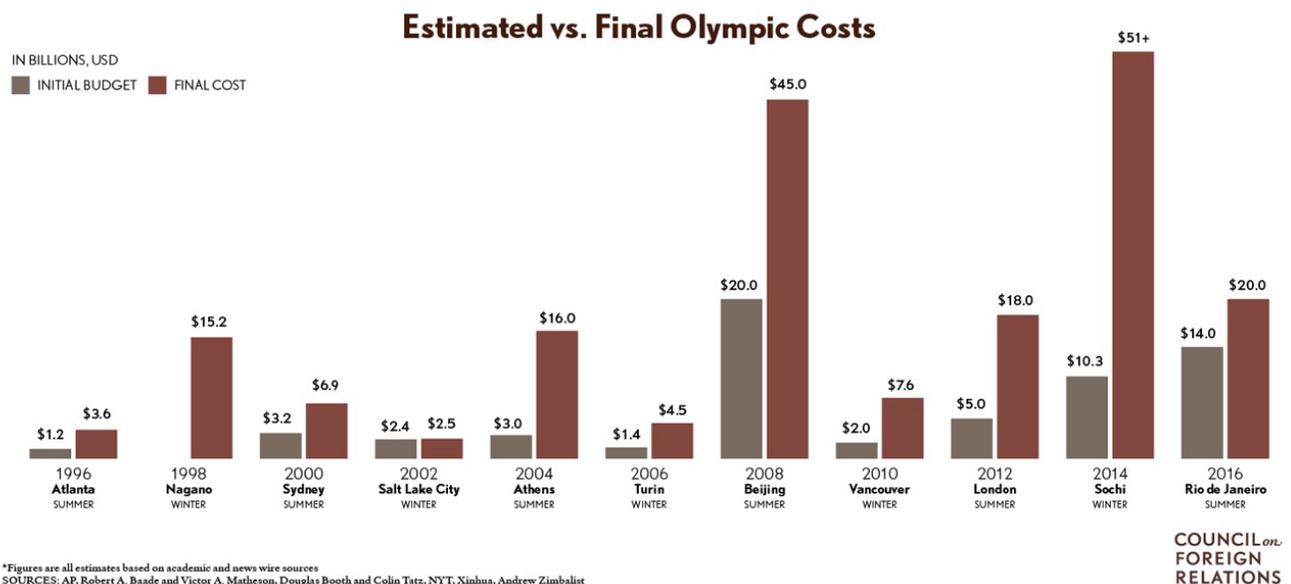
<sup>6</sup> Robert Wood, "Olympic Games Host Countries," Topend Sports Website, 2010, <https://www.topendsports.com/events/summer/hosts/list-countries.htm>, accessed 6/14/2021

<sup>7</sup> "Who chooses the host for future Olympic Games," International Olympic Committee, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/faq/roles-and-responsibilities-of-the-ioc-and-its-partners/who-chooses-the-host-for-future-olympic-games>, accessed 6/14/2

geographic, and societal considerations. Executive Board members review these reports and recommendations made by the FHC. If the Executive Board endorses the host, its report and recommendations are submitted to the Session to be voted upon.<sup>8</sup>

### Economic Concerns

Hosting the Olympics can be an economic double-edged sword. On the one hand, it can provide nations with a significant economic boost thanks to the increase in the service sector and influx of tourists. On the other hand, the Olympics can be a massive strain on a country's economy. The host country must finance the construction of athletic venues not already existing in or near the host city, the Olympic Village, the Opening Ceremonies spectacle, and the infrastructure necessary to manage the flood of spectators.



The privilege of hosting an Olympics comes with a hefty price tag. Beijing 2008 cost \$45 billion, Sochi 2014 cost \$50 billion, and Pyeongchang 2018 cost \$13 billion (\$6 billion more than was initially

<sup>8</sup> "Olympic Charter" 7/17/2020, [https://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/General/EN-Olympic-Charter.pdf#\\_ga=2.217638933.2063900527.1572851862-1492005220.1568367490,70-72](https://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/General/EN-Olympic-Charter.pdf#_ga=2.217638933.2063900527.1572851862-1492005220.1568367490,70-72)

<sup>9</sup> James McBride, "The Economics of Hosting the Olympic Games," Council on Foreign Relations, 1/19/2018

projected).<sup>10</sup> By an average of 172%, every Olympic Games, both summer and winter, has been over-budget since 1960. These costs range from 22 million USD to 21.9 billion USD.<sup>11</sup>

To host an Olympic Games is to gamble that costs incurred during preparation will be offset by the economic boost that comes from tourism, broadcasting deals, sponsorships, and ticket sales. From that amount, the IOC retains over half of television revenue, which makes up the most sizable portion of the generated profits. Unfortunately, cities generally lose money by hosting the Olympics. While economic success is dependent on a number of factors, such as existing infrastructure and access to natural resources, more often than not, cities are left with a deficit. In fact, the last profitable Games was Los Angeles 1984.<sup>12</sup>

As a result, fewer and fewer countries have made bids for the Games. In 2002 and 2004, there were nine and eleven bids, respectively. The 2022 Games had only two bids, and the 2024 Games had three.<sup>13</sup> Clearly, economic limitations act as a barrier for diversity in the variety of host cities. Delegates must figure out how to balance the practical elements of financing the Olympics, while ensuring that hosting really is an international activity and not limited to only a select few number of countries. Furthermore, delegates should consider which nations have historically expressed a desire to host the Olympics, as well as those who would like to host in the future, and to what extent criteria should be tailored towards those countries. How can we make the Olympics inclusive, while still ensuring that they are run effectively and efficiently and not inadvertently hurting host nations that cannot cover the cost?

### ***Environmental Concerns***

Another important factor that should be considered when granting a city the honor of hosting the Olympics is how the local environment will be impacted. Any large-scale construction project will

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<sup>10</sup> James McBride, "The Economics of Hosting the Olympic Games," Council on Foreign Relations, 1/19/2018

<sup>11</sup> Nygaard, Gjersing Nielsen, "The Unpredictable Financial Costs of Hosting the Olympic Games," Play the Game, 2/23/2021 [https://www.playthegame.org/news/comments/2021/1014\\_the-unpredictable-financial-costs-of-hosting-the-olympic-games/](https://www.playthegame.org/news/comments/2021/1014_the-unpredictable-financial-costs-of-hosting-the-olympic-games/)

<sup>12</sup> Gus Mojica "The 1984 Olympics Marks the Last Time the Games Were Profitable," Sportscasting, 4/7/2020 <https://www.sportscasting.com/the-1984-summer-olympics-marks-the-last-time-the-games-were-profitable/>

<sup>13</sup> "Why Hosting the Olympics Isn't Worth it Anymore," Business Insider, 2/5/2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obXJGZgR1BU>

inevitably result in some environmental costs, but these should be minimized wherever possible. The IOC is a staunch supporter of sustainability and considers it an important element of the Olympic Movement. The Olympic Movement is defined as, “the concerted, organised, universal and permanent action, carried out under the supreme authority of the IOC, of all individuals and entities who are inspired by the values of Olympism.”<sup>14</sup>

There are many factors that should be taken into account when thinking about the Olympics and their environmental impact. For example, constructing stadiums and arenas tends to be far more environmentally costly than making adjustments to pre-existing structures. If construction does need to be done, locations should be chosen carefully so that they can minimize deforestation and the disruption of ecosystems. The country should also demonstrate that they can sustainably power the venues and Olympic Village and responsibly dispose of waste. Furthermore, countries should have plans for their venues after the Games are over. In Beijing after the 2008 Games, the Bird’s Nest stadium continues to attract tourists and will be “recycled” for the 2022 Games’ Opening and Closing ceremonies, as will the Water Cube aquatics center. But other structures like the beach volleyball stadium, BMX track, and white water rapid track have been overrun with weeds and garbage.<sup>15</sup>

In the spirit of the IOC’s commitment to sustainability, it is important that host cities develop contingency plans for their venues, as well as demonstrate their ability to prepare for and host the Games in a responsible and sustainable manner. Currently, nations are required to demonstrate their intent to host sustainably, but the reality often falls short of the ideal and promises of ecological protection go unfilled.

### ***Human Rights***

The final and perhaps most important element that should be taken into consideration when deciding which city will host the Olympics is human rights. It would be completely contrary to the spirit of the Olympics to bestow the honor of hosting upon a nation that is known to be violating the rights of its citizens. As a part of the Olympic Movement, the IOC is committed to the promotion and

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<sup>14</sup> “Olympic Movement,” IOC, <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-movement>

<sup>15</sup> Francesca Street, “Beijing’s Eerie Abandoned Olympic Venues,” CNN, 8/15/2018, <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/beijing-abandoned-olympic-venues/index.html>

protection of human rights around the world, as stated in the Olympic Charter and IOC Code of Ethics. The IOC has continued this work through the creation of a Supplier Code to ensure that it partners with ethical businesses. Furthermore, the IOC commissions leading human rights experts to develop reports on the subject.

In 2017, the IOC made changes to the “Operational Requirements” of host cities to ensure that the games are hosted in countries that are not only without major human rights violations, but committed to the development and further protection of human rights. Nations who do not meet this criteria will not be selected to host the Games. It is crucial that the IOC works to not only maintain, but improve its reputation as representing the best of humanity both in Session and in competition. These expectations extend to each and every person, from individual athletes to top officials in IOC boardrooms.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> “Protection and Respect of Human Rights,” International Olympic Committee, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/human-rights>

## History of the Problem

The IOC has, in the past, made some controversial decisions regarding their choices for host city for the Olympic Games. The Munich Olympics in 1936 at the time of the rise of Nazi Germany, comes to mind. In 1980, the Soviet Union hosted the Summer Olympics in Moscow at the height of the Cold War. This resulted in 65 countries and regions boycotting the Games, including the United States, in protest over the Soviet Union's presence in Afghanistan.

There are a wide array of reasons as to why a potential host city may be considered controversial or objectionable in the eyes of other nations. These reasons range from purely logistical concerns to complex political agendas. For our purposes, we will largely be exploring and discussing three areas of consideration: economic, environmental, and humanitarian.

### ***Economic Concerns***

Hosting the Olympic Games is a herculean feat. Host cities are required to not only provide the athletic complexes in which athletes will compete, but organize and perform Opening and Closing Ceremonies, add to and augment existing infrastructure such as airports, roads, and railways to handle the influx of tourists, house and feed athletes, and implement measures to ensure the safety of both athletes and spectators. All of this requires a very large amount of money and few nation's economies are strong enough to carry out this task without incurring economic fallout.

According to economists, the Olympic Village can cost \$3 billion, media facilities \$1 billion, and that is just the tip of the iceberg. Maintaining stadiums can cost around \$30 million each year. Yet, many cities have let these venues fall into disrepair, decreasing property value. Bidding alone can cost a small fortune. In a bid for the 2016 Olympics, Chicago spent an estimated \$100 million on their campaign. Furthermore, the majority of profits come from network deals, but in recent years, the IOC has been taking larger and larger percentages from these media deals. What was once about a 4% take from revenues in the 1990s, was up to 70% at the Rio de Janeiro Games.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> "Why Hosting the Olympics Isn't Worth it Anymore," Business Insider, 2/5/2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obXJGZgR1BU>

While it is not the responsibility of the IOC to tell cities how to spend their money regarding the Olympics, it is vital that the IOC chooses hosts that demonstrate that they can handle the costs of hosting, ensure the quality of the Games, and preserve their economy to the point where their own citizens are not burdened with the repercussions of poor planning.

By examining the problems that have arisen in the planning of past Olympics, we can better determine how to award Games going forward. The Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016 is largely considered to be one of the most economically and logistically fraught Games in recent history. At the time, Brazil was facing one of the worst economic recessions since the 1990s. Simultaneously, the government was rife with fraud and money-laundering, resulting in Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff being stripped of her powers after impeachment.<sup>18</sup> Carlos Nuzman, head of the Brazilian Olympic Committee was also arrested amid money-laundering charges.<sup>19</sup>

Security also became an area of great concern, with Mayor Eduardo Paes stating that Rio has had “big issues” heightening security.<sup>20</sup> Homicides reached 2,036 in the first four months of 2016, compared to 1,818 in 2015.<sup>21</sup> Members of the Australian Paralympic Team encountered a gunpoint robbery.<sup>22</sup> Australian rowing coaches were also robbed at knifepoint, and Australian and Greek athletes reported personal items stolen from their rooms in the Olympic Village.<sup>23</sup> As of June of 2016, Rio was still awaiting \$860 million that was supposed to be granted from the federal government for security improvements.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Ray, Michael and Wallenfeldt, Jeff, "Dilma Rousseff". Encyclopedia Britannica, 10 Dec. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dilma-Rousseff>. Accessed 25 June 2021.

<sup>19</sup> Miguel Hernandez, "Nuzman Expecting Acquittal in Trial," *Around the Rings*, 10/2/20, [http://aroundtherings.com/site/A\\_\\_101149/Title\\_\\_Nuzman-Expecting-Acquittal-in-Trial/292/Articles](http://aroundtherings.com/site/A__101149/Title__Nuzman-Expecting-Acquittal-in-Trial/292/Articles)

<sup>20</sup> "Rio Mayor Promises Crackdown on Violence," CBS News, 10/19/2009, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rio-mayor-promises-crackdown-on-violence/>

<sup>21</sup> "Mutilated Body Parts Wash up on Beach next to Rio Olympics Volleyball Venue," *The Independent*, August 2, 2016, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/rio-olympics-2016-mutilated-body-parts-wash-up-next-to-volleyball-venue-on-copacabana-beach-a7110226.html>.

<sup>22</sup> "Greek official suffers \$11,000 theft and Australian rowing coaches robbed at knifepoint as Rio crime targets Olympians," *Stuff*, 8/8/2016 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/olympics/82914903/australian-olympic-rowing-coaches-robbed-at-knifepoint-as-rio-safety-fears-mount>

<sup>23</sup> "Greek official suffers \$11,000 theft and Australian rowing coaches robbed at knifepoint as Rio crime targets Olympians," *Stuff*, 8/8/2016 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/olympics/82914903/australian-olympic-rowing-coaches-robbed-at-knifepoint-as-rio-safety-fears-mount>

<sup>24</sup> Mauricio Savarese, "Clashes rage in Rio as police try to capture drug trafficker," *Associated Press*, 6/29/2019 <https://web.archive.org/web/20160630222457/http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/27c15bd608de4ecc868e8be4922b8d56/clashes-rage-rio-police-try-capture-drug-trafficker>

Another major economic concern from this Olympics was sanitary conditions in Rio. Guanabara Bay where sailing and windsurfing events took place was heavily polluted and only about 17% of Rio's sewage was treated before it seeped into the Bay. Paes stated that it was possible the city would not be able to reach its goal of 80% sewage treatment and that the projected goal at the time of the Olympics was 65%. Drug-resistant bacteria was also found in the Carioca River and said to be "1.7 million times the level of what would be considered hazardous on a Southern California beach."<sup>25</sup> The pools used for diving and water polo turned green and produced a sulfuric smell due to a lack of water treatment chemicals, causing eye irritation, burning, and discomfort<sup>26</sup>. Finally, organizers were extremely behind schedule and there were reports of the Village being "unlivable" due to issues such as exposed wiring, blocked toilets, and leaking pipes.

While all Games are bound to have logistical hiccups, much of the organizational fiascos from the Rio Games can clearly be tied back to their weakened economy. In 2016, Brazil was in the midst of a recession, with GDP down 3.6% and unemployment up 11.8%.<sup>27</sup> To make any augmentations on such a large scale costs millions, if not billions of dollars, and would pose a challenge to even the strongest of economies. This combined with the rampant corruption in Brazil's government made it more difficult to improve the infrastructure, sanitation, and safety in preparation for the Olympics.

To be clear, these types of issues are not exclusive to Rio 2016, but this specific Olympics does serve as an excellent example of what can happen when the Olympics are hosted by a country that does not have its economic ducks in a row. To the Brazilians' credit, the event did largely come together in the end, but not without significant missteps and legitimate concerns. Furthermore, the Brazilian government failed to be able to pick up the tab they had run up, with the burden of the Olympics ultimately resting upon the Brazilian citizens. One year after the close of the Games, the Organizing Committee still owed creditors around \$40 million, with which the IOC declined to help. Contrary to the hope that the Olympics would help to revamp Rio, crime continued to spike in 2017 reaching the

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<sup>25</sup> "Rio Olympics waters '1.7 million' times above hazardous limits," Irish Times, 7/31/2015  
<https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/other-sports/rio-olympics-waters-1-7-million-times-above-hazardous-levels-1.2303203>

<sup>26</sup> Sarah Lyall, "Another Pool Turns Green; Chemical Imbalance is Blamed," New York Times, 8/13/2016,  
[https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/11/sports/olympics/green-water-pool-rio-games.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/11/sports/olympics/green-water-pool-rio-games.html?_r=0)

<sup>27</sup> "Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean," 2016,  
[https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40826/1601259BP\\_Brazil\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40826/1601259BP_Brazil_en.pdf)

highest rates since 2009 and the state continued to be unable to pay teachers, police, and hospital workers.<sup>28</sup>

### ***Environmental Concerns***

Another element that should be taken into consideration when developing criteria for prospective host cities is environmental considerations. The IOC is committed to the protection and preservation of the environment, as well as making the Games as sustainable as possible. In 2020, sustainability was established as one of the three pillars of the Olympic Agenda. Recognizing its responsibility within the international community, the IOC “focuses on infrastructure and natural sites, sourcing and resource management, mobility, workforce, and climate.”<sup>29</sup> With that in mind, it is important that the Games are awarded to cities that can demonstrate that they can prepare and host in an environmentally friendly manner.

Historically, the IOC was not as environmentally minded as it is today and the green-ness of the Games was largely dependent upon the individual countries. This led to mixed results. Ahead of the 2008 Beijing Games, Beijing upgraded its sewage system and wastewater treatment.<sup>30</sup> They also utilized rainwater collection and reuse systems for the Olympic Village. Additionally, regulations were put in place from November 2007 to September 2008 to improve air quality. Coal plants were required to decrease emissions, gasoline prices were increased, cement and concrete plants were closed, and vehicles alternated days on which they could be driven.<sup>31</sup> These measures drastically reduced air pollution for the duration of their implementation. Unfortunately, after the Olympics, the measures were lifted and the air quality reverted to its previous state and many venues constructed for the Olympics now sit vacantly wasting away. Ideally, the Olympics would provide cities with the opportunity to implement lasting changes for the betterment of the environment.

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<sup>28</sup> Drehs, Wayne and Lajolo, Mariana, “After the Flame,” ESPN, 8/10/17, [https://www.espn.com/espn/feature/story/\\_/id/20292414/the-reality-post-olympic-rio](https://www.espn.com/espn/feature/story/_/id/20292414/the-reality-post-olympic-rio)

<sup>29</sup> “Sustainability,” International Olympic Committee, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/sustainability>

<sup>30</sup> “Beijing Olympics 2008: An urban transformation,” United Nations, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=99&nr=252&menu=1449>

<sup>31</sup> Pablo Eguiguren, “The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games: Spillover Effects on Air Quality and Health,” Chicago Policy Review, 2/12/2016, <https://chicagopolicyreview.org/2016/02/12/the-2008-beijing-olympic-games-spillover-effects-on-air-quality-and-health/>

The Sochi Olympics of 2014 were perhaps one of the least environmentally friendly Olympics to date. Beginning with the abolishment of a law preventing the hosting of large-scale sporting events within Sochi National Park, rare species of trees were logged in order to streamline construction. Organizers did not survey their construction sites ahead of time, and as a result, 3,000 hectares of forests were logged, disrupting migration routes and risking the survival of endangered animal populations<sup>32</sup> residing in the Mzymta River, Black Sea, and Aibga Mountain Range.

Tons of hazardous waste were also illegally dumped in “water protected zone[s],” endangering drinking water. Over 8,000 acres of Sochi National Park were cleared and while three new trees were planted for every tree chopped down, it was done in a manner that would not restore the impacted habitats.<sup>33</sup> Despite promises from Russian officials that Sochi would be a “zero waste” Olympics, many felt that choosing Sochi as the location was already setting organizers up to fail on this front. According to Simon Lewis, a sports sustainability consultant from the U.K., “If you look at the environmental footprint of hosting a Games—including things like travel, construction and hospitality—doing that halfway up a mountain in what is often a delicate and pristine environmental habitat is going to be difficult... Sochi should never have happened in that location. It was a poor decision by IOC members based on poor information.”<sup>34</sup>

Even the Sydney Olympics in 2000, which were billed as the first Green Games, had its fair share of environmentally detrimental activities. While the Australians did utilize solar power and water conservation to a significant extent, the chemicals in the air conditioner and refrigerator have been known to destroy the ozone layer. The usage of PVC piping and carbon emissions from transportation still negatively impact the environment.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Igor Chestin, “Sochi Olympics have left a trail of environmental destruction,” *The Conversation*, 2/14/2014

<sup>33</sup> Laura Beans and Kevin Mathews, “4 Reasons the Sochi Olympics Are an Environmental Disaster,” 2/12/2014

<sup>34</sup> Kharunya Paramaguru, “The Not So Sustainable Sochi Winter Olympics,” *Time*, 1/30/2014, <https://time.com/2828/sochi-winter-olympics-environmental-damage/>

<sup>35</sup> “How Greed Are the Aussie Games?” *Wired*, 9/15/2000, <https://www.wired.com/2000/09/how-green-are-the-aussie-games/>

## ***Humanitarian Concerns***

Finally, and most importantly, is the matter of human rights. The IOC is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, and as such, requires that host countries are in alignment with internationally recognized standards for these rights. Furthermore, host cities must outline how they will protect the rights of workers, employees, athletes, journalists, and local communities.<sup>36</sup>

Although these human rights protections from the IOC are relatively recent, the Olympics have a long history of serving as a forum for the advancement of human rights. Perhaps most outstanding is the example of Jesse Owens' performance in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Hitler had bid for the Olympics intending to showcase both Nazi prowess and his belief in a racial hierarchy. His plans were dashed when Owens, a black American, won four gold medals to the applause of German spectators.

The Olympics have the potential to advance human rights across the globe; since 1936 this potential has been formally codified by the IOC in standards and policies that it requires for its participants and hosts. Unfortunately, many believe that the IOC has not done enough to protect human rights: how to protect athletes from discriminations against their race, gender, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or political beliefs in the host country? How to ensure that all workers and laborers involved in the Olympics are treated fairly, which includes no abuse, reasonable work hours, and fair and prompt wages? How to protect residents from being evicted out of their houses because the land will be converted to an Olympics venue? How to ensure that the host country honors freedom of speech and does not censor or arrest critics of local or national government to maintain a favorable public image?

Throughout the second half of the twentieth century there existed a cycle of human rights violations that have been tied to the Olympics, either tangentially via issues with host nations, or directly relating to the games themselves. While human rights for their own sake are clearly more important, their violation also creates practical problems for the IOC such as countries refusing to send athletes

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<sup>36</sup> "Future Host Questionnaire," International Olympic Committee, January 2021, [https://stillmedab.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/Games/Future-Olympic-Hosts/Future-Host-Questionnaire-Olympic-Games.pdf#page=25&\\_ga=2.97030879.1177896064.1618845860-971153820.1601050134](https://stillmedab.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/Games/Future-Olympic-Hosts/Future-Host-Questionnaire-Olympic-Games.pdf#page=25&_ga=2.97030879.1177896064.1618845860-971153820.1601050134)

to the host country alleged of human rights violation, and major Olympics directors stepping down in protest.

As it stands now, the language regarding human rights requirements for potential hosts is insufficient. While host nations are required to prevent human rights abuses and outline plans on how to improve existing conditions, there is little in the IOC's existing literature to ensure that these commitments are honored. Monitoring and implementation are thus the major challenges.

The IOC is in a difficult position both morally and practically as it must honor its commitments to human rights while also striving to stay neutral in political matters and select cities out of a dwindling field of bidders. American skier Mikaela Shiffrin perhaps put it best when she explained, "You certainly don't want to be put in the position of having to choose between human rights like morality versus being able to do your job."<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> "Full-blown boycott pushed for in 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing," ESPN, 5/17/2021, [https://www.espn.com/olympics/story/\\_/id/31459936/full-blown-boycott-pushed-2022-winter-olympics-beijing](https://www.espn.com/olympics/story/_/id/31459936/full-blown-boycott-pushed-2022-winter-olympics-beijing)

## Past Actions & Possible Solutions

### *Environmental Concerns*

#### Past Actions

The IOC began taking its responsibility to the environment seriously in the 1990s. What began with tepid statements of support culminated with two major actions: the formation of the Sport and Environment Commission, an advisory body of the IOC, and an official amendment of the IOC charter in 1996, addressing the importance of the environment to the games.<sup>38</sup> Commenting on these actions, the IOC said “[we] consider the environment as an integral dimension of Olympus, alongside sport and culture.”<sup>39</sup> The IOC has continued to provide a focus on the environment. In 1999, the IOC Session adopted Agenda 21 of the Olympic Movement, a document containing guidelines meant to encourage sustainability in the Olympics. This was later followed by the *IOC Guide to Sport, Environment and Sustainable Development* which is meant to provide practical methods to achieve the IOC’s environmental goals. Most recently, as was discussed earlier in the History of the Problem section, sustainability was established as one of the three pillars of the Olympic Agenda in 2020.<sup>40</sup>

The IOC makes significant efforts to ensure that its environmental standards are met in practice. When a city applies to host the games, its representative must complete a questionnaire which includes several areas regarding the city’s adherence to IOC’s environmental and sustainability guidelines. These questionnaires must then be reviewed by an “Evaluation Committee.”<sup>41</sup> Further, once a host city is elected, the IOC Coordination Commission provides it with guidance and assistance in its planning. In recent years this selection process has been bolstered by the Olympic Games Impact (OGI) study which aims to analyze the impact that potential games may have on their host city and host communities. The IOC’s overall approach to the environmental aspect of its games

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<sup>38</sup> IOC. *FACTSHEET THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*. 2014, [stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/Factsheets-Reference-Documents/Environment/Factsheet-The-Environment-and-Sustainable-Development-January-2014.pdf](http://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/Factsheets-Reference-Documents/Environment/Factsheet-The-Environment-and-Sustainable-Development-January-2014.pdf).

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

is perhaps best summarized by the following statement, "The ultimate objective is to bequeath a positive Olympic Games legacy to the host city, its region and its country, in which the positive impact outweighs any negative one."<sup>42</sup>

### Possible Solutions

#### *Conduct OGI Studies Before Selection*

Currently, the OGI study is only conducted during and after a city holds the Olympics. This provides valuable insight into the effects that the Olympics had, and while it may be beneficial for future games it is a reactive rather than proactive measure. If the IOC and its partners complete these studies before host city elections begin, they would provide the Session with valuable information to consider as they choose a host city. Unfortunately, not only is this measure open to fraud, it would most likely make the bidding process far more complicated.

#### *Rotate the Olympics Among a Set of the Same Cities*

In order to reduce the environmental impact of the Olympics, a group of cities could be chosen as permanent (or semi-permanent) hosts. The Olympics could then be rotated among these cities sequentially. This would allow infrastructure, like stadiums, pools, and even public transit, to be reused, lessening the environmental costs of the games.<sup>43</sup> However, while this is a promising method to protect the environment, it would fundamentally change the nature of the games, lessening the diversity of hosts and reducing the global reach of the Olympics.

#### *Reduce the Size of the Olympics*

Many of the most costly environmental impacts of the games result from their gargantuan size: massive stadiums must be constructed to hold spectators, new infrastructure must be built to handle an influx of tourists and participants, and millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> are released to power it all. By reducing the size of the games, especially the number of tourists visiting the games in person, a rapid

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<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Müller, Martin, et al. "An Evaluation of the Sustainability of the Olympic Games." *Nature News*, Nature Publishing Group, 19 Apr. 2021, [www.nature.com/articles/s41893-021-00696-5](http://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-021-00696-5).

reduction in environmental costs could be achieved relatively quickly. Supporters of this policy argue that its negative effects could be mitigated by relying on the televisation of events, but opponents hold that this would allay some of the primary reasons for hosting the Olympics: attracting tourism, boosting city revenues, and creating connections across countries and continents.<sup>44</sup>

### ***Economic Concerns***

#### *Past Actions*

As has been explained, hosting the Olympics is no small task, and while cities often host the Olympics in the hope of boosting their economies, the Olympics have not generated a profit for their host since 1984. The economic dilemma of hosting the Olympics has lowered the diversity of Olympic hosts and left some hosts in debt, their facilities in disrepair.

Past IOC actions on economic concerns are limited given the IOC's relationship to host cities. The IOC's interests lie in ensuring the games occur, but not necessarily in ensuring the host city benefits from them. When many cities bid to host the Olympics the IOC gains a favorable negotiating position and is able to extract more revenue from the eventual host.<sup>45</sup> This has led to fewer and fewer cities placing bids to host the Olympics, and in 1972 the city of Denver rejected its successful bid after voters passed a referendum refusing to spend public funds on the games.<sup>46</sup> Despite their massive costs, it is entirely possible for the games to be profitable and beneficial to host cities. In 1984, the last games that were profitable for their host, Los Angeles was able to negotiate a beneficial revenue deal with the IOC as it was the only city that had applied to host the Olympics.<sup>47</sup> What this shows is that the Olympics are not unprofitable in aggregate. Yet, cities lose money because the IOC is incentivised to keep as much of the profits as possible for itself (see fig.1 and fig. 2).

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<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> "The Economics of Hosting the Olympic Games." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, [www.cfr.org/backgrounders/economics-hosting-olympic-games](http://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/economics-hosting-olympic-games).

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

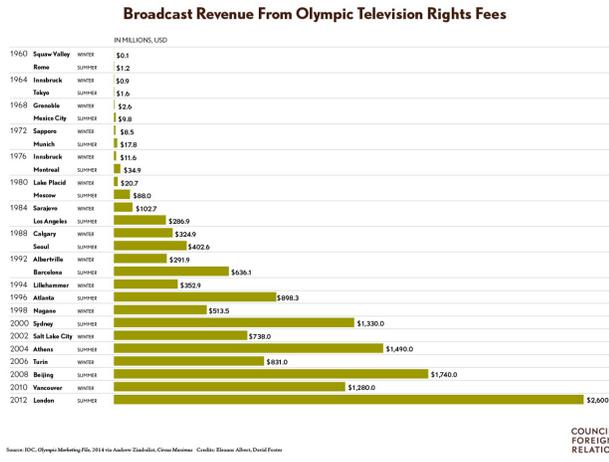


Figure 1<sup>48</sup>

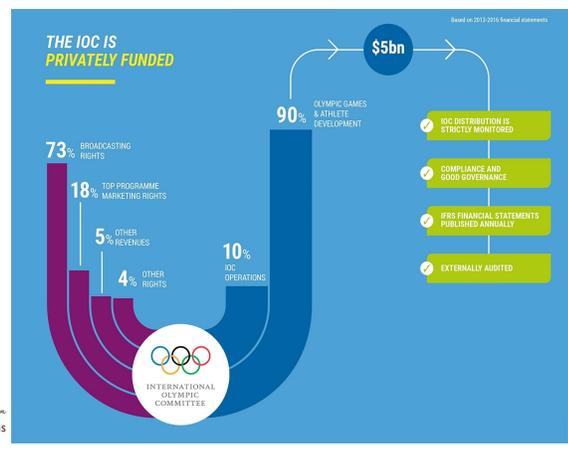


Figure 2<sup>49</sup>

Possible Solutions

*Modify the Current Bidding Process*

As it stands today, the Olympic bidding process favors the most drastic and grand proposals submitted. This leads cities to spend millions presenting pricey plans to impress the IOC and then suffering the so called “winner’s curse” in which the city that wins the bid must then implement their often overblown proposal.<sup>50</sup> If the bidding process is modified to favor cities with a positive human rights record that present economical and environmentally friendly proposals, this concern could be mitigated significantly. However, these modifications may stand at odds with both the IOC’s incentive to host the Olympics in cities willing to make large investments (regardless of their human rights records) or cities’ incentives to impress the IOC (regardless of its environmental or economic costs).

*Require the IOC to Assist Cities with Olympic Debt*

After it hosted the Olympics, the city of Montreal was strapped with debt for 30 years. While host cities rarely make money from the Olympics, the IOC always does. If IOC policy was modified to bar

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>49</sup> “IOC - Overview.” *International Olympic Committee*, 27 Apr. 2021, olympics.com/ioc/funding.  
<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

the organization from receiving revenue when the host city retains debt, the most drastic of the economic concerns could be limited. However, the IOC is a non-profit organization, so about 90% of its revenue is diverted to fund both the event and, more significantly, programs for youth sports, underprivileged athletes, and sports education.<sup>51</sup> If funds are withheld from the IOC to support host cities, these programs would ultimately suffer.

### *Collective Bargaining*

Currently, revenue distribution is negotiated by the IOC and each host city individually. Thus when few cities bid for the Olympics they are able to negotiate better deals, and when there are many cities interested in hosting the Olympics, the eventual winner will undoubtedly receive a worse deal. To solve this problem and ensure that developing nations get a better chance at hosting the Olympics, nations could collectively bargain during the IOC Session, i.e. they all agree on a minimum share of the revenues that they expect to retain during the games. In principle this approach could be very effective; however, it could easily be shattered by cities who care less about economic gain since they may opt out of the negotiation and offer a larger share of revenue to the IOC to win the bid.

### ***Human Rights Concerns***

#### *Past Actions*

Human rights concerns are perhaps the most important issues that the IOC must address as it continues to promote the Olympics. While the IOC is a staunch supporter of human rights, at least on paper, many of its host cities and countries have not shared this view. The ultimate goals of the Olympics, as articulated by the IOC, “are to cultivate human beings, through sport, and contribute to world peace.”<sup>52</sup> Yet, this goal is at odds with the human rights record of many of the IOC’s partners

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<sup>51</sup> “IOC - Overview.” *International Olympic Committee*, 27 Apr. 2021, [olympics.com/ioc/funding](https://olympics.com/ioc/funding).

<sup>52</sup> *About The Olympic Games / Information about Olympic Games / 2020 Games Preparation / Bureau of Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Preparation*, [www.2020games.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/eng/taikaijunbi/olympic/olympic/index.html](http://www.2020games.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/eng/taikaijunbi/olympic/olympic/index.html).

and many in the international community view the IOC's actions as complicit in these violations as hosting the games often legitimizes a regime on the world stage.

Although peace has been at the core of the IOC since its founding, the IOC has only begun to implement steps to ensure human rights in recent years. As of 2018, the IOC is working on creating an internal body to advise it on human rights, and as of 2024 countries will be required to answer questions regarding human rights record on their bid questionnaire.<sup>53</sup> The IOC has also started working with National Olympic Committees to ensure that people of all groups are able to participate in the games. However, according to many activists and organizations like Human Rights Watch, these measures have fallen short of their intended goal, as some countries alleged of human rights violations are still selected as host nations. Thus, while the IOC isn't afraid to stand up for human rights on paper or in speeches, there is a major disconnect between its human rights goals and its actions.

### Possible Solutions

#### *Create a Human Rights Impact Study and Human Rights Goals for Hosts*

Currently, the IOC conducts impact studies on host cities during and after the games. These impact studies include many factors such as environmental, economic, and community impacts that result from the games. If a similar human rights impact study was to take place before the host bidding process, human rights information about potential hosts could be provided both to the IOC and to the Session as its members elect the next host.

It is no secret that not every country meets global standards like the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. However, rather than excluding these countries a set of goals or requirements could be added as conditions to host the Olympics. Just as a city is required to have tracks or pools for the Olympics, it could be required to remove press censorship or invest in its disadvantages to communities in order to host the games. While this policy may provide an incentive

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<sup>53</sup> IOC. "IOC Moves Forward with Its Human Rights Approach - Olympic News." *International Olympic Committee*, IOC, 13 July 2021, [olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-moves-forward-with-its-human-rights-approach](https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-moves-forward-with-its-human-rights-approach).

to improve human rights during the Olympics, there is little incentive to continue these improvements once the Olympics conclude.

### *Ban Nations With Human Rights Violations*

In the mid 1990s, the South African government practiced the policy of apartheid, or separation of racial groups. This policy was codified in sports when the government refused to allow people of different races to compete against each other. This led many members of the international community to call on the IOC to ban South Africa from participating in the Olympics. Although the IOC was reluctant to do so, hoping to maintain a separation between politics and sports, they eventually relented and banned South Africa. A decade after this ban was put in place, the South African government repealed this policy in order to begin participating in the Olympics once again. Eventually, South Africa would completely remove its policy of apartheid.<sup>54</sup>

As perhaps one of the more drastic solutions to the current human rights issues the Olympics face, this policy could be replicated today. Banning nations from participating in the games or hosting the games based on their human rights records could encourage them to make changes to their domestic policies. Nevertheless, the IOC was (and still is) reluctant to mix sports and politics.<sup>55</sup> Pursuing this course of action risks alienating many nations and could block many talented and hard-working athletes from participating in the games. Further, a standard of human rights would have to be agreed upon and applied to this policy, which is no small feat. If pursued incorrectly this policy would not only fail to improve human rights, it would likely cause the modern Olympics to disintegrate.

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<sup>54</sup> Liu, Julie H. *Lighting the Torch of Human Rights: The Olympic Games as a Vehicle for Human Rights Reform*. 2007, [scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=njihr](http://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=njihr).

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

## Bloc Positions

In Topic A, we consider a wide range of issues and many possible solutions, thus there will likely be many blocs with varied ideas on how best to approach these issues. In official discourse, few nations will say that they are opposed to protecting the environment, creating sustainable economic conditions, or furthering human rights; however, there will likely be divisions over the scale and strictness of any proposed criterion. Additionally, it is important to recognize that the Olympics have not produced a profit for their host cities or countries in many years, thus in analyzing bloc positions it is important to consider a nation's true motivation for hosting the Olympics at all. Finally, as a general note, please know that these blocs are by no means all inclusive. They are only intended to give a rough outline of some of the major ideological divisions that we expect to occur in Topic A. Not every country in a given group will hold the same opinion on many of the issues of debate. Some nations may adopt a policy with elements of every bloc position or none at all.

### *Developed Nations*

The first bloc will likely include the United States, many members of the European Union, Japan, and Australia among others. These nations boast powerful economies, and thus are frequent hosts of the Olympics. Further, the robust infrastructure in these nations makes them ideal candidates to host the Olympics, and as many of these nations have previously hosted the Olympics, they also have the ability to reuse Olympic infrastructure. This may be especially true for Los Angeles which hosted the Olympics in 1984 and will be hosting them again in 2028. Further, these nations generally support strong protections for the environment. Finally, many of these nations see themselves as global defenders of human rights, and they are likely to propose more stringent human rights criteria in the course of the debate. The combination of well developed infrastructure, strong economies, and wide public support for the environment and human rights will likely lead these nations to support a strict set of criteria for hosting the Olympics.

## ***Developing Nations***

The second major bloc in this topic consists of countries who have the capability to host the Olympics now but likely would lose this capability if new criteria were added. Although it includes many nations, this bloc is best exemplified by the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). Many of the nations in this bloc, notably China, have impressed the IOC with their willingness to invest large sums of money and resources to host extravagant games. Nevertheless, members of this bloc haven't always presented environmentally friendly or economically prudent designs and their human rights records haven't always been clean. Simply put, many countries would fail to meet more robust human rights, environmental, or economic qualifications. Thus, more stringent criteria would likely be opposed. In other words, while these countries may be open to a discourse on addressing these concerns, they will likely only support loose criteria.

That being said, a potential failure to meet certain qualifications is not the only reason that nations may find themselves opposing them. Any proposed criteria required to host the Olympics will likely be opposed for two reasons: potential infringement of national sovereignty and concerns over the limited diversity of Olympic host nations (which will be discussed at length in the next section). As for the former, sovereignty is a key issue that is often at odds with international agreements in the United Nations. The IOC is no different. The Olympics are a unique event as they are both highly international while being remarkably domestic. The stadiums, pools, tracks, and villages that athletes from all over the world will eventually use must be built and maintained by national governments and their local communities. Many of these governments will argue that the IOC and its member nations have no business imposing their will on sovereign nations. For example, what right do delegates from the United States or Russia have to tell the citizens of Milan, Italy how they should manage their economy and environment when they host the Olympics in 2026?

## ***Underdeveloped Nations***

While a rather broad classification for a large group of countries, in this context underdeveloped nations can be taken to mean countries with economies unable to support the massive undertaking that the Olympics typically requires. For these nations, the most prohibitive aspect of any proposed criteria will be environmental and economic. If approached without care, IOC criteria would

effectively bar any of these nations from hosting the games. However, frankly, very few nations within this group have even bid to host the games at all (with a notable exception being Azerbaijan, which has proposed its Capital, Baku, in two of the last four bids). The fact that many of these developing nations are unwilling or unable to host the Olympics gives them a fair degree of freedom in this debate. This freedom will cause the agendas of these nations to diverge, with some choosing to support other nations for reasons unrelated to the Olympics, some attempting to create conditions favorable to their future as Olympic hosts, and others using this as a forum to advocate their domestic interests and aspirations. This may result in a nation like Azerbaijan advocating loose economic criteria that will aid it in finally getting to host the Olympics or a nation like Somalia, reliant on foreign aid, advocating criteria to aid its overseas benefactors.

The Olympics is designed to involve everyone; however, in practice, the Olympics have not been very international, at least as far as its hosts go. In the last 50 years, only 18 nations have hosted the games.<sup>56</sup> Notably, the Olympics have never been hosted on the African continent and have only been hosted once in South America.<sup>57</sup> This is mainly due to the economic and logistical challenges that the Olympics entail. For many nations, adding more items to the list of qualifications will only compound the difficulty that goes with hosting the Olympics, further contributing to the trend of a small group of nations becoming repeat hosts.

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<sup>56</sup> "List of Olympic Host Cities." *Architecture of the Games*, 28 June 2020, [architectureofthegames.net/olympic-host-cities/](http://architectureofthegames.net/olympic-host-cities/).

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

## Glossary

**Bloc:** a combination of countries, parties, or groups sharing a common purpose

**IOC:** International Olympic Committee

**National Olympic Committee:** The national constituent of the worldwide Olympic movement

**Olympic Movement:** The concerted, organized, universal and permanent action, carried out under the supreme authority of the IOC, of all individuals and entities who are inspired by the values of Olympism. The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced in accordance with Olympism and its values. Belonging to the Olympic Movement requires compliance with the Olympic Charter and recognition by the IOC.

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## TOPIC B: COMBATING DOPING AMONG ATHLETES

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### Statement of the Problem

In nearly every Olympics since 1968, athletes have been disqualified from competing due to their use of **illicit performance enhancing substances**. While the IOC has strict criteria and clear rules regarding the usage of such substances, the prevalence of usage continues to be a problem. The job of delegates is to amend the existing anti-doping guidelines and protocol by the IOC in an effort to ensure the integrity of the Olympics.

Established in 1999, the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** was created to standardize and coordinate worldwide efforts to stop drug use in sports. WADA is responsible for researching these drugs and determining which should be banned. Other agencies such as the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention (CoE) and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) work in close alliance and coordination with WADA. There are currently seven categories of illegal substances and techniques: androgens, blood doping, **peptide hormones**, stimulants, diuretics, narcotics, and **cannabinoids**. Tests for these drugs include urine tests, blood tests, and saliva tests. Androgenic steroids are broken down into either anabolic steroids or beta-2 agonists. These substances increase levels of testosterone and epitestosterone (which strengthens muscles and endurance) and increase heart rates. Blood doping is the injection of red blood cells to improve oxygen transport and endurance. Peptide hormones such as human growth hormone (hGH) increase bulk and strength and oxygen-carrying red blood cells. Stimulants affect the nervous system and increase heart rate and blood flow. Diuretics and **masking agents** increase the production of urine and interfere with drug testing. Diuretics inhibit water retention and cause weight loss which can be beneficial in speed-based sports, while also diluting the concentration of drugs in urine and impeding detection. Masking agents render tests ineffective, resulting in false-negative results. Finally narcotics and cannabinoids are banned due to their ability to decrease pain, allowing athletes to continue competing through injury and discomfort.

These substances are banned primarily for two reasons. First, they result in unfair and unnatural advantages in some athletes, undermining the integrity in competition and the hard work put in by

those who train and compete cleanly. Second, they can be incredibly dangerous to the athletes' health and bring about long-lasting damage, injury, and illness—heart attacks, strokes, impotence, diabetes, and in extreme cases, death.

According to the rules set forward by the IOC, it is the responsibility of athletes to control and regulate the substances entering their bodies and ensure that no prohibited substances are allowed to enter their bodies. Furthermore, the burden of clean play must also be shared by coaches and national officials to create environments in which doping is not an option and athletes understand the consequences of doping. To ensure this, athletes must undergo rigorous testing to prove that they are competing cleanly. If any banned substances are found via testing, the athlete will face disciplinary action, unless the athlete was given special dispensation for therapeutic use. Athletes will also be disciplined if they refuse to submit to testing, tamper with testing, traffic banned substances, or intimidate or discourage another person from reporting information to authorities.<sup>58</sup>

One of the obstacles in combating doping is the inconsistency among national testing bodies. While WADA also oversees and leads national testing bodies, significant discrepancies between national agencies hinder WADA's efforts. According to Benjamin Cohen, director general of the International Testing Agency which was established as an independent organization by the IOC to manage Olympic testing programs, the resources (including the tests themselves, manpower, and other beneficial technology) available to different organizations vary and with it the strength of the program. Furthermore, the athletes should be tested both in and out of competition and these out-of-competition tests are often surprises. However, the frequency of out-of-competition surprise testing differs, as well as the availability of information regarding the names of the tests, who was being tested, and dates of those tests. Different nations have different laws regarding the disclosure of personal information including identity and medical history. The IOC and WADA are international bodies and therefore cannot force a nation to disclose this information or force them to violate their

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<sup>58</sup> "IOC Anti-Doping Rules Tokyo 2020," IOC, 3/2021, <https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/Games/Summer-Games/Games-Tokyo-2020-Olympic-Games/Anti-Doping-and-Medical-Rules/IOC-Anti-Doping-Rules-Tokyo-2020.pdf>.

own privacy laws. While forcing a country to disclose this information would be a violation of national sovereignty, the system that is currently in place results in a lack of transparency<sup>59</sup>.

Clearly, the problem facing WADA is multi-dimensional. First, WADA is perpetually playing catch-up. Every doping method identified above was at one point created and used before it was even known by testing organizations that a person could gain an unfair edge by using that technique. Because there will always be some who will do anything to give themselves a competitive edge, there will likely always be new methods for doping. With that in mind, how WADA can become more proactive is an important topic to discuss. Second, how can WADA better coordinate with domestic partners to identify new doping methods and individuals (including athletes, coaches, and officials) who are cheating. Delegates will be responsible for drafting a resolution that will strengthen the current anti-doping framework and continue to discourage athletes, coaches, and countries from using banned substances.

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<sup>59</sup> Matthew Futterman, "Ahead of Tokyo Olympics, Better Drug Testing is a Hard Promise to Keep," New York Times, 5/6/2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/06/sports/olympics/olympic-drug-testing.html>.

## History of the Problem

While the IOC first began drug testing athletes in 1968 at the Mexico City Games, the first recorded case of doping at the Olympics came in 1904 when marathoner Tom Hicks was doped by his coach with strychnine (a banned substance that is commonly used as rat poison), brandy, and egg whites. At the end of the race, Hicks collapsed and had to be revived by four doctors but was allowed to keep his gold medal. By the 1930s, amphetamines synthetic testosterone were invented and overtook strychnine in popularity amongst athletes.

By 1928, the first conference regarding Olympic doping was held in St. Mortiz, Switzerland during the 1928 Winter Olympics, eventually leading the IOC to officially recognize the International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS) in 1952 at the Winter Games in Oslo, Norway in an effort to separate itself from matters of science and medicine. This delegation to another body demonstrates that while the IOC has little interest in the scientific impact of these drugs on sport itself, it cares deeply about the resulting changes in fairness and athlete wellbeing. The IOC is not a medical or research institution and therefore has no interest in the technical, physiological elements of doping. Their only interest is the impact of these substances on competition and any resulting unfairness that arises via usage. This separation between medical implications and athletic implications is reflected by the distinction between the FIMS and the IOC.

In 1964, the IOC finally decided to formally condemn the use of drugs, sanction those who used them, and have sporting organizations test their athletes. This, however, has not stopped many from cheating the system<sup>60</sup>. While many nations' athletes have doped, throughout the annals of Olympic history, one nation has relied on banned substances more than any other. Russia (and the former Soviet Union) has taken doping to an institutional level, with athletes being aided by the highest levels of government.

The most recent story of the prevalence of Russian doping broke in 2014 when former track gold medalist and doper Yulia Stepanova and her husband Vitaly Stepanov, an agent at the Russian anti-doping agency, RUSADA, broke their silence. The couple repeatedly contacted WADA about the

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<sup>60</sup> Kremenik, et al., "A Historical Timeline of Doping in the Olympics," *Kawasaki Journal of Medical Welfare*, 5/27/2006, [http://www.kawasaki-m.ac.jp/soc/mw/journal/en/2006-e12-1/01\\_kremenik.pdf](http://www.kawasaki-m.ac.jp/soc/mw/journal/en/2006-e12-1/01_kremenik.pdf).

systemic doping in their home country. WADA claimed that they did not have the jurisdiction to investigate, but directed them to a reporter in Germany. When the story broke, the Stepanovs were vilified in their home country, even being called “Judas[es]” by Vladimir Putin<sup>61</sup>.

Despite their hesitancy to deal with inevitable media attention that would arise, investigations were finally carried out by WADA and it came to light that the culture of doping among Russian athletes was known and encouraged at the highest levels of government. From the Ministry of Sport to individual RUSADA agents, officials were bribed and instructed to turn a blind eye to athletes’ test results. This included everything from swapping urine samples to not even testing certain athletes known to be using performance enhancing drugs<sup>62</sup>.

In response to the mounting evidence, the IOC announced on March 15, 2016 that they would reanalyze samples that had been stored from the 2008 and 2012 Olympics. As a result, 643 positive tests were found, although the real number of dirty athletes was probably much higher.

By December 5, 2017, the IOC announced that the Russian Olympic Committee had been suspended and that only Russian athletes without previous drug violations would be allowed to compete in the 2018 Olympics. However, they would not be allowed to compete under the Russian flag. Instead, they were to compete under the Olympic flag and would only be referred to as “Olympic Athletes from Russia”.

To be clear, Russia is by no means the only country to have doped, but the revelations that have come to light as a result of the crackdown of the last decades have shown how widespread doping can become if not monitored properly. The case of Russia demonstrates how flawed the existing system is and how it has failed to keep doping in check. First, corruption paralyzes any rules set to deter doping as enforcement effectively disappears. Second, WADA’s heavy dependence on national testing organizations makes it easier for individuals to subvert international regulations, seeing as national bodies have a significant amount of control over the tests. Third, the lack of transparency in

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<sup>61</sup> Matt Majendie, “Whistleblowers Vitaly and Yulia Stepanov living in fear but have no regrets as doping saga heads to court,” *Evening Standard*, 11/2/2020, <https://www.standard.co.uk/sport/vitaly-and-yuliya-stepanov-doping-interview-whistleblowers-b39669.html>.

<sup>62</sup> “Russian doping at Sochi Winter Olympics exposed,” *60 Minutes*, 2016, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g29LK9BW3\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g29LK9BW3_s).

national testing systems makes it harder for the international community to check malpractice. These issues are not exclusive to Russia. They may occur or have occurred in other countries, and thus, are important topics to discuss for delegates at this committee.

## Past Actions

In a radio interview, the CEO of the USADA, Travis Tygart, explained his belief that, when it comes to doping, professional athletes can be subdivided into several categories. Around 10% of professional athletes will never cheat; they would rather quit sport than use performance enhancing drugs. Another 30 to 40% are deterrable, meaning they will only cheat if they believe they have a good chance of getting away with it. The last category includes a group of people who are compelled to cheat, either personally or via organizational pressure, and will consider doing so even if they have a very slim chance of getting away with it.<sup>63</sup> Past actions in the field of anti-doping have been focused on convincing the latter two groups that the costs of doping, namely public condemnation, sanctions, and revocation of past awards, are too high to be justified by any potential doping benefits. This is usually done by increasing the overall rate of doping detection. Simply put, the fight to prevent doping relies more on psychology than it does on pharmacology.<sup>64</sup> This basic formula—prevent doping by convincing athletes that they will be caught—remains an effective strategy to fight doping; however, in a world in which drug technologies are ever evolving and governments are willing to use their intelligence services to circumvent officials, anti-doping authorities have increasingly found themselves a step behind cheaters.<sup>65</sup>

People have been fighting against Olympic doping since it first began. In the twentieth century, this effort was largely the responsibility of officials within individual sport organizations, commonly national or international sport federations.<sup>66</sup> While many had good intentions, this was largely a ‘fox guarding the henhouse’ system, as the officials responsible for the prevention of cheating often had an interest in seeing said cheating continue. This relationship is perhaps best exemplified by the doping scandal involving Lance Armstrong in the late 1990’s. Armstrong was an American, and the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the governing body for cycling, knew that his victories would increase the popularity of cycling in the US. As a result, although Armstrong won seven Tours de

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<sup>63</sup> Levitt, Steven, director. *Travis Tygart Is Coming for Cheaters — Just Ask Lance Armstrong (People I (Mostly) Admire Ep. 33)*. Performance by Travis Tygart, Freakonomics Radio, 2021.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> “Tom Hicks BIO, Stats, and Results.” *Olympics at Sports-Reference.com*, [web.archive.org/web/20200417171703/www.sports-reference.com/olympics/athletes/hi/tom-hicks-1.html](http://web.archive.org/web/20200417171703/www.sports-reference.com/olympics/athletes/hi/tom-hicks-1.html).

France through doping, officials in the UCI preferred to ignore, or in some cases aid, this effort as they wanted Armstrong to win.<sup>67</sup>

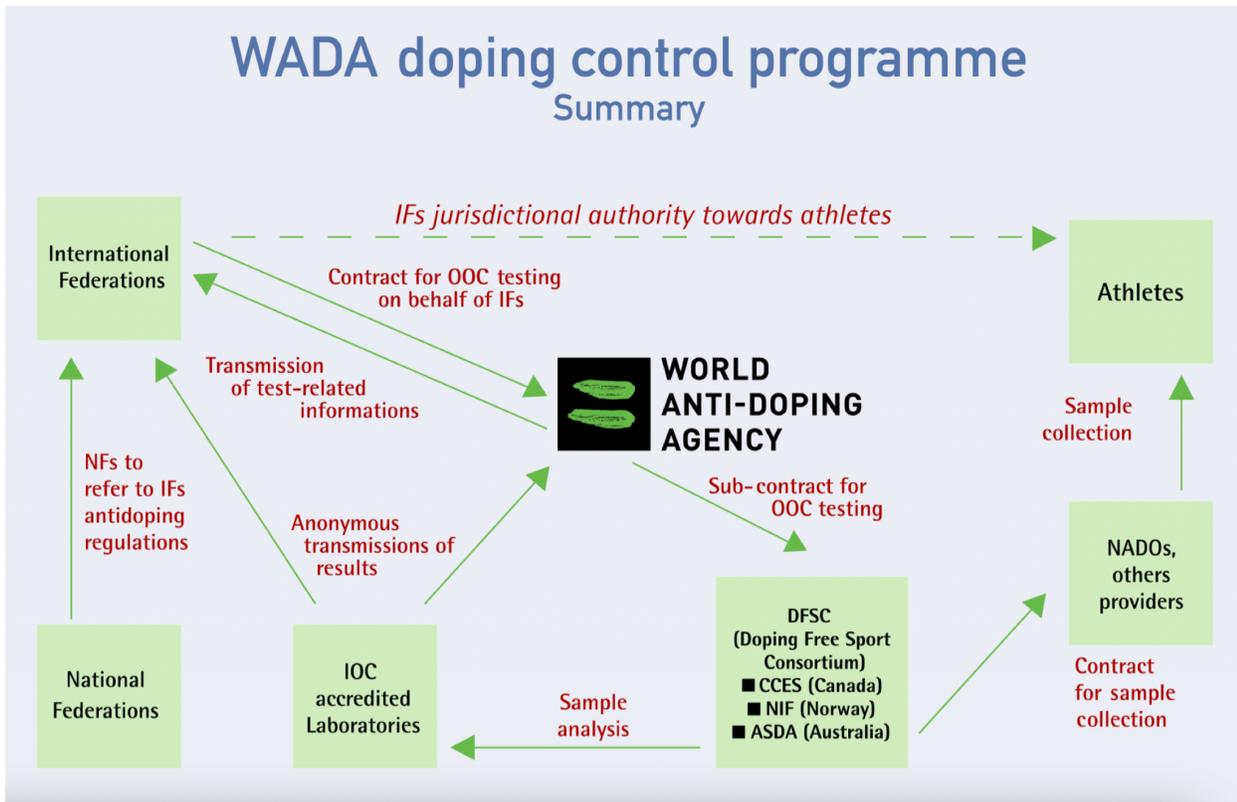


Figure 5<sup>68</sup>

The tension between fair play and organizational interests prompted the creation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in 1999. WADA was commissioned to be an independent body tasked with ensuring a doping-free environment for all athletes.

WADA was created with a simple mission: to prevent doping; however, the process by which it does this is far more complicated (see Figure 5). WADA must utilize laboratories within individual nations in concert with national sport federations to test athletes.<sup>69</sup> This approach is what allowed the Russian government to engage in its infamous state-sponsored doping campaign. WADA's reliance

<sup>67</sup> Levitt, Steven, director. *Travis Tygart Is Coming for Cheaters — Just Ask Lance Armstrong (People I (Mostly) Admire Ep. 33)*. Performance by Travis Tygart, Freakonomics Radio, 2021.

<sup>68</sup> World Anti-Doping Agency. "WADA News No. 1." *WADANEWS*, World Anti-Doping Agency, Feb. 2002, [www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/PlayTrue\\_2002\\_1\\_WADA\\_News\\_EN.pdf](http://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/PlayTrue_2002_1_WADA_News_EN.pdf).

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*

on national testing organizations, along with its use of sub-contracting for out of competition testing, leaves the process vulnerable to fraud as well as disparities in testing capabilities between nations. This issue is further compounded by ever advancing doping technologies. This phenomenon has led national testing organizations, notably the USADA, to keep samples of athlete's urine and blood for 10 years so they can be retested as testing technology improves. This policy will be discussed further in the following section.

## Possible Solutions

There are several components in the fight against doping, including advancing technologies, organizational incentives, and WADA's reliance on national labs. This complicated set of challenges creates an issue that cannot be remedied by a single solution.

### ***Eliminate Anti-Doping Rules***

There can't be an issue of athletes violating Olympic doping rules if there aren't any Olympic doping rules! Although this may sound like an unserious solution, it has been proposed by many scientists and activists. Advocates of this policy believe that eliminating doping rules would not undermine the fairness of the Olympics. They argue that athletes already benefit from genetic differences and disparities in training and resources between nations. For these advocates, performance enhancing drugs are no different. This policy gained traction following the disqualification of American athlete, Sha'carri Richardson, who had tested positive for cannabinoid use, as cannabis is not illegal in Oregon, the state where she had used it. This policy would also help to address disparities in testing capabilities between countries. For example, doping attempts are more likely to be detected from athletes in nations with developed anti-doping infrastructure, like the United States, than from a developing nation.<sup>70</sup> This proposed solution is currently not the official policy of any nation; however, a less extreme version of it (perhaps unbanning certain classes of drugs) may gain wide public support.

### ***Keep Athlete Samples for Later Testing***

One of the central issues in combating the use of performance enhancing drugs is the fact that detection follows drug development. Tests can only be developed after new drugs are introduced, meaning authorities are always one step behind cheaters. To nullify this advantage, WADA or its national testing could retain samples of athlete's urine or blood for a period of 30 years in order to

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<sup>70</sup> Futterman, Matthew. "Ahead of TOKYO Olympics, Better Drug Testing Is a Hard Promise to Keep." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 6 May 2021, [www.nytimes.com/2021/05/06/sports/olympics/olympic-drug-testing.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/06/sports/olympics/olympic-drug-testing.html).

test them as testing technology improves.<sup>71</sup> Not only would this help catch cheaters, it would impose a massive psychological toll on athletes who dope: although their race is over, there is always a chance for them to be caught later. This policy is currently practiced in the United States by USADA; however, USADA is limited to 10 years in accordance with the statute of limitations, or time after which a crime cannot be legally prosecuted, for using performance enhancing drugs.<sup>72</sup>

While this solution has clear benefits, it faces legal and ethical hurdles. Some believe that athletes should not have to be subjected to such invasive procedures and privacy violations in order to compete in the games. Moreover, since laws on the subject vary by country, if WADA continues to rely on national organizations, this policy would be contingent on domestic laws and thus, vulnerable to state-sponsored doping campaigns.

### ***Create a More Independent Testing Infrastructure***

There is a much greater emphasis on utilizing an independent testing infrastructure today than ever before. Unfortunately, efforts to make the testing system fully independent have largely failed.<sup>73</sup> The state-sponsored doping scandal in Russia is an excellent example of this failure, as WADA-approved labs in the country were used by the national government to hide evidence of performance enhancing drug violations. Even WADA, the so-called pinnacle of independence, receives 50% of its funding from the IOC which has a vested interest in presenting the Olympics as an event free of drugs and cheating. In addition, testing organizations are largely staffed by former athletes or people with a history of involvement in sports. While this makes sense from a practical perspective, it drastically increases the likelihood for testing authorities to suffer conflicts of interest, as sports physicians and former players often feel pressure, either real or imagined, to support certain athletes.<sup>74</sup> To combat these issues, officials without a background in sport could be recruited to run

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<sup>71</sup> Levitt, Steven, director. *Travis Tygart Is Coming for Cheaters — Just Ask Lance Armstrong (People I (Mostly) Admire Ep. 33)*. Performance by Travis Tygart, Freakonomics Radio, 2021.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Sport:80, Jack @. "3 Solutions to Doping." *Sport*, Sport:80, 10 July 2018, [www.sport80.com/post/3-solutions-to-doping](http://www.sport80.com/post/3-solutions-to-doping).

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

anti-doping agencies. Additionally, WADA could be modified to be completely independent of the IOC or a new anti-doping authority could be created.

Unfortunately, a fully independent testing infrastructure would require the support of every nation which competes in the Olympics. As we have seen, for many reasons from an overt desire to cheat to a need to follow national laws, many countries have an interest in maintaining their own testing system. Further, one fundamental question remains: if the IOC and sports organizations aren't funding anti-doping authorities, who will?

## Bloc Positions

The blocs of Topic B will likely have diverse membership and varied interests. Please remember that these blocs are by no means all inclusive. They are only intended to give a rough outline of some of the major ideological divisions that we expect to occur in Topic B. Not every country in a given group will hold the same opinion on many of the issues of debate. Some nations may adopt a policy with elements of all bloc positions or none at all.

### ***Europe, North America, and Oceania***

The United States along with many European and Oceania nations are generally the most capable when it comes to testing, although these nations haven't been free of cheating scandals either. The policy of these nations along with many of the world's highly developed countries is centered around their capability to proficiently test for and enforce doping rules. The USADA enforces a national hotline for doping whistleblowers in concert with domestic testing programs. This has led to a significant increase in the positivity rate for performance-enhancing drug tests. This policy has been mirrored by many European nations, increasing confidence in fair competition among athletes. These nations can be confident in their domestic anti-doping measures but will likely take issue with the state-sponsored doping campaigns conducted in the nations they compete against. European and North American countries would be pleased to see their anti-doping measures enforced more stringently across the world to ensure fairness in competition no matter which country an athlete hails from.

### ***Africa, South America, and South/Central Asia***

Like most of the world's countries, many of the nations of Africa, South America, and South/Central Asia are no strangers to performance enhancing drugs scandals. The biggest hurdle for them is their poor domestic testing infrastructure. In many cases, they lack the capability and resources to keep pace with their drug enforcement counterparts in the west and would find it difficult to enforce an ever expanding list of performance enhancing drugs bans, designed to deter the use of designer drugs and advanced masking methods. Many newer drugs can only be detected via the use of

advanced technologies like mobility-mass spectrometry, making it difficult for certain labs. These nations will need the support of international bodies like WADA to stay at the forefront of anti-doping enforcement. That being said, it's important to note that there's a limited amount of resources, namely capital, available in sport. For members of the IOC, this must be considered in any proposed resolution. WADA currently receives 50% of its funding from the IOC. If the amount allocated to WADA were increased, then the capital the IOC, and organizations alike, donate to fund sports programs in member countries would be jeopardized. Since countries generally want to see investments within rather than outside their borders, it isn't hard to predict what these nations would pick: global anti-doping strategy or national sports programs. .

### ***East Asia and Countries of the Former Soviet Union***

Although geographically close, the nations in this bloc will likely have different views regarding Topic B. Countries like Japan and South Korea will adopt policies similar to those of their Western allies, while Russia and its former Soviet allies, the most prolific cheaters in recent memory, will likely adopt their own policy. The latter group will likely argue to maintain the current global anti-doping system characterized by the autonomy of national testing organs. Many of the nations in this bloc have an interest in maintaining domestic control over their testing systems while limiting international oversight.

## Glossary

**Cannabinoids:** A compound produced by the cannabis (marijuana) plant or synthesized as a chemical (synthetic cannabinoid).

**Doping:** The use of banned substances in competitive sports

**Masking Agents:** Masking agents (such as diuretics) are used to falsify the results of doping controls and to conceal doping. Substances suitable for this purpose are therefore included in the Prohibited List of the WADA

**Peptide Hormone:** A highly anabolic hormone which increases skeletal muscle mass and reduces body fat. It is used especially by strength and power sports athletes

**Performance-Enhancing Drug:** Any drug used by athletes to heighten their abilities in the performance of their sport. Often connotes illegal or unethical use of these substances. See WADA website for formal list: <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/content/what-is-prohibited>

**Union Cycliste Internationale:** The world governing body for sports cycling and oversees international competitive cycling events

**USADA:** United States Anti-Doping Agency

**WADA:** World Anti-Doping Agency

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