



International  
Olympic  
Committee

NOC Relations Department

Mr Zorzs TIKMERS  
President  
Mr Karlis LEJNIEKS  
Secretary General  
Latvian Olympic Committee

Lausanne, 13 May 2022

### **Institutional situation of your NOC – Ongoing discussions**

Dear President,

Dear Secretary General,

Thank you very much for your recent consultations following the ongoing discussions in Latvia relating to the potential re-structuring of various national multi-sports institutions and the creation of a new model, which might affect the Latvian Olympic Committee (LOC).

As discussed, we have reviewed the various options that have been proposed so far and the potential consequences on the LOC, and we would like to confirm that we fully support the LOC's approach in principle. We would also like to take this opportunity to recall a number of principles, rules and conditions that must be carefully considered and fully respected in these circumstances, based on the [Olympic Charter](#) (in particular paragraph 5 of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism and Chapter 4, i.e. Rules 27 to 31 of the Olympic Charter), as follows:

1. The LOC is a legally independent and non-governmental sports organisation (in accordance with the IOC-approved LOC Statutes and the Olympic Charter). Consequently, any potential change affecting its legal nature, structure and governance must be coordinated with and accepted by the LOC beforehand, by mutual agreement, after an extensive discussion with the LOC leadership and

membership, and will be subject to prior approval by the IOC. In other words, the LOC cannot be forced by any third party to integrate, or be integrated into, or merged with, any other entity without its prior consent. In addition, any significant change affecting the current model should not be decided upon in a hurry, but should be thoroughly discussed and examined with all parties concerned, to find a mutually agreeable and workable solution in the interest of sport and the Olympic Movement in the country.

2. In any case, any potential structural or governance change affecting the LOC should allow the LOC to:
  - a. Continue to operate as an NOC and perform its activities in strict accordance with the Olympic Charter. In particular, the LOC should maintain its status as a legally independent and non-governmental sports organisation, continue to fully preserve its autonomy, and ensure that the Olympic sports federations continue to constitute its core membership and have a clear voting majority in its governing bodies (in particular in the LOC General Assembly and executive bodies), in accordance with the Olympic Charter. In addition, any amendments to the LOC Statutes currently in force, as a result of any such changes, should be subject to prior approval by the IOC and adoption by the LOC General Assembly.
  - b. Maintain its legal continuity as an IOC-recognised NOC. In other words, should there be any mutual interest at the end of the consultation process to consider a potential integration of another entity into the LOC or merger of the LOC with another entity, the legal continuity of the LOC should be preserved in any case, and the integrated or merged entity should be formed on the basis of the current LOC (as an “extension” of the current LOC). From an IOC perspective, it would not be viewed as a creation of a “new” NOC (which would have many implications and would lead to unnecessary complications) but as the continuation of the current LOC, including a potential name change.

We hope that this position will be helpful for the ongoing consultations between all parties concerned, and please note that we will be ready to join these discussions at any stage of the process and provide any further explanation or clarification, if necessary.

We sincerely trust that all parties concerned can work together smoothly and constructively with a view to finding a mutually acceptable solution, which can

simultaneously benefit sport and the athletes in Latvia and, as far as the LOC is concerned, comply with the above-mentioned framework and basic requirements.

Thank you for your valuable collaboration, and we remain fully at your disposal should you need any further assistance or contribution from the IOC.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Jérôme POIVEY  
Associate Director, Institutional Relations and Governance  
NOC Relations Department