



**INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING SPORT FEDERATION**  
**INTERNATIONALER SCHIESS-SPORTVERBAND e.V.**  
**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE TIR SPORTIF**  
**FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE TIRO DEPORTIVO**

ISSF, Bavariaring 21, D-80336 München, Germany

To all ISSF Member Federations!

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Dear Friends,

ISSF member federations have recently received several reports and rumors regarding possible changes in the 2020 Olympic shooting program. There are concerns about the possible elimination of certain events. One national federation is encouraging members to request an extraordinary General Assembly to discuss these changes. There are other organized groups or campaigns that are trying to support events being proposed for elimination. Much of the information being circulated is incomplete, misleading or even false. None of these reports and rumors provides information about gains shooting will experience from proposed Olympic shooting program changes. This is a very complex situation and we feel it is important for national federations to have better information. This letter identifies the most important questions being asked and provides answers to them.

**1. Is a change in the Olympic shooting program necessary?**

Before reaching any conclusions about possible changes in events on the Olympic shooting program, it is necessary to understand why these changes are being considered. The IOC adopted **Agenda 2020** as its plan for the future. Gender equality is one of the key principles in **Agenda 2020**. Gender equality means all Olympic sports must have 50-50 men's and women's events and participation quotas for the Tokyo 2020 Games. In the light of this principle, the IOC raised concerns regarding the shooting events program because there were nine men's events and only six women's events in the 2016 Games. The IOC therefore requested that the ISSF proposes possibilities for achieving a gender equal program for Tokyo 2020.

**2. How is the ISSF responding to the IOC request?**

The ISSF formed an Ad Hoc Committee to study all possibilities for achieving gender equality in shooting, to consider stakeholder opinions, to evaluate the IOC event based evaluation and to prepare the recommendations requested by the IOC. The Ad Hoc Committee was comprised of ISSF leaders and experts from media, TV and all of the shooting disciplines. In addition to four Ad Hoc Committee meetings, all possible options were thoroughly discussed on two different occasions with ten different ISSF Committees. After its first three meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee presented its conclusions to all shooting stakeholders in the 24 November 2016 news release that was posted on the ISSF website.

Athletes, coaches, national federations and fans were requested to submit comments. We are attaching a copy of this release and encourage you to study it. The Committee recently had its fourth meeting to consider all responses to the November news release as well as data from an IOC event-based popularity analysis. After evaluating this additional information, the Committee voted with a big majority to support its November recommendations.

**3. Why were the three events selected for deletion?**

The Ad Hoc Committee decided that each of the three shooting disciplines should keep their present five events (5 rifle, 5 pistol and 5 shotgun). Since there have been three men's and two women's events in each discipline, gender equality should be achieved by changing one men's event in each discipline and replacing it with a mixed-gender team event. The Ad Hoc Committee is recommending the addition to the Olympic Program of three mixed-gender team events (for one man and one woman) for 10m Air Rifle, 10m Air Pistol and Trap to replace three men's shooting events, 50m Rifle Prone Men, 50m Pistol Men and Double Trap Men. This proposal would allow shooting to keep 15 events, the same number that it has now. The new events fully support gender equality and have far greater possibilities for being practiced by all ISSF member federations and attracting far more athletes. The 50m Prone event was selected for replacement in rifle where the 10m Air Rifle and 50m 3-Position events were judged to be preferable to prone. Winning medals in prone events is too dependent upon rifle and ammunition quality to justify its continuation as an Olympic event where human athletic performance must be preeminent. In pistol, the selection considered both 50m Pistol Men and Rapid-Fire Pistol Men. Rapid-fire is dynamic and has one of shooting's best finals while 50m Pistol athletes can still apply their skills in 10m Air Pistol and therefore 50m Pistol Men had been selected. In shotgun, Double Trap Men was selected for replacement because it is the lowest participation men's shotgun event. In 28 years on the World Championship and Olympic programs, Double Trap never established a worldwide participation base; its World Championship participation actually declined.

**4. What factors were involved in selecting mixed-gender team events?**

Adding mixed-gender team events was proposed by IOC *Agenda 2020*. The Ad Hoc Committee analysis concluded that mixed-gender events offered the best way for shooting to preserve discipline parity, achieve gender equality and add an exciting new dynamic to shooting. Mixed team events have already been successfully tested in European Championships, Junior World Cups and the Youth Olympic Games. The Ad Hoc Committee evaluated literally dozens of possibilities for mixed-gender team events. Final selections were based on which events offered the most favorable universality, cost and accessibility, youth appeal and attractiveness for media and television. Another important consideration was how the distribution of Olympic quotas could best support participation opportunities. The events that ranked highest according to these measures were 10m Air Rifle, 10m Air Pistol and Trap. Proposals for 50m Pistol and Double Trap mixed teams were rejected because there are no women's World Championship events for either. A 50m Rifle Prone mixed team was considered, but judged to have far less potential for future shooting growth than a 10m Air Rifle team event.

**5. Is General Assembly approval required to change the Olympic shooting program?**

Inaccurate information recently sent to ISSF federations alleges that the art. 3.3.2 list of Olympic shooting events in the ISSF General Regulations can only be changed according to art. 1.6.7.7, which gives the General Assembly authority to modify the Constitution and General Regulations. In this case, 1.6.7.7 is not applicable because the Olympic Games and the Olympic sports program are governed by the IOC and the *Olympic Charter*, not by the ISSF Constitution and General Regulations. Ch. 45 of the Olympic Charter gives the IOC Executive Board exclusive authority to decide all events in the Olympic program, including the shooting events. 3.2.2 merely lists the events that the IOC has approved. Neither the ISSF General Assembly nor any other ISSF body has the authority to decide the shooting events in the Olympic Games.

**6. Could a General Assembly offer timely opinions?**

First, we need to remember that the ISSF Member Federations were informed by the November information bulletin about the findings of the Ad Hoc Committee. The ISSF received several opinions from ISSF Member Federations concerning these findings. The Ad Hoc Committee took these into account during its meeting in January. It is possible that an extraordinary General Assembly could offer additional opinions, but such an Assembly could not be organized in time to have any effect. The Constitution requires that notice be given and that the agenda be sent “*at least two months in advance.*” Therefore it is not possible to organize an extraordinary General Assembly before the IOC’s 28 February deadline.

**7. Can NF opinions be requested before the 28 February deadline?**

ISSF member federations and all interested persons have already had an opportunity to offer their opinions after the publication of the November 2017 news release. Many took advantage of this opportunity. The development of the Ad Hoc Committee recommendations has been a very complicated process that evaluated at least 20 different possibilities for shooting program changes. These possibilities have considered many national federation opinions, moreover, they were debated during approximately 25 meetings involving all elected members of ISSF bodies. In the ISSF system of governance, the General Assembly elects the ISSF Committees, Executive Committee and Administrative Council to be responsible for deciding these detailed technical matters in the best interests of shooting and to preserve its future status as an Olympic sport.

**8. What were the results of the IOC event-based analysis?**

IOC Agenda 2020 called for an “event-based analysis” of all events in the 28 Olympic sports. During and after the 2016 Olympic Games, the IOC analyzed worldwide television viewer numbers, internet user statistics, social media contacts, spectator responses and public opinions for all Olympic events including the 15 shooting events. Overall, shooting ranked very well in comparison with the other 27 Olympic sports. Moreover, the IOC event-by-event analysis strongly confirmed the ISSF Ad Hoc Committee recommendations for replacing the three men’s events and adding the three mixed-gender team events. The most popular shooting events in the 2016 Olympic Games were Air Rifle Women, Air Pistol Men, Air Rifle Men, Air Pistol Women, Rapid Fire Pistol Men and Trap Men, in that order. The least popular events were the 50m Rifle Prone and 50m Pistol events. Double Trap ranked 12<sup>th</sup> and was the lowest ranking men’s shotgun event.

**9. How will Olympic program changes impact shooting?**

The changes necessary to achieve gender equality in Olympic shooting have great potential to make shooting an even stronger Olympic sport. Deciding the ISSF recommendations to the IOC is a **past versus future decision**. The Olympic program has always been a dynamic program where changes are necessary for sports to keep their place in the Olympic Movement. Shooting had to delete two events in 2005, but it continued to grow in worldwide popularity. Gender equality is right and the ISSF fully supports this aim. The changes necessary to achieve gender equality will include the loss of three beloved events that represent the past and no longer fulfill the highest standards for dynamic, growing Olympic events (see IOC event-based evaluation above). These changes also will give shooting three new mixed-gender team events that add value to our most popular and fastest growing events, Air Rifle, Air Pistol and Trap. ISSF member federations are receiving protests from those who will lose favored events, but it is important to recognize that those who will gain, the young athletes who are only now beginning to live Olympic dreams, must also be heard. The ISSF Ad Hoc Committee recommendations give voice to those who will benefit the most from these changes. They are changes that will allow shooting to keep 15 events on the Olympic program, best grow sport shooting in the future and give shooting a more secure position within the Olympic Movement.

**10. What will happen next?**

The IOC requested proposals for the 2020 Olympic program from all International Federations by 28 February 2017. The ISSF Ad Hoc Committee conclusions will be discussed at an ISSF Executive Committee meeting on 21 February 2017 and an Administrative Council meeting on 22 February. The ISSF Executive Committee and Council will further consider all factors and opinions regarding this matter. The Executive Committee will explain its conclusions to the IOC before the 28 February deadline in order to achieve an IOC decision that is most favorable for shooting. The IOC Program Commission will then study the ISSF recommendation and prepare its proposal for the IOC Executive Board that will decide the 2020 Olympic shooting events program later this summer. Again, we must emphasize that this decision is under the full authority of the IOC; it is not the ISSF that is making this decision.

We hope this information has helped your national federation better understand this extremely important and complex situation and how it can become another step forward for our beloved sport. If you have questions or wish additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,



Olegario Vázquez Raña  
ISSF President



Franz Schreiber  
ISSF Secretary General