OLYMPIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COACHES

PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVE
The objective of this programme is to offer coaches, who are officially recognised as such and active in their respective sport, access to high-level further training, experience and knowledge, which they will then use to benefit their respective national sports structures.

Olympic Solidarity is looking to maintain the training possibilities available during the 2009-2012 quadrennial, i.e. sports sciences and sport-specific training, while at the same time endeavouring to offer increasingly specific solutions to respond to the needs of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

BENEFICIARIES
CANDIDATE PROFILE
The candidate for an Olympic scholarship must be a coach with the following characteristics:

- Belong to a federation of a sport on the Olympic programme;
- Hold an official title as a coach recognised in his/her country of origin and/or by the respective International Federation (IF);
- Be active and able to prove that he/she has practical experience as a coach at national, regional or international level;
- Undertake to pass on his/her knowledge and work to continue developing his/her sport in his/her country, after receiving the training.

PROMOTION OF WOMEN IN SPORT
For many years, the IOC and Olympic Solidarity have been active in promoting the role of women in sport. In turn, NOCs are also encouraged to ensure that women occupy key positions within their national Olympic Movement.

Olympic Solidarity would like to insist, where possible, that NOCs submit, during this quadrennial, at least one or two female candidates for an Olympic scholarship for coaches. The aim is to promote universality and to guarantee equal chances for women in the field of sport, be they as athletes, coaches or administrators.
DESCRIPTION

Olympic Solidarity will, in principle, allocate one Olympic scholarship per year and per NOC.

Supplementary applications may exceptionally be considered depending upon the total number of candidates and the budget availability. NOCs which submit the names of several candidates must indicate the order of priority in which the candidates should be considered. The candidate at the top of the list will be given priority.

TYPE OF TRAINING

NOCs may choose between the following training options:

1. TRAINING IN SPORTS SCIENCES

Individual scholarship offered to coaches to follow training in sports sciences at a high-level training centre or university and obtain a high-level qualification (diploma or certificate), at university level in certain cases, depending on where the training is completed.

The content of the training, the duration, the evaluation methods and so on are determined by the centre/university in agreement with Olympic Solidarity.

2. SPORTS-SPECIFIC TRAINING

This “à la carte” training allows a coach to refresh his or her knowledge and increase his or her practical experience in a specific sport.

The coach scholarship holder can follow a medium- or long-term technical training programme: the length will be determined chiefly by the budget limits of the project.

The training programme (content, duration etc) must be recognised by Olympic Solidarity and the respective IF as being of adequate level and specific to a particular sport or discipline.

3. DISTANCE LEARNING (E-LEARNING)

During the course of this quadrennial plan, Olympic Solidarity will pursue its efforts to set up e-learning training courses, proposed and managed by training centres/universities/IFs. Pertinent information will be sent to the NOCs in due course.
TRAINING PARTNERS

1. TRAINING IN SPORTS SCIENCES

Certain high-level training centres and universities have been collaborating with Olympic Solidarity for a number of years in order to host the coach scholarship holders. Their differing training programmes correspond to the criteria established for the coach scholarship programme, and the main ones are:

- CAR - Barcelona (ESP)
- ICECP – Delaware/USOC (USA)
- PAISAC – Montreal (CAN)
- Semmelweis University – Budapest (HUN)
- 3E – European Education to Excellence (CISéL) – Lausanne (SUI)

(For more details, please refer to the attached list)

As during the last quadrennial, Olympic Solidarity will continue seeking to extend the range of training partners on offer, depending on the budget available.

2. SPORTS-SPECIFIC TRAINING

This training can only take place if it is conducted at a location recognised by Olympic Solidarity and the IF concerned for its high-level of theoretical and/or practical competence in a particular sport (high-level training centre, sports club, etc.).

A number of IFs already offer specific training packages in their respective sports, e.g. ISAF, ITF, UCI, WA, etc. (see attached list). Information concerning these training packages (content, location, duration) can be obtained directly from the IF concerned.

N.B.: For both training options and in order to be able to offer a training package best adapted to the selected candidates, NOCs may also propose a training location other than those offered in the attached list (see application procedure).
FINANCIAL CONDITIONS
The budget allocated to this programme during the 2013–2016 quadrennial plan is USD 9,000,000.

COSTS COVERED BY OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY

Generally speaking, Olympic Solidarity will cover the following costs:

- Transport costs - one return plane and/or train ticket in economy class, via the most direct route;
- Training costs;
- Board and lodging costs*;
- Weekly allowance of no more than USD 100 throughout the training period;
- Health and accident insurance, if necessary.

* Specific cases / flat rate
In certain specific cases where the board and lodging costs are not managed directly by the centre and are not already included in the training costs, Olympic Solidarity will pay a monthly amount to the NOC. The respective amount will be determined on a case-by-case basis in agreement between Olympic Solidarity, the training centre and the NOC concerned. In addition, the weekly allowance may vary depending on the type of training & the centre.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

1. Training in Sports Sciences
The costs related to the stay of the expert (training costs, board & lodging, weekly indemnity, illness and accident insurance) are managed directly by Olympic Solidarity with the training centre.

Transport costs are refunded to the NOC upon presentation of a copy of the ticket and/or the travel agent’s invoice.

2. Sport-Specific Training
Generally, the costs relating to a sport-specific scholarship will be paid directly by Olympic Solidarity to the NOC, which will be responsible for managing the file with the chosen training location.

Nevertheless, in certain cases (e.g. specific training in a centre managed by an IF) and in order to avoid unnecessary movement of funds, Olympic Solidarity could pay the centre or the IF directly.

Transport costs are also refunded to the NOC upon presentation of a copy of the ticket and/or the travel agent’s invoice.
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

TWO PROCEDURES IN PARALLEL

A) National Olympic Committee > Centre/university/IF

For both training options, the NOC is responsible for contacting the training centre/university/IF to obtain all the relevant information required to constitute the application file.

Important: An acceptance of a candidate by a training centre/university/IF does not mean that Olympic Solidarity will automatically award a scholarship. The two procedures are necessary but are independent from one another.

B) National Olympic Committee > Olympic Solidarity

The NOC must send the official Olympic scholarship application form to Olympic Solidarity once it is duly completed and signed by the different parties, i.e. the NOC and the coach.

The application form must be accompanied by a CV, a recent medical certificate and the provisional letter of acceptance from the training centre/university/IF as well as any other useful information (recommendations, certificates, etc.).

Important: In the event that the requested training will not take place at a centre/university/IF which normally collaborates with Olympic Solidarity, the NOC must also submit full details of the training proposed (content, agenda, evaluation, etc.) as well as a detailed budget request including training costs, board and lodging and other related costs.

DEADLINES

To be taken into consideration, all forms, accompanied by the relevant documents, must reach Olympic Solidarity no later than two months before the intended starting date of the training. Olympic Solidarity reserves the right to refuse late applications.
ANALYSIS AND APPROVAL

Olympic Solidarity will analyse the application file and the training plan proposed. In doing so, it will consult the following partners, if necessary:

- The IF of the sport concerned;
- The Continental Association concerned;
- The local NOC, the contact partner where the training is to take place;
- The training centre or university which will host the scholarship-holder.

After obtaining the corresponding opinions and following a detailed analysis of all the related elements (available budget, number of scholarships already awarded to the NOC, etc.), Olympic Solidarity will take the final decision on whether or not to grant an Olympic scholarship.

TRAINING CONTRACT

Once the candidate and the training plan have been approved, Olympic Solidarity will send the NOC a letter of acceptance with a contract to be signed by the different parties (NOC, coach, centre).

In all cases, the signed contract must be returned to Olympic Solidarity before the start of the programme and especially before the coach scholarship-holder leaves his or her country of origin.

Once signed by the Director of Olympic Solidarity, one copy of the contract is sent to the NOC and another to the centre/university/IF.

Sending of the contract duly signed by:
- an official representative of the NOC;
- the scholarship holder and
- a representative of the centre/university/IF
FOLLOW-UP AND CONTROL
DURING THE SCHOLARSHIP

The NOC is required to maintain close contact with both the training partner and the scholarship holder. If necessary, it will inform Olympic Solidarity of any problems.

ONCE THE TRAINING IS COMPLETED

The following must be provided to Olympic Solidarity within two months of the conclusion of the training course:

- A final report from the centre containing a general assessment of the scholarship holder and the qualifications obtained in the final exams (diploma or certificate);
- A report from the scholarship holder, via the NOC, giving his/her experiences of the completed training programme.

MID-TERM FOLLOW-UP

To improve the follow-up offered to the coach, NOCs must maintain contact with him or her and inform Olympic Solidarity of any particular results obtained in national, regional or international competitions, including the Olympic Games, as well as of any potential change of position held by the coach.

ANNEXES

1. Application form
   Olympic scholarships for coaches

2. List of training partners
   Olympic scholarships for coaches