



S R I L A N K A O L Y M P I C W E E K L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N

# Celebrating 86 Years of Excellence



## National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka 1937 - 2023



“We are as old as the modern Lankan history. We are now 86-years-old and still growing. We look to stand together and develop within the Olympic Movement”

Suresh Subramaniam | President of NOC Sri Lanka

“At 86 we are the sixth oldest Olympic collective in Asia, during that time we have grown in prudence and stature and now it is our turn to prove to the rest of the Olympic world that we are as good on the track and field too”

Maxwell de Silva | Secretary General of NOC Sri Lanka



# IOC ANNOUNCES USD 10 MILLION FUNDS TO STRENGTHEN SAFE SPORT AND PREVENTION OF COMPETITION MANIPULATION



As part of its ongoing effort to promote athletes' safety, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced that it will create a fund of USD 10 million per Olympiad to strengthen the prevention of and response to harassment and abuse in sport at the local level.

The announcement was made by IOC President Thomas Bach during a conference hosted by the IOC in Lausanne and attended by representatives from 36 International Federations (IFs), plus the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and the Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF).

"We have to undertake all the efforts to have an offer for safe sport everywhere, every time and for everybody. This topic is not only affecting elite sport; it starts at grass root level with the kids," said the IOC President.

"We need a coordinated and customised approach for every culture, for every sport and also for the different kind of incidents that can happen."

President Bach presented the IOC Executive Board proposal of a working group chaired by Executive Board member and Deputy Chair of the IOC's Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission, HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein.

The working group's remit will be to consider the best approach to establishing independent safeguarding systems and structures at the national level, which will ensure that resources are directed to where they are most needed to support athletes and build safeguarding capacity in sports organisations.

"The announcement by President Bach marks a historic moment in this field," said Prince Feisal. "Over the past few years, cases of harassment and abuse in sport have continued to come to light with increasing frequency - showing no discrimination in sport, discipline or geographical location."

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“As we look towards a new chapter and convene this working group, it is essential that we come together and look to see how we may bridge the gap between the important work being done at the international level, and the need for local solutions.”

The IOC invited the IFs to join the working group and will extend the invitation to the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in order ensure that all Olympic Movement stakeholders are involved.

“This is a topic of great importance, but one that is different than many others faced by International Federations such as competition manipulation and anti-doping. It needs a different approach,” said ASOIF President Francesco Ricci Bitti. “IFs and other Olympic Movement stakeholders have a fundamental role to play, however these issues must be addressed locally. The leadership and coordination of the IOC here is something we have been calling for. But this is an area where we must continue to work together.”

### A long-term commitment

Today’s announcement builds on nearly 20 years during which the IOC has been leading the way and making efforts to ensure that athletes can train and compete in safe environments.

“Having begun work in this area almost 20 years ago with the first IOC Consensus on this topic in 2006, the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission has been and continues to be a strong advocate for this important work.” said Prof. Uğur Erdener, IOC Member and Chair of the IOC Medical and Scientific Commission.

“The need for understanding trauma in safeguarding work further emphasises the role that medical entourage can play in helping to support sports organisations in this area. It also means that safeguarding is a topic which must be addressed locally, and where possible linking into wider established support systems.”

Safeguarding is embedded in all Olympic events. The Games-time Frameworks ensure that safeguarding officers are available at all Olympic Games and mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to any concerns.

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***Thomas Bach - IOC President***

The launch of the IOC Certificate: Safeguarding Officer in Sport in 2021– the first programme of its kind - has already trained 165 students across 66 countries in its first two editions.

Meanwhile, the Athlete Safeguarding Toolkit supports the creation of policy and procedure as well as the implementation of these Frameworks.

Safe sport is also one of five focus areas of the IOC’s Gender Equality and Inclusion Objectives for 2021-2024. Promoting safe, inclusive and equitable sport everywhere, every day, is also a key priority of the Olympism365 strategy, aimed at strengthening the role of sport as an enabler of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the primary focus of the IOC’s Safe Sport Action Plan 2021-2024.

### Leading the way

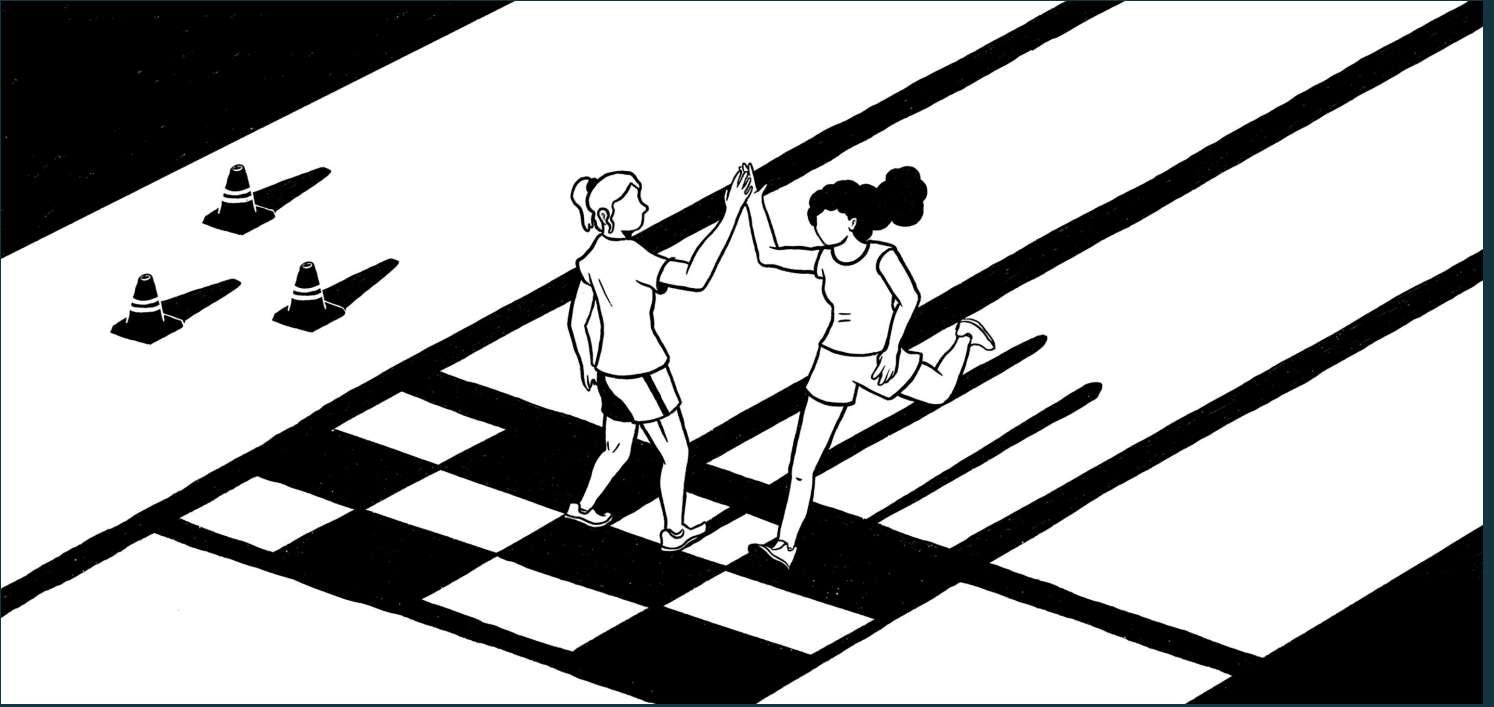
Safe sport – the ability to train and compete in an environment that is fair, equitable and free from all forms of harassment and abuse – has received increasing attention in recent years. Faced with an increasing number of cases, Olympic Movement stakeholders have been regularly looking for guidance and leadership on the issue.

The IOC has been continuously supporting them with the development of accessible initiatives created to strengthen their safeguarding knowledge, policies and procedures, including through pragmatic tools and workshops.

Experience shows that in most countries there is a lack of local structures to both prevent and appropriately address harassment and abuse cases, and with the creation of this new working group, the IOC is providing a forum to ensure that safeguarding efforts are local, contextualised and appropriate.

To address upcoming challenges, the IOC is convening world-renowned experts to take part in the third safeguarding consensus meeting to be held in September 2023, during which cyber-abuse in sport will be widely discussed.

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Moving forward, a fund of USD 10 million per Olympiad has been allocated to continue to support the successful work of the Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions (OM Unit PMC).

The fund will reinforce the monitoring around the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games, and will expand the number of monitored events organised by International Federations (IFs) and multi-sport events organisers.

This will strengthen the support offered to the Olympic Movement's constituents in the handling of their own cases, and will consolidate the worldwide education and awareness-raising activities of the OM Unit PMC.

The OM Unit PMC, created in 2017, has fostered strong cooperation with the Olympic Movement and with external stakeholders, including governments, law enforcement and sports betting entities.

Thanks to the fund, this collaborative approach will be consolidated and strengthened for the benefit of clean competitions.

### **The Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions**

The IOC has been active in the prevention of competition manipulation since 2006. In 2015, it created the Olympic Movement Code on the prevention of manipulation of competitions.

***The fund will reinforce the monitoring around the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games, and will expand the number of monitored events organised by International Federations and multi-sport events organisers.***

In 2017, following the recommendation by the International Forum for Sports Integrity (IFSI), the OM Unit PMC was set up. The Unit has established model rules, a robust awareness-raising campaign and an intelligence system for the entire Olympic Movement.

The OM Unit PMC supports IFs, National Olympic Committees (NOCs), multi-sports event organisers and other sports organisations in their efforts to protect the integrity of sport. It has also entered into partnerships with other stakeholders and supports various initiatives by intergovernmental organisations.

The work of the OM Unit PMC is based on the Three-Pillar Strategy: (a) Regulation and Legislation, (b) Awareness-Raising and Capacity-Building, and (c) Intelligence and Investigations. The three pillars are interconnected, and each is key to the efforts of the OM Unit PMC to protect clean athletes.

# PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST COMPETITION MANIPULATION.

## KNOW THE RULES.



**RULE #1**

### **DON'T FIX**

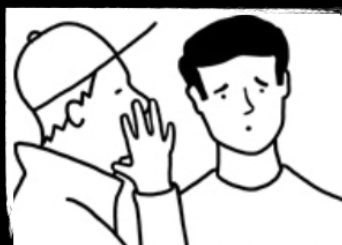
the competition and  
always do your best.



**RULE #2**

### **DON'T BET**

on your own sport or any  
event at the Olympic Games.



**RULE #3**

### **DON'T SHARE**

information about health  
issues and sport tactics.

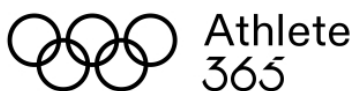


**RULE #4**

### **SPEAK UP!**

If you witness or suspect  
competition manipulation,  
you must report it.

[ioc.integrityline.org](http://ioc.integrityline.org)



**#MAKETHERIGHTDECISION**

[athlete365.org/maketherightdecision](http://athlete365.org/maketherightdecision)

# “DANCESPORTS” LANKAN STYLE JIVING IN LANKA



After it failed, the hope was for 2020 Summer Olympic Games, Tokyo, Japan. Of course, the final results were disappointing for those who like the ballroom dancing. But it's not the end. Every time the chances that ballroom dancing will be a part of the Olympic Games just increase.

So, it's just a matter of time till we can enjoy the fabulous dance performances from the best couples in the world!

It is considered that joining the Olympic Games list, will give a great boost and benefits to the ballroom dancing!

More dance schools and dance studios will open in different countries, giving more opportunities and involving more people into dancing.

Such positive impact will improve not only the professional sport, but also amateurs, including Latin-American, Social dances and Pro/Am competitions. More professional dance teachers, dance lessons and educational programs will be available.

Next Olympic Games, where ballroom dancing may be presented, will be in 2024. Probably, at this time new technologies will make a complete online education possible. And all the problems and possible solutions that we discussed recently, will finally become real. So, let's wish good luck to people who promote the ballroom dances and we believe that one day our dream of Ballroom Olympic Games will come true!

But, it's not really jiving, the 2024 Paris Game will not only have the huffing and puffing athletes and the other conventional sportsmen and women burning the tracks and other arena's in their usual inimitable styles, but, all curious eyes will be set upon the B-Boys and the B-Girls who will wriggle their bodies and rhythmic tumbles may be to the Latino and Afro-American music which has created a special sport culture of their own.

In 2018 at the Youth Olympics at the Buenos Aires there were be three DanceSport medal events 2018 YOG, with men's, women's and mixed team breakdancing competitions being held.

Since the 1970s, breakdancing has grown into a rich and vibrant scene, with active communities found all over the world.

The World DanceSport Federation, which was established in 1957 and officially recognised by the IOC in 1997, now has 94 member national federations around the world, with 71 countries participating in the most recent World Championships.

Ballroom dancing is officially recognised as a sport by the International Olympic Committee which, in theory, opens the door to it one day becoming an Olympic.

Unfortunately, ballroom dancing did not pass this time again. Several attempts were made to move DanceSport into the Olympic level.

Many people believed that the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will be the first time when ballroom dancing be accepted and added to the competition.

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*Gamini Jayasinghe - Vice President of DSSL*

***“ This is also in line with the thought process of the NOC SL Strategic Plan to bring in new sports to the realms and I feel we are on the right track ”***

***Gamini Jayasinghe  
Vice President of DSSL***

At the Paris 2024 Games, the breaking competition will comprise two events – one for men and one for women – where 16 B-Boys and 16 B-Girls will go face to face in spectacular solo battles.

Athletes will use a combination of power moves – including windmills, the 6-step and freezes – as they adapt their moves and improvise to the beat of the DJ’s tracks in a bid to secure the judges’ votes and take home the first.

In Sri Lanka, Gamini Jayasinghe, though not an avid “breaker” himself made DanceSport a reality and added it into the kingdom of “Olympic Medal Hopefuls” for the future generation.

He explained that it happened like a sudden Thunder Bolt under a clear blue sky.

“While at an audience with the IOC President Sir Thomas Bach, the IOC President turned to the Lankan congregation and inquired from the NOC SL Secretary General Maxwell de Silva as to why Sri Lanka wasn’t delving into the idea of taking up Dance Sport.

“The Secretary General just looked over his shoulder and said will it is Gamini who will be in charge of the project”.

“I toyed with this idea for a long while and lingered over it.

“I had already delivered Handball and Teqball to the stage and decided to myself, a third challenge would do me no harm”.

“I knew Kevin Nugera, the doyen of Lankan DanceSport, personally, that I did not even strain of a batting an eyelid.

“Nugera was already in the bandwagon.

“Then the other who needed no assistance to convince was hotelier Malinga Fernando - it was a strong threesome.

“DanceSport as a live entity already have had two Annual General Meetings and what really in short was the Launch of the process, which we did at the Cinnamon Grand Colombo who also became an active partner at the launch.

“We also did well in launching the official website of DanceSport Sri Lanka – [www.dancesportlanka.com](http://www.dancesportlanka.com) during that event.”

“This is also in line with the thought process of the NOC SL Strategic Plan to bring in new sports to the realms and I feel we are on the right track,” added Gamini Jayasinghe.



# IN MEMORY OF



## CHRISTIE MARIATHASAN

*Member - Finance Committee & Marketing and Sponsorship Committee of the  
National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka*

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the demise of  
Mr. Christie Mariathan.

May his soul rest in peace!