



GoodSport NEWS

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

NOC NEWS

Final set for Monday November 23

OVEP reach super-eight stage

Six Girl's schools and two boy's schools qualified for the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP Debater) conducted by the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka via the zoom technology over the weekend.

In a high quality programme where ideas and views of 60 top debaters from twenty top schools around the island were exchanged and showcased. The schools were Royal College Colombo 7, Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya Colombo 7, -

Dharmaraja College Kandy, Methodist College Colombo 3, Chundikuli Girl's College Jaffna, Gateway College Dehiwala, Trinity College Kandy, Good Shepherd Convent Kandy, Musaeus College Colombo 7, Hillwood College Kandy, Devi Balika Vidyalaya Colombo 8, Vincent Girls High School Batticaloa, Girl's High School Kandy, Gateway College Colombo, St. John's College Jaffna, Anuradhapura Central College, Bishop's College Colombo, Mahamaya Girl's College Kandy, Kingswood College Kandy and -

Pinnawela Central College Rambukkana. At the end of the grueling two-day session, Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, Colombo, Dharmaraja College, Kandy, Chundikuli Girls College, Jaffna, Royal College, Good Shepherd Convent, Kandy, Hillwood College, Kandy, Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo and Musaeus College, Colombo argued their way into Super-Eight round. The super-eight sessions of the programme are scheduled to be arranged during the coming week.

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The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka (NOC Sri Lanka) was invited to attend the 8th World Conference on Sport, Education, and Culture – Olympism: powered by Youth and Education on 25-27 November 2012, Amsterdam, Holland. As an outcome of NOC Sri Lanka's participation, it was able to establish a sound foundation to promote the Olympic Educational Values in Sri Lanka.

Since the year 2012, the Olympic Value Education took as a major theme of the Annual Olympic Academy of NOC Sri Lanka.

In 2017, the NOC Sri Lanka was able to take another major step by organising inter-school debate concept and conducted a Pilot Debate Programme with the participation of twenty leading schools in Sri Lanka.

Commenting on the occasion, Secretary General NOC SL Maxwell de Silva – one of the mentors of the Lankan leg of the event said “The programme has already been a huge success in the international Olympic forum with several affiliated organisations around the globe congratulating us for the manner in which that we have launched the programme meticulously.

“There were twenty schools involved in the first two rounds and at the end of the second day we pruned it down to eight schools who will fight it out in the super-eight stage. The super-eight rounds will be worked on 21 and 22 November while the final will be worked on Monday the 23rd.”

De Silva further said even among the schools who could not make it to the final, there were some noteworthy performances.

He said especially one contestant from St. Vincent Girl's High Batticaloa came up with a very impressive argument on the subject of doping which astounded many a witness who followed the programme.

This goes to also goes on to prove that the school children of today are very literate on the events at hand.

Finally, de Silva dwelled upon the subject of being physically fit, for the younger generation. He said in the days of yore physical fitness was a school subject where a period was allocated especially for that.

Sadly, now it has become a thing of the past and as a result this generation is gradually moving away from sports and physical fitness which is a must for a healthy future generation.

NOC SL release

“ even among the schools who could not make it to the final, there were some noteworthy performances.”

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www.olympic.lk/harassmentisnogame
#HarassmentIsNoGame



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ICC supportive of cricket's inclusion at the Olympic Games?

Sri Lanka Cricket also backs the idea wholeheartedly

Cricket has been a sport at the modern Summer Olympic Games before. The only time it has been played was at the 1900 Summer Olympics with only a men's contest when Great Britain won the gold medal and France the silver medal, but the possibility of it being contested at the Olympics again has recently resurfaced.

Cricket is not new to the summer Olympic Games. On recent times there is talk about the games being asked to be invited back to the Olympic Games in spite of skepticism from cricketing giants like India who have taken the games under its own domain and made it sound very different.

Though cricket was a conspicuous absentee at the Olympics Cricket has been present on and off at the Commonwealth games, Asian Games and South Asian Games.

Cricket was included once in the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Malaysia where matches were played over 50 overs but as most of the participating countries had sent under strength sides the matches were not granted full ODI status.

For instance, Sri Lanka who had won the World Cup in 1996 included only two of the players from the winning side in their 14-member team – Hashan Tillakaratne who captained the side to the Commonwealth Games and Upul Chandana.

Sri Lanka failed to win the Bronze medal being beaten by 51 runs by New Zealand. South Africa went onto win the Gold and Australia the Silver. England did not participate.

At a general meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia, held in Kuwait on 17 April 2007, it was announced that cricket would be included as a medal sport in the 2010 Asian Games to be held in Guangzhou. Matches would be played on a T-20 format.

In a depleted tournament where India and Pakistan opted out Sri Lanka beat Afghanistan to take the Gold while the women's team won the bronze. Cricket was not held in 2018 Asian Games but in 2019, during Olympic Council of Asia's General Assembly it was decided the return of the sport in the 2022 Asian Games, which will be held in Hangzhou, China.

In the present context, Sri Lanka has decided to support the ICC to include cricket in the Olympics, according to Sri Lanka Cricket president Shammi Silva.

The ICC is continuing with its push for a return of cricket to the Olympics, having recently asked all its members to report on the potential financial benefits of inclusion.

"The ICC has to come back to us on how much it is going to cost them. After that only the ICC will take a decision. The ICC has to bear the cost. The ICC does not have a budget for the Olympics at the moment. They are working out with it," said Silva.

"If we get into the Olympics definitely, we are interested. They are trying to play a T10 tournament in the Olympics," he said.



Sri Lanka Winning the Asian Games Gold in 2010

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If things do work to plan, Cricket could make its entry at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Not all ICC-member countries are keen to have cricket included in the Olympics notably the 'big three' – India, England and Australia who stand the least to gain and most to lose from participation in the Olympics as they have indicated that the requisite window in the schedule would eat into their bilateral series plans and leave them out of pocket.

Meanwhile former Indian cricket great Rahul Dravid backs the idea of cricket being included at the Olympic Games, saying that it will be "beneficial for the game" and should it happen.

Rahul Dravid was quoted as saying "I think it will be great for the game if T20 can become an Olympic sport -

because there are 75 nations playing the format.

I am certainly for the expansion of the T20 game and added of course, it will come with its challenges, especially with cricket needing certain facilities to be successful.

"As we have just seen, the success of the IPL (Indian Premier League) was in large part due to the quality of pitches.

So, if we can arrange those facilities and the schedule works out, I think cricket can endeavour to be a part of the Olympics," Rahul Dravid explained.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has mooted the idea in the past, asking its member nations to study the 'potential benefits' of including cricket at the Olympic Games.

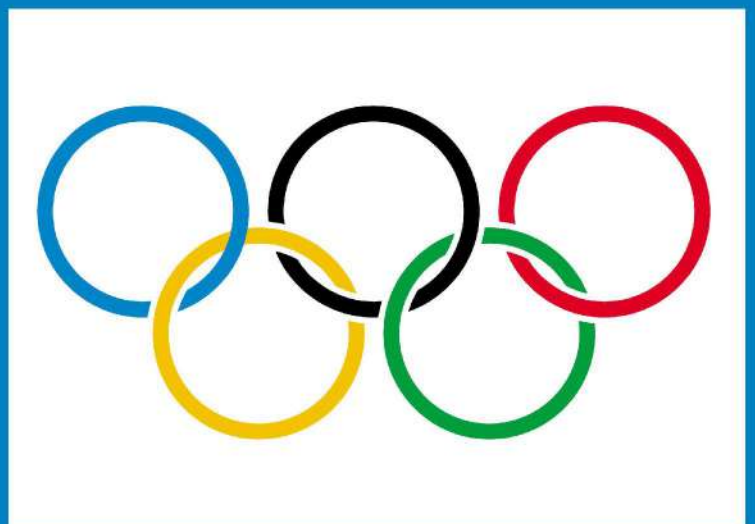
England cricket captain Eoin Morgan had earlier hoped for the inclusion of the T10 format to be included.

His views were backed by compatriot Sam Billings and West Indies all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite. Moreover, USA Cricket is also actively trying to include cricket into the programme at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics in a bid to increase the popularity and level of competition of the game in the country.

"Cricket's inclusion in the Olympic Games would undoubtedly be an enormous catalyst for growth of cricket in this country," Iain Higgins, USA Cricket CEO, told Cricbuzz last month. "Ultimately, the responsibility for leading this project lies with the ICC as the sport's international federation and it would need all of its members to be supportive before it could progress.

"I personally think that cricket would be a blockbuster event in the Olympics and we are supporting ongoing conversations with key stakeholders to make sure that the sport is as best placed as it can be for when it is ready to make the full commitment to pursue the opportunity," Higgins added.

Olympic Channel/ Financial Times Sri Lanka



Rahul Dravid

IOC executive board and athletes' commission discuss covid-19 countermeasures

The Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the IOC Athletes' Commission (AC) held a virtual joint meeting to discuss various topics, including the athlete experience and COVID-19 countermeasures at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

With the health and safety of athletes being one of the key principles in the delivery of the Olympic Games, the IOC EB and AC discussed the importance of delivering the Games while preserving the athlete experience. In September, a series of measures were agreed upon by the IOC Coordination Commission and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to make the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 fit for a post-corona world.

The possible COVID-19 countermeasures necessary to protect the health of all Tokyo 2020 participants have been grouped into seven areas: travel/country access; physical distancing; personal protective equipment/cleaning; food and beverage; testing/tracking/isolating; information provision; and vaccines. The IOC is working closely with the International Federations, National Olympic Committees and other event organisers in order to receive vital input as part of an ongoing review of the best practices and key learnings taken from the resumption of sporting events in Japan and around the world.

During the meeting, the Chair of the IOC AC, Kirsty Coventry, expressed the support of the Commission:

"We are fully supportive that the most important point is to ensure that we can deliver the Olympic Games in a safe environment for all participants, in particular the athletes. The health and safety of athletes and Games participants has been quite rightly the key consideration every step of the way," she said.

"We also appreciate that there is a need to be flexible in all other areas of requirements and operations, in order for the Games to be safe for everyone, and simply to allow them to take place.

This means that athletes will have to be flexible, like everyone else, in their expectations regarding what would normally be in place at the Games," Coventry added.

IOC President Thomas Bach thanked the IOC AC for the good cooperation with the IOC and said: "The IOC Athletes' Commission is the only commission of the IOC which meets with the IOC EB directly.

The athletes are part of every decision the IOC is taking by being represented on all the commissions, and also by having the Chair, Kirsty Coventry, as a full member of the IOC EB."

IOC SUPPORT TO ATHLETES

In addition to the COVID-19 countermeasures, the actions that the IOC has taken this year to support athletes during the pandemic were highlighted, following the recommendations of the International Athletes' Forum last year, inviting the Olympic Movement to make the funding streams to all stakeholders even more transparent and to strengthen communication to athletes on this topic.

In April, as an immediate response to the needs that arose due to the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the IOC extended into 2021 the Olympic Solidarity programmes for Tokyo 2020, increasing by USD 25.3 million the budget of Olympic Solidarity allocated to NOCs for their preparations and participation in the Games next summer.

More than 1,600 athletes from 185 National Olympic Committees, as well as the refugee athletes, who are currently benefiting from the Olympic Solidarity programmes related to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, will continue to receive this support up to the Games, which will now be celebrated from 23 July to 8 August 2021.



Chair of the IOC AC, Kirsty Coventry,

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RULE 50 CONSULTATION

The EB was also given a presentation on the Rule 50 consultation that started earlier this summer with athletes around the world, exploring innovative additional ways for athletes to express views during the Olympic Games, while respecting the Olympic spirit.

Following the IOC EB declaration in June, this initiative, led by the AC, followed the publication of the Rule 50 guidelines in January 2020, which provided more clarity on the existing opportunities for the expression of views and also included a useful Q&A.

ATHLETE ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

The AC also updated the EB on the continuous support provided to athletes in 2020 through the Athlete365 community. Many materials, webinars and courses have been made available on several topics, including mental health, which emerged from a recent athlete survey as one of the biggest challenges faced by athletes during the pandemic.

The Athlete365 community recently passed the impressive number of more than 100,000 registered athletes, Olympians and entourage members, thereby reinforcing the IOC's connection with the athlete community and the ability to engage with them on important issues, as well as the different programmes available to them, such as: Athlete365 Career +, the Airbnb Olympian and Paralympian -

Experience, the Intel mentoring programme and the P&G Athlete for Good Fund. One project that was launched this year, and which is already a success, is the Athlete365 Business Accelerator.

The two-year pilot programme that was designed in cooperation with Noble Peace Prize Laureate Prof.

Yunus seeks to enhance professional, educational and life-skills opportunities for athletes. It is supported by Olympic Solidarity. Some 5,500 athletes have already taken part in the online course.

MEDAL REALLOCATIONS

Lastly, an update was provided by the AC on the Olympic medal reallocation ceremonies organised so far in 2020.

Following a decision by the EB in May 2018, athletes now have the unique opportunity to choose the type of ceremony that they would like to have for their reallocated Olympic medal, so as to be recognised in the best way possible.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has also impacted the opportunities for ceremonies to be organised. However, two Olympic medal reallocation ceremonies were able to be held earlier this year, meaning a total of 28 ceremonies have been held overall since May 2018.

The ceremonies that took place in 2020 were in February at a Bobsleigh World Cup event, where the Latvian two-man bobsleigh team received their bronze medals and the Latvian four-man bobsleigh team received their gold medals.

Out of the 28 ceremonies held, 13 were at an NOC event, 12 at an IF event, two at a private event and one at The Olympic Museum, demonstrating that Olympic medallists have benefited from the options available to them for their achievements to be recognised in a meaningful way.

IOC NEWS

