



OLYMPIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COACHES

Guidelines

World Programmes – Entourage – Olympic Scholarships for Coaches

What are the programme's objectives?

- To enable coaches to benefit from high-level training;
- To improve coaching experiences and know-how; and
- To raise overall coaching levels for the benefit of the national sports system.

Who is this programme for?

This programme is for coaches who are officially recognised by their National Federations (NFs) and active in their countries.

Candidate coaches for an Olympic scholarship must:

- belong to federations whose sport/discipline is on the Olympic programme;
- have official coaching qualifications recognised in their country of origin, and/or by the International Federation concerned, or have equivalent experience;
- be active and able to show proof of practical experience as a national-, regional-, continental- and/or international-level coach;
- agree to pass on their knowledge and continue to develop their sports in their home countries after the completion of training; and
- regularly improve their digital skills to stay current with emerging technologies.

Candidates must not have been involved in a doping offence or sanctioned for actions contrary to the standards of sporting ethics as established by the Olympic Charter, the IOC or the NOC.

Esports coaches from a sport included in the Olympic Esports Games can be supported through training options proposed by NOCs. However, priority should be given to coaches involved in a sport on the programme of the Summer or Winter Olympic Games.



What activities are covered?

Three options are provided within this programme: training in sports sciences, sport-specific training, and training options proposed by NOCs.

1. Training in sports sciences

Individual scholarships that allow coaches to acquire training in the field of sports sciences at a high-level sports centre or university with the goal of obtaining official recognition (diploma or certificate).

The content of the training, its format (in person, online, blended), duration, evaluation method, etc., are determined by the centre/university. Our partners will ensure the participants are exposed to topics such as:

- the protection of clean athletes;
- prevention of competition manipulation;
- athlete safeguarding/prevention of harassment and abuse in sport;
- prevention of injuries (physical and mental);
- promotion of gender equality, diversity and inclusion; and
- any other emerging topics that may be of interest to them.

2. Sport-specific training

The various technical training courses available are designed to allow coaches to update their knowledge and expand their practical experience in a specific sport.

Olympic Solidarity will continue to work closely with the IFs to identify a range of courses offering specific training.

For further details, please refer to the list of partner centres.

3. Training options proposed by NOCs

NOCs may propose training institutions other than those indicated by Olympic Solidarity if they provide content that is deemed to be better adapted to the needs of their coaches. Short-term training may also be supported by Olympic Solidarity if properly justified.

In addition to the proposed sport-specific training, NOCs can consult the opportunities available through the development programmes of the IFs, if any.

Who can apply?

All NOCs, with priority given to smaller NOCs without national coaching education systems.

Which sports are eligible?

Sports on the programme of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games.

Are any third parties involved?

The main centres with which Olympic Solidarity collaborates for the **sports sciences training** are (in alphabetical order):

- CAR (ESP);
- Hungarian University of Sports Science Budapest (HUN);



- PAISAC Montreal (CAN) and Lausanne (SUI);
- United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee/University of Delaware (USA); and
- University of Hertfordshire (GBR).

For further details, please refer to the [list of partner centres](#).

The relevant International Federations play a role in delivering the **sport-specific training** through their recognised centres. Sport-specific training is available for: archery, basketball, biathlon, cycling, ice hockey, sailing and tennis.

For the **training options proposed by NOCs**, Olympic Solidarity requests that all third parties are appraised by the relevant IF.

Are there any restrictions?

Certain trainings have limited participation numbers.

Is there a deadline for submissions?

This programme is open from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028. The deadline for applying is no later than three months before the start of training. Dates of available training and related deadlines are published on NOCnet.

Olympic Solidarity and/or the training centre reserve the right to refuse late requests.

What is the application procedure?

Sports sciences option:

- The NOC must apply on RELAY and through the training centre directly. Both procedures are mandatory but independent.
- Olympic Solidarity requests approval by the training centre and technical advice from the IF for each coach.
- Olympic Solidarity allocates the scholarships after joint discussion with the training centre.
- Contracts are signed between the NOC and the coach selected for the scholarship.

Sport-specific option:

- The IF provides Olympic Solidarity with the list of the potential candidates.
- Olympic Solidarity proposes to the respective NOCs that they support the coaches selected.
- Upon agreement, the NOC submits applications for the coach or coaches through RELAY.
- Olympic Solidarity allocates the scholarships after joint discussion with the IF.
- Contracts are signed between the NOC and the coach selected for the scholarship.

Applications for sport-specific training may also come directly from the NOCs. However, each candidate is still subject to IF appraisal.

Training options proposed by NOCs:

- The NOC applies through RELAY.



- The NOC must include in the application a detailed training programme (content, format, agenda, evaluation process, type of certification, etc.) and a detailed budget breakdown, including all the relevant costs (board and lodging, training and international/domestic transport, etc.).
- Olympic Solidarity requests IF technical advice on the coach and on the chosen training.
- Olympic Solidarity allocates the scholarships.
- Contracts are signed between the NOC and the coach selected for the scholarship.

Approval of a candidature by the centre/university/IF is imperative and forms part of the application process. However, it should be noted that this approval does not in any way represent automatic scholarship allocation by Olympic Solidarity.

What is the maximum amount of funding an NOC can apply for?

NOCs can request two scholarships per year, and gender parity should take precedence.

For the **sports sciences** and **sport-specific** training, the amount is determined by the agreement Olympic Solidarity has with the relevant training centre or IF.

For the **training options proposed by NOCs**, the amount is determined by Olympic Solidarity on a case-by-case basis according to the budget breakdown submitted in the application.

Additional scholarships may be considered depending on the NOC's needs, with priority given to female candidates.

What expenses are covered?

- Transport costs: return international airline ticket and/or train ticket in standard economy class, the most direct route possible, and/or return national airline ticket, where applicable;
- Visa costs;
- Training costs;
- Board and accommodation costs;
- Weekly allowance of USD 100 (or amount agreed to with the relevant training centre) paid on site to the coach by the centre/IF for the duration of the time he/she spends abroad as part of the programme. Daily allowances are not covered by Olympic Solidarity through the NOC;
- A fixed amount of USD 200 maximum (if there is an online module in the sports sciences training) to cover internet connection costs, if necessary; and
- Health and accident insurance for the module abroad, if necessary.

What are the payment options for this programme?

For the **sports sciences** and **sport-specific training**, costs related to the stay at the training centre (training, board, weekly allowance (if any), health and accident insurance, etc.) are managed in principle by Olympic Solidarity directly with the relevant training centre.

For **training options proposed by NOCs**, costs related to the stay at the training centre (training, board, health and accident insurance, etc.) are managed directly by the NOC with the relevant training centre, based on the budget



approved by Olympic Solidarity. Advance payment of 75 per cent is available. The balance payment will be made following receipt and approval of the financial report, the end-of-training results and the coach's personal report.

For **all three training options**, international/national transport costs (standard economy class, direct route) will be reimbursed to the NOC upon submission and approval of a financial report.

What are the reporting requirements?

A financial report for all training options is to be submitted by the NOC on RELAY.

Coach reports should also be submitted via RELAY by the NOC.

Each coach's results will be submitted by the relevant training centre for the sports sciences and sport-specific training, while those for training options proposed by NOCs must be submitted via RELAY by the NOC.

Are there any other instructions?

Olympic Solidarity advises the NOCs to work closely with their NFs to create or update a detailed database of their coaches, particularly those who have benefited from a scholarship.

The NOCs are also encouraged to remain in contact with the scholarship-holders and inform Olympic Solidarity of any significant results obtained at national, regional and/or international competitions; any change in the coach's position in her/his NF; or participation as a coach at the Olympic Games, etc.

During the four-year period, following a thorough analysis with the partners concerned, Olympic Solidarity may select some of the best research projects developed by former Olympic Solidarity scholarship-holders and propose to the NOCs concerned that they be subsidised through the Development of National Sports System (DNSS) programme. If endorsed by the IF/partner concerned, the former Olympic Solidarity scholarship-holder may have the opportunity to conduct the project or to act as an assistant to the main expert.