

The Olympic Order

Upon the recommendation of its Awards Commission, the International Olympic Committee had decided in Varna and confirmed at its 75th Session in Vienna to create an award called "Olympic Order".

The first recipients will be chosen in Lausanne during the 76th Session of the IOC.

The reasons for the Olympic Order

Although the IOC may be unanimously respected and its action on behalf of sport appreciated throughout the world, recognition and proclamation of individual merit have not always been sufficiently on a par with the IOC's importance and repute.

The influence of a stadium hero, to take an example, an enterprising sports leader or an artist glorifying sport, is however indisputable. Not only must these front-ranking men be recognised, honoured and rewarded, but also encouraged as such in a civilisation which is increasingly seeking its balance and noblest values.

At the beginning of the new Olympic period, Baron Pierre de Coubertin was already well aware of this fact. Thus the Olympic Cup was created for the benefit of institutions and associations, not counting the Olympic Diploma for persons. Consequently, and much more recently, several cups or trophies were generously created either by cities or well-known personalities wishing to alleviate what had by then become considerably neglected. Thus we arrived at a glut of awards, the only result of which was to weaken their influence with the public.

The time had therefore come to concentrate these titles of gratitude and stabilise them as far as possible. Only the traditional Olympic Cup is retained. The others are replaced not by a cup, a diploma, a trophy or even a medal, a plethora of which exists nowadays

in the world, but by an Olympic Order uniting all those who have not ceased to commune with the spirit which once animated Pierre de Coubertin and which the IOC, a movement more than an institution, has always recognised as the motive force of its action: the Olympic ideal.

This ideal not only inspires all those who become famous on the field, although their titles are among the best and noblest, but also—and perhaps more so—the officers, teachers, organisers and leaders.

Fraternally united within this Order, as our elders have been since the beginning of the century within the IOC, distinguished among the best, honoured among the greatest, they will, simply by their security and the virtue of their evidence, pursue a fine mission among the finest, directed towards the young generations.

Thus, in relation with these needs, can be understood more clearly the reasons that moved the IOC to create an Olympic Order.

Regulations - Olympic Order

Article 1

An Olympic Order is created, involving the award of a gold, silver or bronze medal, and the personal wearing of a decoration. In addition, each recipient receives the Olympic Diploma.

Article 2

Only living persons may be beneficiaries.

Article 3

Any person who has illustrated the Olympic ideal through his action, has achieved remarkable merit in the sporting world, or has rendered outstanding services to the Olympic cause, either through his own personal achievement or his contribution to the development of sport, may be admitted to the Order.

Article 4

A Council of the Olympic Order, composed of seven members, is created within the IOC. Its

Grand Master is the President of the IOC in office and its Chancellor is the Chief of Protocol. The other members are the three IOC Vice-Presidents.

Article 5

The lists of nominations for each grade form annual quotas proposed by the Order's Council and decided upon by the IOC Executive Board.

Article 6

Active members of the IOC may not be admitted as such into the Olympic Order.

Article 7

Members of the Olympic Order may be expelled if they commit a crime against honour or publicly deny the Olympic ideal. Only the IOC, at its plenary meeting, on the proposal of the Order's Council and upon the Executive Board's agreement, is empowered to take this decision.

Article 8

The recipient is considered by the Order's Council as having satisfied his country's regulations. It is his duty to take in advance any steps as may be necessary with the authorities of his country.

Article 9

The candidate must sign a declaration accepting entry into the Olympic Order notwithstanding the conditions of article 8.

Article 10

The insignia of the Olympic Order are conferred upon the recipient by the President of the IOC, Grand Master of the Order, or his representative.

Article 11

The official and obligatory protocol stipulates that the insignia of the Olympic Order must be conferred after the following speech:

Mr.... (surname, given name, and, where applicable, his Olympic titles only) in recognition of your outstanding merit in the cause of amateur sport and your faithfulness to the Olympic ideal as illustrated by Pierre de Coubertin, renovator of the Olympic Games, I award you (in the name of the President of the IOC, Grand Master of the Order) the gold (silver or bronze) medal of the Olympic Order.



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