

Olympic Games

Sydney 2000

Games Budget

The IOC has reached an agreement in principle with the Australian Olympic Committee whereby each will forego AUS\$ 11 million from their respective share of the budgeted surplus of the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG). This agreement is conditional on the New South Wales government's agreeing to forego its own budgeted surplus of AUS\$ 30 million from the Sydney Games. The arrangement will alleviate SOCOG's budget of AUS\$ 52 million toward reaching a balanced budget for staging the Games of the XXVII Olympiad. Separately, the IOC and the AOC agreed to cooperate in the pursuit of post-Games national merchandising opportunities.



Doping control

The Australian Government and the IOC have reached an agreement in principle, pending approval by the IOC Executive Board, establishing a transparent and accountable results management system for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney. The agreement, based on proposals offered by the Australian Government, was reached on 15 February

during a videoconference between the Minister of Justice and Customs Amanda Vanstone and IOC Sydney Coordination Commission Chairman Jacques Rogge. The agreement also clears the way for collaboration between the Australian Drug Agency (ASDA), the IOC, and SOCOG in the conduct of out-of competition testing in the period leading up to the Games. As part of their discussions, the IOC and Australia reaffirmed their commitment to develop a valid test for the detection of EPO and resolved to have procedures in place to review and approve any prospective test that may be developed in time for the Sydney Olympic Games.

Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games

New South Wales' David Hall, the first Australian to win a tennis medal at the Paralympic Games, will be the first torchbearer for the MAA Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games Torch Relay in October this year. Hall, 30, won a bronze in the men's singles and a silver alongside partner Mick Connell in the doubles in Atlanta in 1996. Tennis became a Paralympic sport at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Hall's selection as torchbearer also continues a historic connection between the sport and the Paralympic torch relay. In August 1996, it was wheelchair tennis player, Randy Snow, who received the torch from US President Bill Clinton before beginning the journey from Washington D.C., to the Atlanta Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony. On 5 October this year on the forecourt of Parliament

House in Australia's national capital, Canberra, Hall will watch elders of the Ngunnawal Community create sparks from a traditional Aboriginal fire lighting ceremony that will ignite the flame of the Paralympic torch. The torch will spend the next 14 days visiting both interstate capital cities and regional centres in NSW. It finishes its trek by entering the Olympic Stadium on Wednesday 18 October for the Opening

Ceremony for the 2000 Paralympic Games. The federal government announced a grant of AUS\$ 500,000 to pay for flying the Paralympic torch around the country - a distance of 11,500km - so it can reach a potential audience of 11.5 million people, or 63 per cent of the population. It would also be the first time a Paralympic relay had a truly "national route" since the first relay was held for Paralympic Games in Seoul in 1988.