

Tuesday, July 05, 2011

Baseball makes IOC shortlist for 2020 Olympics

Baseball was one of eight sports selected by the IOC Executive Board for evaluation.



By IBAF Writing Staff, Tues, July 05, 2011

DURBAN, South Africa—After six hours of Executive Board meetings and leading up to the 123rd International Olympic Committee Session, IOC President Jacques Rogge headed a press conference last night where he announced that **eight sports would be put under evaluation for possible inclusion onto the Summer Programme of the 2020 Olympic Games.**

Baseball, Karate, roller sports, **softball**, sports climbing, squash, wakeboard and wushu were among the sports shortlisted, while bowling, dance, netball and surfing were cut from the initial list of 12 sports.

"Obviously, the current IBAF administration is very happy with the announcement of the IOC, but as we have learned from the past, this is only the first step of a very long and hard road," said International Baseball Federation President Riccardo Fraccari in response to receiving the official news that baseball made the shortlist.

The IOC Executive Board confirmed that its members analyzed baseball, softball and all other prospective sports separately in generating the shortlist, **while also confirming that only one of these sports could be added to the 2020 Olympic Programme.**

IOC President Rogge indicated in the press conference that the Executive Board did not examine the “potential” for a joint-bid by the international baseball and softball federations.

However, President Rogge pointed out that this does not eliminate the possibility for the International Softball Federation and International Baseball Federation to “merge” their efforts into a single bid at a future time.

According to IBAF President Fraccari, the merger would be the most effective way to wage a campaign.

“It is now important that baseball and softball come up with a joint project as soon as possible to combine efforts and increase the odds of returning onto the Olympic Programme—it is our obligation to consider the best interests of our sports,” stated Fraccari.

President Fraccari also suggested that “together, baseball and softball meet all the requirements for inclusion onto the Olympic Programme.”

The final decision on which sport will be included will be voted upon in September 2013 at the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires.

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Wednesday, June 22, 2011

President Fraccari addresses National Federations to consolidate Olympic Reinstatement Campaign

The 119 national members federations, the global baseball community will need to play a strong role in baseball’s reinstatement ambitions



Lausanne, June 22, 2011

On the eve of Olympic Day, the President of the International Baseball Federation, Riccardo Fraccari, issued the following statement to baseball's national federations:

"The International Baseball Federation is leading the campaign for the return of our sport onto the program of the 2020 Olympic Games. The success of this campaign will need the support of the entire baseball community, especially the strong collaboration of the National Federations. All of our efforts must be well-coordinated to maximize and amplify our message that our sport encourages Olympism and that our values are in line with the Olympic movement.

"It will be on On July 4th of this year that the IOC Executive Board will officially select a small number of sports to begin thoroughly evaluating for possible inclusion onto the 2020 Olympic Programme, and our institution remains optimistic about the initial hurdle. Further ahead at IOC Session in 2013 in Buenos Aires, the Programme will be finalized. During this important period under evaluation, we must clearly demonstrate that the development of baseball would be greatly enhanced and impacted, if it were resubmitted onto the Programme. Additionally, we need to refer to the benefits and growth of our sport due to the fact that it was an Olympic medal sport from 1992-2008. At the same time, we must prove that baseball will add value to the Olympic Games—and not simply commercial value, but with ideals like inclusiveness, tradition, sportsmanship and excellence, to name a few.

"I can confirm that this is not just a campaign of the IBAF; this is a campaign that invites the entire baseball family to participate and become active by engaging the international sports community. But before we act on behalf of Baseball's Olympic Reinstatement Campaign, I strongly suggest that all of our communications in its name share a common theme, which will help to give an image that our movement is serious, well-directed and well-coordinated. At this moment, ALL OF US can immediately implement the use of the [official reinstatement logo](#) on all official communications (newsletters, outgoing e-mails, letterheads, etc.), which will allow us to gain exposure quickly and with no impact on budget figures.

"In the future, we will be organizing press conferences and activities at strategic locations/events to further promote and strengthen the reinstatement campaign. We will need to keep the entire community aware of these events to help publicize and become involved in

them. We started out with a successful campaign launch in Taipei that was well covered by the press. We need to continue on this momentum together in order to accelerate this process and gain as much exposure as possible.

"With regard to digital media, the IOC closely watches the activity and checks the number of 'followers' of respective International Federations on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Therefore, we also need to refer as many people to IBAF through these channels. The IBAF office is preparing instructions for everybody in this regard, as well.

"Also for your awareness, a page dedicated to the reinstatement campaign is currently being constructed at ibaf.org. This will be a point of reference for our movement and we will be able to link to this site. Upon completion, the IBAF office will forward everybody the exact address of the webpage."

Official Logo:



**IBAF 2020 Olympic Baseball
REINSTATEMENT**