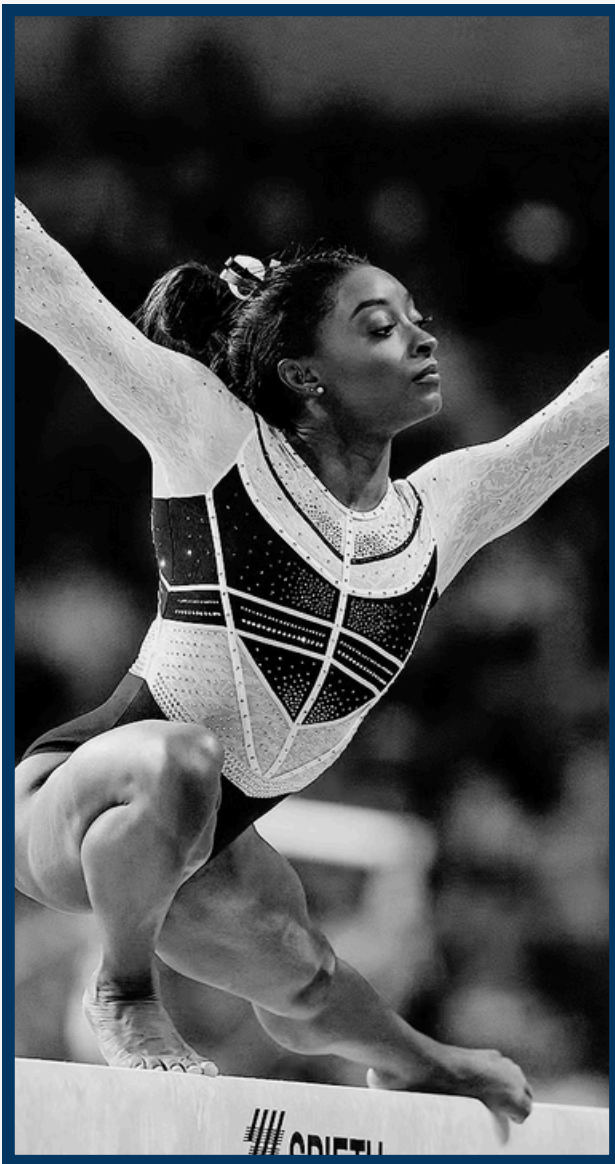




BELLARMUN 2024

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



TOPIC A:

Preventing Cheating
in the Olympics

TOPIC B:

Raising the Age Limits
for the Olympics

DIRECTOR:

Kalia Comer

CHAIR:

Natalie Neal

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS:

Isa Quesada



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Greetings Olympians,

Welcome to the International Olympic Committee! My name is Kalia Comer, and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for this committee. I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of the second-iteration of BELLARMUN's specialized committees, and am excited to meet each and every one of you!

I started my Model UN journey four years ago, during the peak of COVID. I've been in numerous committees—from DISEC to becoming the Director of IOC, Aside from Model UN, I have been a part of my school's drama program, which recently finished performing Mamma Mia! While MUN and Drama are some of my favorite things to do, you can also find me playing video games in my spare time, or binge-watching Doctor Who (I'm on the Eleventh Doctor currently)!

Alongside my absolutely amazing Chair, Natalie Neal, a junior, and my wonderful Assistant Director, Isabela Quesada, a freshman, I am excited to bring you into the inner-world of the Olympics! Fans of the Biathlon and Ice Skating respectively, Natalie and Isa are ready to make this committee one of a kind.

The International Olympic Committee is an excellent start to the world of specialized committees! You will work together as members of the International Olympic committee, or presidents of your nation's Olympic team, to solve complex issues.

Whether you are brand new to MUN, just beginning specialized committees, or a MUN veteran, we welcome you to the IOC, and we can't wait to meet you all!

Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together

Best wishes,

Kalia Comer

Director of IOC | BELLARMUN 2024

Committee Overview

Founded in 1894, the International Olympic Committee was implemented to ensure the promotion of Olympic values for games to come. This committee, better known as the IOC, has worked tirelessly to promote the values and ideas set in motion at the Olympic Games. From its inception, the IOC has made the Olympics the games they are today, from implementing the famous five rings symbol to creating the Olympic Refugee Foundation, allowing athletes under refugee status to compete.

Fostered through its 130-year history, the IOC has formed values that are still present to this very day: Excellence, respect, and friendship. The IOC has continued to be the backbone of the friendly competition that the Olympics strived to be. The IOC focuses on many aspects of Olympic life with its many commissions. It focuses on the well-being and safety of its athletes through the Athlete's Commission as well as the Human Rights aspects of the IOC. As the overseer of the Olympic games, the IOC is in charge of all aspects of international sport. In addition to its main governing body, the IOC is involved in the development of equality for sports, debating and establishing ethicality, and becoming the leading member of technological developments in regards to sport.

The International Olympic Committee is a permanent observer of the United Nations and has worked closely with the General Assemblies to promote not only a healthy environment for sports but also improvement on world issues. The IOC is a huge advocate for refugee rights and with the addition of its very own Olympic Refugee Team, the IOC has established youth sports activities throughout refugee camps around the world.

Topic Introduction

Since the body's creation, the purpose of the International Olympic Committee has been to monitor the organization of the Olympic Games and enforce the rules. However, not unlike many other competitions throughout history, participants have attempted to find shortcuts to success through various forms of cheating. In response, the IOC has safeguarded the integrity

and reputation of the Olympics, enacting regulations and codes for qualification to the Games. But these regulations did not prevent or deter cheating once already accepted to compete.

The consequences of cheating go beyond robbing righteous athletes of their accolades and honor for their country; the unethical practices of doping, technological manipulations, and other forms of cheating, risk tainting the core message of the Olympic Movement: Faster, Higher, Stronger—Together. Also, in a world of high tensions, disrupting a forum of peace among nations could cause political backlash.

Including additional regulation and consequences could reduce unfair competition; however, there are many issues that arise with further action. More regulations and questions could lower acceptance and interest in the games. Some nations see any regulations as invasive and unnecessarily complex. Many nations wish to regulate the IOC to simply the games while others believe it to be a powerful tool that should expand its reach. Either way, it is up to the delegates of the IOC to decide the future of the Olympic Games.

Topic History

The first edition of the Olympic Games was recorded in 776 BCE, and since then efforts have been made to circumvent the rules. Some of the earliest documentations of cheating were attempting to bribe fellow opponents and purposely foul others competitors. During these Olympic Games, athletes caught were punished quickly and severely; they were met with consequences such as beating and flogging.

The contemporary Olympics began with a revival of the sport in 1896, and attempts to cheat evolved with the games. In the 1904 Summer Olympics, an American male athlete finished first in the Olympic marathon; however, it was quickly discovered that he had rode in a car for 11 miles of the race. He was initially banned for life from the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), but this ban was soon reduced to 6 months, allowing him to sign up for the marathon once more in 1908.

In modern history, cheating has often been treated as a minor offense, with many discovered cheaters re-joining competition again in later years. However, modern cheating

evolved past fouls and trickery. Doping, the use of steroids to alter human performance, was introduced to athletes and has resulted in nation-wide scandals. Steroid use is not only unfair to a competitor's fellow athletes, but dangerous for those partaking in it. Research shows doping wreaks havoc on the human body, however some athletes and coaches risk their health for inhaled performance. One of the most infamous doping scandals in the Olympics is still ongoing. Beginning in 2014 when Russia was accused of having secret laboratories for doping, many Russian athletes were banned or disqualified; the government themselves was sanctioned. Despite all this, Russian athletes are still eligible for competition as long as they remain neutral and do not outwardly represent their country.

The IOC preaches a zero tolerance policy when it comes to any form of cheating, yet displays immense leniency with those caught.

Current Situation

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) recently posted the International Olympic Committee's Anti-Doping Rules, which are set to be enforced in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. These rules are to remain in effect from the opening of the games in the Olympic Village on July 18 until the Closing Ceremony on August 11. The rules allow the International Testing Agency to randomly test any and all athletes whenever they see fit. The IOC is responsible for establishing these rules and testing athletes as well as numerous officials.

Furthermore, since 2006, the IOC Code of Ethics has banned any accredited persons at the Olympic Games from betting on an Olympic event. Any and all participants are obligated to report suspicions of manipulation to any game or category. These rules were prompted by a 2002 Salt Lake City bribery scandal known as Welch and Johnson—the leaders of a bid committee that was discovered and prosecuted on bribery and fraud charges that were dismissed in 2003. The IOC passed their Code of Ethics not long after—showing significant changes could be made to the rules and regulations.

Now the threat of cheating is more pressing than ever. With the combination of new technology, doping, and the manipulation of events, the Olympics are at a crossroads. Something must be done to keep this ancient symbol of peace and cooperation afloat.

Past Action

In preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games in London, the IOC initiated the Joint Assessment Unit (JAU). Its main purpose is to collect and evaluate ideas and actions surrounding violations of integrity. The accomplishments of this unit led to the formation of the Joint Integrity Intelligence Unit (JIU), an effort between the IOC, National authorities, law enforcement bodies, and INTERPOL, that meets before the Games and works to prevent subterfuge.

In 2014, the IOC progressed further and launched the Integrity Betting Intelligence System. It monitors the exchange of information between the Olympic Movement and betting on the Olympic Games to prevent unfair betting or sabotaging of a competition. In 2017 the limits of the IBIS were to all sporting events within the Olympic Movement. The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions is the only international convention to address completion manipulation directly. Open to any state, the main topics covered by this convention include criminal laws, sports betting regulations, raising awareness, prevention of conflict interest, information sharing, creation of national cooperation frameworks, and more. The IOC was involved in drafting the Convention and worked with the Group of Copenhagen to implement these strategies.

Taking inspiration from the Council, the IOC crafted the Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions to set and enforce rules, raise awareness of cheating, and create an intelligence system to monitor and report on events of the Games—but most importantly, to regulate the implementation of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions by sports organizations.

All of these actions have deterred cheating, but they often do not have plans in place to deal with those who have cheated, leaving a gaping hole in their zero tolerance policy.

Bloc Positions

Members Against Cheating: Ms. Anita L. Defrantz, Ms. Hong Zhang, Mr. Thomas Bach, Mr. John Coates, Mrs. Nicole Hovertsz, Prince Feisal Al Hussein, Dr. Gerardo Werthein, Mrs. Kristin Kloster, Mr. Bernard Rajzman, Mrs. Dagmawit Girmay Bergane, Mr. Humphrey Kayange, Mr. Jean-Christophe Rolland, Mr. Morinar Watanabe, Ms. Tricia Smith, Mr. Yiech Pur Biel, Mr. Richard L. Carrión, Raja Randhir Singh

These members are a part of nations with strict anti-doping acts in sports. These members are seeking solutions to completely abolish cheating within Olympic sports. Some members wish to protect athletes whose coaches and managers have forced or coerced them to cheat; however, others believe cheating is wrong no matter the motive. Many of these members also want to emphasize ways to punish violators of Olympic rules. Of these members, many of their nations have differing opinions on how far-reaching IOC regulations can be.

Members of Nations With History of Cheating: Ms. Yelena Isinbaeva, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, Mrs. Mikaela Cojuangco Jaworski, Mr. Anant Singh, Lord Sebastian Coe, Mr. Guk Kim Il, Mr. Ung Chang

These members are representatives of nations with extensive histories of cheating in Olympic sports and/or have had athletes who have tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs. Additionally, some member nations have recently spoken out about the overreach of current Olympic policies, claiming that they are too invasive and violate citizens, and nations, rights to privacy. This bloc does not wish to pass regulations that violate self-determination and national sovereignty; that does not mean, however, that they support cheating.

Case Studies

Boris Onishchenko:

In the opening of the 1976 Montreal Olympics, Boris Onishchenko, an Olympic award winning Ukrainian athlete, was favored to place in the pentathlon, an athletic event comprised of

five different events. Onishchenko, 39, was an accomplished fencer and was predicted to sweep in that event. Onishchenko had defeated his opponents due to his speed and talent, as many believed. However, speculation quickly rose when a member of the British team noticed that Onishchenko had been awarded a point despite not having touched his opponent upon further inspection, it was revealed that his sword's electronic tip, that was used to signal a hit, had been modified to allow Onishchenko to press a button and record a false hit.

Later in court, Onishchenko sat, collapsed in his chair, ashamed. He never answered a single question and pleaded innocent to all claims. Onishchenko was sentenced to a lifetime ban from the Olympics, and his name was removed from every scoreboard—earning his title as “the greatest Olympic cheat”.

Fred Lorz:

At the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis, Missouri, the results of the marathon race quickly took a turn as America runner Fred Lorz was caught cheating. The marathon would soon be known as the most difficult in the history of the Games; the runners dealt with steep hills, wild dogs, humidity and intense temperatures. To ensure his win, Lorz was picked up by a car at mile nine and drove the next eleven miles. After the car allegedly broke down, Lorz ran the remainder of the race on his own, earning him a gold medal for the event. However, soon after Lorz broke the finishing line tape, many spectators argued there was no way he had run the entire race. Lorz was confronted by officials and immediately admitted guilt to the allegations, to which he claimed he was just playing a practical joke. Unfazed by his argument, the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) banned him for life.

However, his case was not formally addressed until six months later in February of 1905, in which Lorz formally apologized for his actions and was found not guilty—as he supposedly had no intention to defraud. Lorz then continued to honestly win the Boston marathon in 1905. Later, Lorz was again suspected by the AAU for taking part in an un-sanctioned meet that same year. However, this case was never fully closed. Lorz died in 1914 of Pneumonia at 30 years of age.

Guiding Questions

1. Does your country, or athletes in your country, have a history of cheating? How did your country deal with the people responsible?
2. What is your country's history with the Olympics? Where have they landed on past scandals?
3. Does your country have any regulations on domestic betting or trading information to rig betting? Do they have regulations against steroid use or any other common forms of cheating?
4. What are your country's beliefs on following the rules of an international committees, such as the IOC? Do they have a history of agreeing to treaties or decisions that don't always benefit them? Or do they put national interest above international?
5. What are your member's personal feelings toward the IOC? Do they believe it should have more or less power?
6. Do you have any personal relationships or histories with any other members of the committee?

Topic Introduction

The Olympics are the most prestigious sports competition in the world. People from around the globe, of all ages and genders, come together to display the skills they have been forging for years. The IOC has no regulations or stated limit on the ages of athletes; age requirements largely depend on the country, varying from 11 to adulthood. However, the moral implications of training athletes from a young age belong in a gray area. The intense competition of the Olympics often requires years to prepare for, which has been detrimental to the mental health of many participants. Younger competitors are also much more likely to be taken advantage of by adult trainers. They can often be pushed to mental and, sometimes irreversible, physical damage.

By deciding to enforce a different age requirement for participation, the IOC could further the Olympic Movement by protecting the youth. The vast range of ages competing against each other can cause advantages and disadvantages to many different groups. However, if this restriction is put in place, there is no telling if it will actually protect the youth, or positively affect their mental health. Preventing youth from participating in the Olympics does not prevent people from training them from a young age. Not only this, but including additional regulations might hinder the full inclusivity that the Olympic Movement strives to promote. It is up to the IOC to decide where the age cutoff should be, or if there should be a cutoff at all.

Topic History

Since its creation in 776 BCE, the Olympic Games have allowed child participants. In Ancient Greece, the minimum age for qualification was 12 years old. However, the IOC holds no age requirements to qualify for the contemporary Olympic Games. With the exception of gymnastics, participants younger than 12 can be permitted to take part in the games.

For example, Hend Zaza was a table tennis prodigy that qualified for the Olympics at a record 11 years of age. Zaza was competing with fellow athletes that were up to 58 years old, raising many questions of the fairness and ethicality of young athletes' contributions to the games.

Olympic athletes have staggering statistics regarding the negative impact extreme sports have on physical, and especially, mental health. Up to 11% Olympic athletes experience injury from training alone, and about 45% of Olympic athletes report struggling with anxiety or depression. Younger participants are even more susceptible to these mental issues due to their developing minds. Not only that, but the games have detrimental effects on athletes of all ages, especially since most return from their performances with no medals.

The fairness of allowing athletes to start competing at age 11 raises questions as to if the rules must be changed. Older athletes may be at a disadvantage due to their gaining age taking tolls on their body's abilities. The International Gymnastics Federation chose to admit all athletes who turned 16 prior to the 2021 games as participants. This caused outrage in the gymnastics community, stating that an influx of new athletes, especially those who are younger, is unfair for those who have trained and prepared for years. The negative impact age has on the Games and athletes themselves poses an argument for increased restrictions.

Current Situation

In April of 2022, the IOC recommended International Federations to address minimum age limits in their sports. This recommendation was sent out by the IOC Executive Board as a part of the qualifications for the Paris Olympics 2024. This topic was called after 15 year old Kamilia Valieva was caught doping at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. As a result, age limits in Olympic Ice skating are set to rise progressively every year. While this will bar many participants from performing, the decision hopes to prevent repetition of Valieva's infamous scandal.

On the contrary, 45 year old Manny Pacquiao, an Olympic Boxer for the Philippines, was barred from competing in the 2024 Olympics because he was over the 40 year age maximum. After his last appearance in 2021, he intended to continue competing, but the IOC made it clear he could not. Although coaches and fans protested, the IOC wrote to the Olympic Officials in the Philippines explaining that the age limit for this event would be upheld and Pacquiao would not be able to compete. Pacquiao, quite upset, ended his boxing career. The upper age limit of his sport was to keep all athletes safe, but it effectively excluded a prestigious and well-loved athlete from competing.

Past Action

In past years, the IOC has promised to make the Olympic Games more youthful and gender balanced, which they attempted with the addition of skateboarding to the Olympic Program. However, accounts of doping have brought up questions. IOC presidential spokesperson Mark Adam's admitted during Beijing 2022 that there have been a multitude of challenges with younger athletes competing in the Olympic Games.

While the Olympics have never existed without controversy, age has always been a leading catalyst. Around the 1970s, many controversies arose regarding gymnasts' ages, some nations even receiving sanctions by FIG (The International Gymnastics Committee). This led to the Gymnastics age requirements to be raised from 14 to 15 in the 1981 Olympics in Santa Clara, USA, and again to 16 years of age for the 1997 Atlanta Olympics. While many of the champions winning medals at the time were in their 20s and 30s, the average age of artistic gymnast competitors began to decrease. Although teenagers had competed in the Olympics before, this was slowly becoming more normalized as the difficulty for the category increased. This normalization led to many federations requesting permission for even younger athletes to compete in senior categories, further normalizing teenagers competing in any Olympic category, not just gymnastics.

Bloc Positions

Members who are in favor of raising the minimum age limit— Mrs. Anita L. Defrantz, Mr. Jean-Christophe Rolland, Dr. Gerardo Werthein, Mrs. Kristin Kloster, Mrs. Mikaela Conjuangco Jaworski, Mrs. Yelena Isinbaeva, Mr. Richard L. Carrión, Mr. John Coates, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, Mrs. Nicole Hovertsz, Ms. Hong Zhang, Ms. Tricia Smith, Rama Randhir Singh

Members of this bloc are part of an Olympic Sports Committee that does not allow for any minor to compete in its sport, or a part of a nation with a strict age minimum for its athletic representatives. Additionally, these members are a part of nations who are actively in favor of

raising the official minimum age limit for their respective countries, and/or are former or current athletes of sports federations that are considering raising its minimum age. Some of these nations also seek for some method of preventing the training of incredibly young athletes.

Members who are in favor of lowering the age minimum—Mr. Morinari Watanabe, Prince Faisal Al Hussein, Mr. Anant Singh, Mr. Bernard Rajzman, Mrs. Dagmawit Girmay Berhane, Mr. Humphrey Kayange, Lord Sebastian Coe, Mr. Yiech Pur Biel, Mr. Ung Chang

These members are a part of sports organizations or nations that have recently lowered its minimum age or are considering lowering the age minimum. Some of these nations see opportunities with younger competitors, while others don't want to exclude anyone from the Olympics. These members may be in favor of a universal age limit, as long as it was considerably low—enough to protect from extreme injury, but not enough to bar qualified participants.

Case Studies

Kamila Valieva:

In the 2022 Beijing Olympics, then 15 year old figure skater Kamila Valieva of the Russian Olympic Committee competed, skating masterfully—becoming the first woman to land a quadruple jump in an Olympic competition—and earning a gold medal in the team event. It was later revealed that she tested positive for a banned performance-enhancing heart medication before the competition and was still allowed to compete. After many protests, she was be stripped of any awards she received since late 2021. Though she tested positive, she was a minor and therefore a protected person she was not held accountable for her test.

Although many following Kamila's story thought this would be the end of the ruling, others believed that this was a case of human rights, and fought for the age requirements of skaters in the Olympics to be raised. Thus, the International Skating Union voted to gradually raise the minimum age for athletes competing at the senior level from 15 to 17. The ISU news release announcing the rules stated the decision was made for the sake of protecting the physical

and mental health, and emotional well-being of the skaters. The minimum age remained at 15 for the upcoming season, and is set to raise to 16 for the 2024 season until it becomes 17 for all following years.

Andreea Raducan:

Andreea Raducan was a 16 year old Romanian Gymnast who competed in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. She won the all-around gold medal for her outstanding performance. Later, she tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs—which her coach gave her without informing her of the contents. She was stripped of her medal, but she was not barred from competition. She won gold in the Romanian team final and silver in the vault final in the same Olympics.

She was never given her first medal back. The courts concluded that she was not to blame, but there was a banned substance in her system and therefore her win was illegitimate. Speaking out against her case, 14 year old Olympic gymnast Dominique Moceanu said she empathized with Raducan, and that if she was told to take a drug, whether or not she knew the contents, she would be too scared of her adult coaches to say no.

Guiding Questions

1. What is your specific country's policy on how old Olympic competitors must be? What are the oldest and youngest ages of Olympic competitors from your country?
2. Does your country have any cases of managers or coaches taking advantage of or using athletes for their own personal gain? What did your country do when these cases were discovered?
3. What are some ways that your country has supported youths' or athletes' mental well-being in the past? How could they be supported further?
4. How old was your member when they first competed in the Olympics? Did they ever compete against youth athletes? What were their opinions on it?

Further Research

<https://olympics.com/ioc/members>

This website lists all members of the International Olympics Committee. Here you will find your position, what country they represent, and what committees they are associated with.

<https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Documents/International-Olympic-Committee/Factsheets/IOC-members.pdf>

This document explains the responsibilities and roles of each IOC member. You will find what your position does within the IOC as well as the year they joined.

<https://olympics.com/en/age-consen>

This website lists every country's age of consent to join the Olympics. This will be vital to your research regarding addressing increasing the minimum age of participation in the Olympics

<https://olympics.com/ioc/1908-first-publication-of-the-olympic-charter>

The beginning of Olympic History, including the IOC. You will find important Olympic events on this website.

<https://olympics.com/ioc>

The official International Olympics Committee page. You will find more information about the IOC on this website.

<https://olympics.com/ioc/integrity/prevention-competition-manipulation>

This is an IOC article regarding competition manipulation, or cheating. This source will be integral to your research regarding the prevention of cheating in the Olympics

<https://olympics.com/ioc/prevention-competition-manipulation/intelligence-investigations>

Similar to the website above, this article addresses competition manipulation, as well as solutions already implemented into the IOC.

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<https://www.nbcsportschicago.com/tokyo-olympics/is-there-a-minimum-age-for-the-olympics-what-to-know-about-olympic-age-limits/180194/>

<https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/international-convention-against-doping-sport>

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