



# in the NEUTRAL ZONE

WWW.ADRSPORTRED.CA

1-866-733-7767

VIII / MMV

In November of 2003, the board of the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) made the decision that Canadian athletes must meet the qualification standards set by both the International Sport Federation (ISF) and National Sport Federation (NSF) of their respective sport to qualify for the 2006 Olympic Games. It is vital for all athletes vying for a spot on the 2006 Olympic team to become keenly aware of these standards. This information is readily available on the COC website:

[www.olympic.ca/EN/games/olympic/winter/turin/criteria/index.shtml](http://www.olympic.ca/EN/games/olympic/winter/turin/criteria/index.shtml)

If you have a question about any of this information, please contact your NSF or the COC immediately. There's no value in waiting until days before the Games begin!

For the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) has maintained a qualification standard equivalent to Top Half/Top 16 in the world, the same standard used for both Winter and Summer Games since Sydney 2000. The CPC has negotiated qualification standard agreements with each of our member National Sport Federations (NSFs), and all athletes attempting to qualify for the Torino Paralympic Winter Games must meet both these CPC/NSO standards in addition to the international standards established by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

These agreements will be posted shortly on CPC's Torino Team information site (Zeus) which was launched in July to all potential team members, and we encourage you to please contact your NSF or CPC immediately should you have any questions.



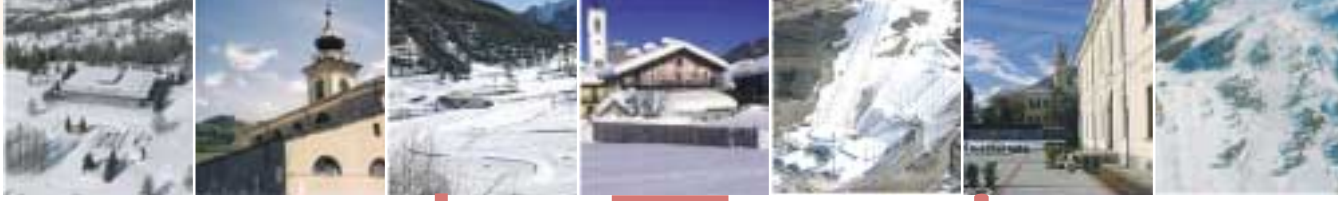
As in most things in life, the key to success in sport is proper preparation. When I was an athlete training for the Bobsleigh events at the Olympic Games, my team and our coach knew that in order to have our best possible performance, and ultimately our best results, we would need to plan for every aspect of our training and performance weeks or even months ahead of the Games. It was particularly crucial for my team to know exactly what calibre of performance we would need to have in order to meet the qualification standards for those Games. Now, in my work at the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), I am committed to ensuring that athletes are aware of the qualification standards of their sport for the Olympic Games, so that they can focus on what they need to do to meet those standards.

It is the responsibility of all coaches and athletes to educate themselves about these standards, so that their full attention can be devoted to what will count in the end: their performance. Best wishes to all of you as you pursue a place on the podium!



**Chris Farstad**

*Chris Farstad is a 1992 and 1994 Olympic team member in the sport of Bobsleigh. Currently, Chris works as President of Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton and Director of Athlete and Community Relations at the Canadian Olympic Committee. He is also a member of the SDRCC board of directors.*



# Towards Torino

## 1 What are the eligibility requirements for an athlete wishing to participate in the 2006 Torino Games?

To participate in the Torino Games (hereinafter referred to as the “**Games**”) you must qualify within your national and international sport federations, be selected by your Olympic or Paralympic Committee (COC/CPC), and be eligible according to the rules of your respective international committee (IOC/IPC).

## 2 What’s involved in qualifying, being selected<sup>1</sup> and being eligible for the Games?

- 1 You must meet the selection criteria established by your international sport federation;
- 2 You must meet the selection criteria established by your national sport federation;
- 3 Your national sport federation must select and recommend you to the COC/CPC (for the Games, the COC and CPC are the only bodies authorized to register athletes with the organizing committee);
- 4 You must meet all of the other conditions established by the COC/CPC, as applicable, such as signing an athlete agreement, and be named to the Canadian team by the COC/CPC.
- 5 You must respect the eligibility rules established by your respective international committee<sup>2</sup>.

## 3 Can I contest the selection criteria if I believe they are unfair or inadequate?

It is always possible to contest selection criteria, but you must have a good reason for doing so, particularly as the Games approach, as many potential participants will already have prepared their training and competition schedule according to the qualification criteria (which are often published and communicated far in advance of the event).

The best way to avoid disappointment with respect to the selection criteria is to participate in their preparation within your sport federation. We suggest that you consult the **Guidelines on Selection** document available online at [www.adrsportred.ca](http://www.adrsportred.ca) (under the “Resource and Documentation Centre” tab) for more information on this subject.

## 4 A few practical suggestions to help you succeed while avoiding unnecessary disappointment:

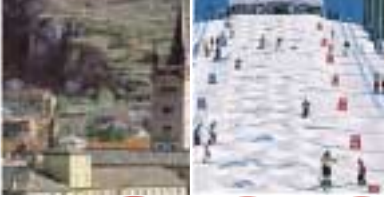
- 1 We suggest you prepare a calendar that includes all of the following deadlines and information:

- :: the qualification deadlines stated in the selection criteria of your national and international federations, as applicable;
- :: the COC/CPC<sup>3</sup> deadline for recommendations of participants selected by your national sport federation;
- :: the COC/CPC deadline to register participants with the Torino Games organizing committee<sup>4</sup>;
- :: the dates and locations of training camps and/or qualifying events;

All of this information is very important and could make the difference between your participation in the Games or not, because if a deadline is missed, it may very well be that no one - including the Dispute Resolution Secretariat of the SDRCC - will be able to help you.

- 2 We suggest that you read carefully the selection and eligibility criteria of your sport federation, the COC/CPC, and the IOC/IPC; if you have questions concerning the criteria, it is a good idea to ask them now to avoid unpleasant surprises or irreversible situations;
- 3 We suggest that you ensure that your national sport federation and Olympic or Paralympic committee have your complete and current contact information (e-mail, telephone and fax numbers, mailing address, etc.) to allow them to communicate with you quickly if the need arises;





# 2006

**ATTENTION!** Always keep your own calendar in mind and at hand in order to ensure you do not miss any registration deadlines. This could irreversibly compromise your chances of participating in the Games!

- 4 We suggest that you find out how your national sport federation plans to communicate any changes made to the selection criteria, internal rules, or other important decisions regarding the Torino Games. Changes are made from time to time, and you should be aware of them immediately in order to make the necessary changes to your own schedule;
- 5 We suggest that you consult the decisions rendered by the Dispute Resolution Secretariat of the SDRCC with respect to the selection cases for the 2002 Salt Lake City Games and the 2004 Athens Games<sup>5</sup>. These decisions, as well as our straightforward, illustrated **Case Summaries**, will allow you to better understand the legal aspects of this subject as well as the lessons learned from past cases;
- 6 And finally, we suggest that you communicate with the SDRCC staff at **1-866-733-7767** if you have questions or wish further information.

## 5 How can I appeal a decision by my national sport federation not to recommend me to the COC/CPC?

You must first refer to the internal appeal policy of your national sport federation in order to understand the applicable appeal deadlines and conditions. In addition, these rules normally provide for a second and final level of appeal to the SDRCC.

If time is at a premium and the parties are in agreement and sign an agreement to this effect<sup>6</sup>, it is also possible to submit a request directly to the SDRCC, thus bypassing the internal appeal step.

## 6 How can I appeal a decision by the COC/CPC not to select me for the Games?

In accordance with the COC/CPC rules applicable to the Games, you may submit a request to the SDRCC, and our mediators or arbitrators will help you resolve the dispute concerning selection by the COC/CPC to the Canadian team.

## 7 How do I submit a request to the SDRCC?

Simply complete the request form<sup>7</sup> and send it to the SDRCC. If your right to submit a request to the SDRCC is not covered in the applicable internal appeal policy or the COC/CPC rules applicable to the Games, we will ask you to include with your request a mediation or arbitration agreement signed by the parties<sup>8</sup>.

## 8 What should I do if I have other questions?

Visit our Web site at **www.adrsportred.ca**, and contact a member of the SDRCC staff by dialling **1-866-733-7767** (toll-free) or by writing to us at **info@adrsportred.ca**.

## ENJOY THE GAMES!

- 1 The Olympic selection criteria are available online at **www.olympic.ca** in the "Torino 2006" section. For information concerning the selection criteria for the Paralympic Games, please contact the appropriate person in your own organization or Rob Needham of the CPC at 604-678-6241.
- 2 These eligibility requirements are outlined in the Olympic Charter (for the Olympic Games) and in the IPC Handbook (for the Paralympic Games). You can consult these documents online by visiting **www.olympic.org** and **www.paralympic.org**, and clicking on the sections "Organisation / Mission" and "IPC" respectively.
- 3 The recommendation deadline is January 20, 2006, for the COC, and February 17, 2006, for the CPC.
- 4 The registration deadline for the Torino Organizing Committee is January 30, 2006, for the Olympic Games and February 24, 2006, for the Paralympic Games.
- 5 To access electronic versions of the complete texts and summaries of decisions rendered with respect to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, please refer to the "December 2001 to February 2002" and the "May 2004 to July 2004" sections of the "Jurisprudence Database" on the SDRCC Web site at **www.adrsportred.ca**
- 6 Templates of mediation and arbitration agreements are available online in the "Resource and Documentation Centre" section of the SDRCC Web site at **www.adrsportred.ca**.
- 7 Request forms are available online in the "Dispute Resolution Secretariat/Forms" section of the SDRCC Web site at **www.adrsportred.ca**.
- 8 Templates of mediation and arbitration agreements are available online in the "Resource and Documentation Centre" section of the SDRCC Web site at **www.adrsportred.ca**.

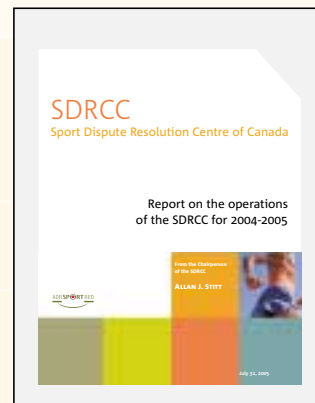


# Latest News at the SDRCC

**1** Report on the Operations of the SDRCC for 2004-2005  
available online at:  
[www.adrsportred.ca/about/annual\\_report\\_e.cfm](http://www.adrsportred.ca/about/annual_report_e.cfm)

**2** An article by SDRCC in the Summer 2005 issue of the *Coaches Report*

**3** Four decisions rendered by the Dispute Secretariat regarding  
selection and doping issues  
available online at:  
[www.adrsportred.ca/resource\\_centre/jurisprudence/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.adrsportred.ca/resource_centre/jurisprudence/index_e.cfm)



Don't miss our next issue of *IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE* on August 15, 2005

To receive a copy of *IN THE NEUTRAL ZONE* by mail or  
by e-mail, send us an e-mail at [info@adrsportred.ca](mailto:info@adrsportred.ca)



## Events

- > **Athletes Forum 2005**  
September 30 to October 2, 2005  
Regina (Sask)
- > **Sports Leadership Congress**  
November 9 to November 13, 2005  
Quebec city (Qc)

Don't miss

- > Our new Code of procedure
- > Our new Resolution Facilitation service
- > A mediation and arbitration guide
- > The Major Games Package

# SDRCC

The Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada

Phone (450) 686-1245 | 1-866-733-7767

Fax (450) 686-1246 | 1-877-733-1246

[WWW.ADRSPORTRED.CA](http://WWW.ADRSPORTRED.CA)

3100 Le Carrefour | Suite 560 | Laval (Québec) Canada | H7T 2K7

[info@adrsportred.ca](mailto:info@adrsportred.ca)