



For Immediate Release

More than 2000 Olympians register for OLY

Lausanne, Switzerland; 16 November 2017

Olympians from around the world are thanking the World Olympians Association for its landmark OLY initiative. Over 2000 Olympians have registered for OLY following the first five days of its launch.

The 2000-strong group includes Olympians from all over the world representing both summer and winter Olympic sports including Ato Bolden OLY (Athletics, TRI), Ronald Rossi OLY (Luge, USA) and IOC Member Nicole Hovertsz OLY (Synchronised Swimming, ARU), Konstantin Schad OLY (Snowboard Cross, GER), Dame Kelly Holmes OLY (Athletics, GBR), and Hanae Ito OLY (Swimming, JPN).

At the launch, held at the **8th International IOC Athletes' Forum in Lausanne, Switzerland** on November 11, **WOA President Joël Bouzou OLY** presented the first OLY certificate to **IOC President Thomas Bach OLY** and encouraged all Olympians from around the world to register.

The initiative allows Olympians to use the OLY post-nominal letters. OLY can be used on official documentation, CVs, business cards, social media. In fact anywhere an Olympian would use their name, in the same way a university graduate may use PhD.

Serving as a symbolic recognition of an Olympian's status in society, OLY promotes an Olympian's social, charitable, and community-based work, acting as a reminder of their achievements and of their responsibility to embody the values of Olympism in everyday life.

OLY also helps connect the global Olympian community. Romanian Weightlifter Dragomir Cioroslan OLY, who is the Director of International Strategies and Development at USOC, believes that the OLY post-nominal letters "positively impact the lives of tens of thousands of Olympians in every corner of the planet".

WOA President, Joël Bouzou OLY, added:

"We have been overwhelmed by the fantastic response we have had so far for the OLY initiative. We have received many emails from Olympians thanking us for providing this service. Olympians are proud of their achievements, and rightly so. It is important that they now have this opportunity to demonstrate their journey as an Olympian, and the immense dedication involved. OLY will also help Olympians in the work they do in society as they live the Olympic ideals.

“The skills required to become an Olympian are the same as those which are needed to become an excellent professional in any career. OLY will better highlight those skills and will help Olympians to find jobs after their sports career is over.”

Olympians can sign up for OLY [at: https://olympians.org/olympians/oly/](https://olympians.org/olympians/oly/).

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Notes to Editors

About World Olympians Association

WOA is the member organisation for the more than 120,000 Olympians worldwide. Our remit is to work for the benefit of all Olympians at all stages of their lives, empowering them to serve society and help make the world a better place. With 148 member National Olympians Associations (NOAs) spread across all five continents, WOA provides support to Olympian-run events and projects based on the Olympic ideals laid down by the founder of the modern Olympics, Pierre de Coubertin.

To engage with the WOA:

Website: olympians.org

Twitter: [@WorldOlympians](https://twitter.com/WorldOlympians)

Facebook: facebook.com/WorldOlympiansAssociation/

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