



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

**HRH Prince Feisal
Al Hussein
IOC Member**

To: Mr. Joël Bouzou

March 15, 2025

Dear Mr. Bouzou,

Thank you for your letter of 10 March seeking clarification on how, as President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), I would ensure that athletes and Olympians are central to the IOC's work.

Athletes embody the true spirit of sport - the men and women who dedicate themselves to excellence and continually strive to reach their fullest potential. Without them, there would be no elite sport or Olympic Movement.

As President of the IOC, building on the IOC's International Athletes' Forum, I will establish workshops for athletes to actively contribute to the development of Olympic Agenda 2036.

Through open dialogue, and collaboration with our stakeholders, we can collaboratively design a future that better values their voice, their well-being, and their participation, recognising the crucial role they play.

As part of this, I will engage our broadcast and commercial partners on how we can help athletes create content around their Olympic experience, which in turn will drive traffic towards partners, further supporting their interests. Additionally, I will ensure clear pathways and training programmes are created to assist athletes in transitioning to second careers after their sporting ones are finished.

Safeguarding athlete welfare is also crucial. As Chair of the IOC's Safeguarding Commission and founder of Generations For Peace - a leading global organisation advancing peace through sport - I have seen firsthand the importance of creating environments free from abuse, harassment, and discrimination. I am equally committed to fostering inclusivity, ensuring that every athlete, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or background, feels supported and valued.



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Finally, as someone from a country proud of welcoming refugees, I take great pride in the IOC's Refugee Olympic Team. As President, I will continue to champion peace through sport, ensuring that refugee athletes have an equal voice and equal opportunity within the Olympic Movement.

Thank you again for your thoughtful questions.

Yours sincerely,

Feisal Al-Hussein

Outlook

Re: WOA Open Letter to IOC Presidential Candidates

From Morinari Watanabe <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com>

Date Sat 15/03/2025 14:11

To World Olympians Association - President Office <president.office@thewoa.org>;

Dear Mr. President Joel Bouzou

Thank you for sending an open letter. I have included the support I would like to offer to Olympians in my candidacy Manifesto, so It would be nice if you could take a look at it.

The Olympian Forum that I would like to set up will help Olympians to have successful second careers. I sincerely wish them happiness and success in their lives. At the Olympian Forum, I would like to organize social events with world's top companies from around the world, giving current athletes the opportunity to attract sponsors, and retired athletes the opportunity to find a second career.

In addition, with the Olympic Games taking place simultaneously on five continents, I believe that Olympians from each continent will have more opportunities than ever before to get involved and contribute to all phases of the Olympic Games, before, during and after the Games.

In pursuing these initiatives, I believe that the relationship with the WOA is important. I think that the IOC needs to be a more open organization. I would like to increase the presence of sport by strengthening the relationship between the IOC and the IFs, WOA, etc. I firmly believe that it is important to respect each other and to develop together.

Best regards

IOC member Morinari Watanabe

Morinari Watanabe

President of International Gymnastics Federation (IOC member)

Outlook

RE: WOA Open Letter to IOC Presidential Candidates

From Sebastian COE [REDACTED]
Date Thu 20/03/2025 10:40
To World Olympians Association - President Office <president.office@thewoa.org>
Cc joel@jbouzou.com <joel@jbouzou.com>

Dear Joel,

Thank you for your letter on 10 March and for our meeting last week.

Let me get straight to answering your questions:-

1. Athletes at Heart of every decision we make is the central core theme of my manifesto. Athletes are the lifeblood of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and they deserve to share in the commercial benefits. In summary:
 - o Prioritise athletes' physical, mental, and financial welfare
 - o Create shared-value models where athletes benefit from the Games' commercial success, recognising them as essential partners
 - o Ensure athletes have meaningful decision-making representation
 - o Leverage our alumni to carry the torch for sport
2. As we discussed when we met, I believe the role of Olympic alumni is extremely important to the Olympic movement. Again I mention this in my manifesto, specifically the role they can play in promoting sport and working with Governments to ensure sport remains high on their agendas.
3. I believe we need to do more to make athletes our commercial partners on their journey to becoming Olympians, during their competitive years and once they have retired. Medical screening and health checks is something World Athletics' Health and Science team have been looking at and I think the USOPC's pensions initiative is a really positive step for athletes.

With regards to questions 4 and 5, I think my views are clear and on the record. With Athletes at Heart as the central theme in my manifesto you will know that I believe that giving athletes more access to data and assets will be hugely valuable to them. I think there are a number of other initiatives that I would encourage discussion on as not one size fits all. I welcome an open and transparent conversation with you and the Olympians.

Apologies for the short note, but I think we covered much of this in our meeting so I would rather not take up too much of your time, but did want to answer your letter.

I look forward to further conversations about this in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Seb
