

Background

What is OLY

World Olympians Association launched the OLY post-nominal letters initiative in November 2017. The OLY network now holds over 20,000 Olympians, with the letters OLY serving as a constant public reminder and recognition of Olympians' achievements in the field of sport, as well as a symbolic recognition of their status in society and their commitment to furthering the Olympic values. WOA's target is to reach 24,000 after the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Who is eligible for OLY

The OLY title is available to any athlete that has competed at an Olympic Summer or Winter Games. Olympians apply through WOA's website: www.olympians.org and eligibility is checked against the IOC's Games competition results database JORES.

Upon verification, an email is sent with a personalised electronic OLY recognition certificate. The OLY pins are not sent out to all OLY recipients, they have been produced as a special item for ceremonies and events.

High-profile Olympians to take up the honour include Michael Phelps OLY (Swimming, USA), Clara Hughes OLY (Cycling / Speed Skating, CAN), Abhinav Bindra OLY (Shooting, IND), Ireen Wüst OLY (Speed Skating, NED), Lord Sebastian Coe OLY (Athletics, GBR), Deng Yaping OLY (Table Tennis, CHN), Joshua Cheptegei OLY (Athletics, UGA), Dawn Fraser MBE OLY (Swimming, AUS), Robert Scheidt OLY (Sailing, BRA), Simone Biles OLY (Gymnastics, USA).

Why present Olympians with OLY

OLY ceremonies are an excellent way to celebrate Olympians and their contribution to sport and the Olympic Movement.

It is also a great way for International Federations, National Olympians Associations and National Olympic Committees to connect / re-connect with Olympians.

How Olympians can use OLY

OLY is like PhD, MD and other post nominal titles and can be used on business cards, CVs, social media and anywhere their name appears to build recognition and prestige in their achievements in the field of Olympic sport.

OLY Ceremony Delivery Guide



WOA assists National Olympians Associations, International Federations and National Olympic Committees to facilitate OLY ceremonies to Olympians. OLY Ceremonies honour Olympians and their achievements. They also provide public recognition and serve as a reminder of Olympians status in society and their commitment to promoting the Olympic Values.

It is essential that OLY ceremonies remain special and respect the sentiment of OLY and what it means to be an Olympian. As such, the list below outlines what WOA will provide to facilitate OLY ceremonies and what the event organiser must provide.

WOA will provide

- OLY Certificates (electronic PDFs sent by email)
- OLY Pins (by post)
- Draft speech / presentation notes
- Video on “What is OLY” can be found here: <https://youtu.be/NgRQ3yCa6SE>
- Video message by WOA President (upon request)
- Support to identify a suitable Olympian to make or support the ceremony if needed
- A press release developed in collaboration with the event organiser

Event organiser to

- Provide WOA with the details of the MC / presenter to assist in preparing speech notes
- Print certificates on high quality paper (A4 250gr recommended), and frame if possible
- Ensure that OLY registrations are completed by the individual Olympians themselves. This is important because OLY recipients are required to agree to the [OLY code of conduct](#) and provide their email address in line with the [WOA Privacy Policy](#)
- Provide WOA a list of OLY recipients (name, sports and Olympic Games they competed in) two weeks in advance - WOA will provide the event organiser with the OLY Certificates of Olympians that have registered for OLY.
- Provide WOA with high resolution images of ceremony following the event

WOA Contact

Please contact WOA Team, info@thewoa.org for more information.