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Dear Friends,

Greetings from the ISSF Athletes Committee!

The committee recently convened in Munich for our second meeting in 2015. It has been an endeavor of the Athletes Committee to be an open inclusive forum and here we would like to give you some important information and an update of our activities.

1. Information from the IOC Athletes Forum.

a. Athletes Hub

The IOC will be launching the Athletes Hub early next year. This will be a one stop shop with offers for Olympians to connect with fellow athletes and share experiences. All news and information on the upcoming RIO Olympics. A lot of information to learn more about how to best transition from sport into the workplace.

b. Athletes learning gateway

This is already up and running. The link is www.olympicorg/gateway. This provides education and inspiration for elite athletes, featuring top academics, Olympians and leaders in sport. It offers short courses and videos to boost your performance, shape your future – 13 courses available in 4 languages. It is a way to boost your current performance and be inspired for your future education and career pathways. It provides daily feed of the best sport – related content to motivate and inspire. It's available free at any time.

c. Competition manipulation and learning

This is going to be available for the Rio Games. It offers information on what is competition manipulation, especially in relation to sports betting, offers Do's and Dont's to respect the rules. Available in 10 languages.

d. Olympic channel

This is a very exciting project of the IOC. This will provide a great platform to non main stream sports like ours to showcase ourselves year around. It's not just about streaming of sports events but also going behind the scenes and showcasing the athletes' life and personality. The ISSF is already in touch with them and we recommend that they best make use of this opportunity.

e. Rule 40 relaxation

This is something which is very important and relevant to all athletes who will be competing at the 2016 Olympic Games. Rule 40 deals with the participants' image for advertising purposes during the Olympic Games. The IOC will now allow the personal sponsor of the athlete to launch an advertising campaign during the period of the Olympic Games. Of course, there are some disclaimers. Advertising by Sponsors who are NOT Olympic Sponsors may in principle continue during the period of the Olympics subject to the following:

- NOCs may decide to restrict or prohibit advertising subject to the territory's applicable laws and regulations.
- The advertising must not create any impression of a commercial connection with any Olympic property and in particular the Olympic Games.
- Applications to advertise must be submitted to the NOC or IOC for approval.

Please contact your NOC for further information.

2. ISSF Athletes Committee Recommendations to Organizers

One of the biggest goals of our committee has been to make all our ISSF Championships more athletes-friendly. The AC made a presentation at the Workshop for Organizers and our recommendations are herewith attached for your reference. If there is something we have missed, please send us an email and we will make sure they are communicated to the concerned.

3. Anti-doping

The Athletes Committee met with the Medical Committee and with Ms. Janie Soubliere who is the ISSF Anti-Doping Consultant. The Athletes Committee fully supports the ISSF's initiatives towards anti-doping, protecting clean athletes and educational initiatives. The Medical and Athlete Committees have come up with several joint initiatives such as having ISSF athlete ambassadors for anti-doping. These will come in force in 2016.

- 4.** The Athletes Committee held meetings with the Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun Committees and brought up all **technical matters** that were brought to our notice. We are pleased with the cooperation we received and will continue to liaison with all the different section committees. If you have anything particular that needs any attention please feel free to contact us at any time.

5. The ISSF Athletes Committee met with the newly elected **chairman of the European Athletes Committee Mr. Vasily Mosin**. We are looking forward to cooperate towards our common goals to make our sport stronger and to empower all our athletes.

6. **Music**

To enhance our sports presentation the Athletes Committee had recommended that music be played at our qualification and finals competition from 2016. Several elite as well as young junior athletes were contacted on this issue. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive and it was noted that music did not have any negative influence on performance. However the AC is mindful on the choice of music that is played should not negatively impact an athlete's performance. Therefore we have recommended that any music with strong beats, techno and trance styled music should be strictly avoided. All athletes are welcome to contribute to the playlist we will be trying to build. We will welcome your suggestions.

7. **Equipment Control and shotgun cartridge checks**

This has been a matter of great concern to the Athletes Committee. We communicated our concerns to the Secretary General on the issue of rifle clothing control immediately after the World Cup in Fort Benning. We are pleased to inform you that the ISSF has set up a team of four master equipment control officers, two of whom will be present at all world cups. They will travel with their own set of calibration tools. We believe that this will ensure much more consistency into the checks. The master equipment control officers will also be able to take a decision to suspend tests if In Extraordinary circumstances the equipment does not give precise readings. A new shotgun ammunition test has been implemented to the satisfaction of athletes since the World Championships in Lonato. Weighing scales will be provided at the ranges to provide the chance to self-check the cartridges.

8. **Agenda 2020**

The Olympic Agenda 2020 was unanimously agreed at the 127th IOC Session in Monaco in December 2014. The 40 detailed recommendations are like individual pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, which when put together give us a clear picture of what the future of the Olympic Movement will look like. They give us a clear vision of where the IOC is headed to protect the uniqueness of the Games and strengthen Olympic values in society. The Agenda 2020 is available on the IOC website, at this link: http://www.olympic.org/documents/olympic_agenda_2020/olympic_agenda_2020-20-20_recommendations-eng.pdf

The ISSF Athletes Committee recommends that all ISSF athletes should go through this document. Recommendation 11 of the agenda 2020 which calls for gender equality is bound to have impact on our current event program. Recommendation 10 calls for a move from a sport to an event based evaluation. This means that every event of the Olympic program will now be evaluated rather than the sport on the whole. The Athletes Committee is working in close cooperation with the ISSF to ensure that the athletes remain the heart of all decision making with the goal of ensuring that shooting sport continues to maintain its strong presence in the Olympic Movement. We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have

on Agenda 2020 and will welcome any suggestions you may have on its implementation in regards to our sport.

9. Communication

The Athletes Committee ran an online survey at all our 'World Cups this season. We received a very limited response but thank all of you who took the time to send us your valuable comments. All concerns were discussed in our meeting and we have initiated action on all the points. Communication is power and we would very much like that you engage with the Athletes Committee more so that we have your ideas and aspirations at the heart of all our discussions. Please feel free to contact us at any time on athletes@issf-sports.org

In the meantime we send you our warmest greetings for the holiday season and wish you a great preparation for the upcoming Olympic Season in 2016.

Abhinav Bindra

Chairman

ISSF Athletes Committee

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ATHLETES' COMMITTEE

1. VISA

Communicate with embassies of hosting countries well in advance so all athletes receive their visas on time.

2. AT THE AIRPORT

- a. Sufficient number of English-speaking volunteers to help athletes.
- b. Preparing Customs officials of the host country to receive the sudden rush of athletes and their gear, and facilitate their smooth and quick clearance.
- c. Enough buses departing the airport for hotel venues so that athletes do not have to wait more than 30 minutes after Customs clearance to leave the airport.
- d. Provision of buses large enough to allow space for comfortable transport of athletes with their gear. Athletes participating in Rifle events have large gun cases and need significantly more space for their equipment than others.
- e. It would be wonderful if athletes could clear customs and leave their guns and equipment at the airport and for the organizers to transport everything directly from the airport to the range. This way, athletes could leave the airport for the hotels immediately after customs in regular-sized buses, which would save us time and energy, and go a long way in helping recovery.

3. HOTELS

- a. A good selection of quality hotels to suit different budgets so that athletes and officials can stay at official hotels to facilitate networking and camaraderie, rather than choose independent hotel venues based on the price they can afford.
- b. Warm breakfast served to athletes 30 minutes before the departure of the first bus from the hotel.

4. BUSES

- a. More buses available to transport athletes between hotel and range on the first few days of the training or the competition, because there are a greater number of visitors.
- b. Buses should be available in sufficient number to allow for more trips between hotel and range so that athletes can adjust to the time zone and weather condition.
- c. Buses should have enough space to comfortably accommodate athletes along with their gear. Rifle athletes' gear takes up more space because of large gun cases.

5. WEBSITE

Schedules of trainings and buses can be made available on the official website. This makes it easier for organizers to share information, and for team officials to access it in time, without waiting at the hotel reception to check the information board.

6. AT THE RANGE

- a. Presence of enough English-speaking officials throughout various areas of the venue.
- b. For venues with brand new facilities, the Technical Delegate should arrive a few days before the start of the event.
- c. Scheduling an extra day will give athletes greater training possibilities and more recovery time, especially if they participate in multiple disciplines.
- d. Proper changing and preparation areas for athletes.
- e. Athletes should have enough time to prepare and clean up. In Rifle events, this is 30 minutes before and 15 minutes after a match.
- f. An adequate area for DRY firing (an extra tent) that is close enough to the range for all disciplines.
- g. Unused / underutilized ranges being made available for additional practice.
- h. Proper INDOOR storage for equipment so that weather conditions do not adversely affect the equipment and impact the athlete's performance.
- i. Proper rest areas for athletes.
- j. Adequate catering for athletes with a list of on-site catering facilities and menus included in the competition documentation.
- k. Provision of sponsored bottled water free of charge in preparation areas for the finals, if not at all training venues as well.
- l. Provision of sufficient toilets dispersed throughout the venue.
- m. Provision of free WiFi access at ranges.

7. ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Invite school children free of charge on competition days to increase the number of spectators and create more interest in the sport.