



Committee: International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Delegation: United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC)

Topic: Harnessing Sports Diplomacy for the Advancement of Democracy and Human Rights

The United States is at the forefront among great powers in developing an institutional framework for sports diplomacy as an expression of “soft power” and recognizing the long-term effects of strategic sports diplomacy.¹ Due to sports' ability to set aside cultural differences, it makes political dialogue between two nations possible, even if on bad terms. One key example of this is the steps taken between China and the USA in 1971, known as ping-pong diplomacy. The resort to sports diplomacy, in a situation where classic diplomacy has failed, served to initiate new meetings between high government officials on both sides (Murray, 2011).

We have been involved in sports exchange programs for years now, and one of the longest-running is the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, which sends approximately 800 American scholars and professionals each year to around 130 countries.² In three years, the Summer Olympics will be held in Los Angeles, the Winter Olympics in 2034 will take place in Salt Lake City, and the FIFA World Cup next year, all present the commitment the United States is showing to host such huge sports events. However, if we are talking about past actions of sports diplomacy inside our country, a classic example is the 2016 exhibition baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban National Team, which was part of President Obama's historic visit to Cuba.

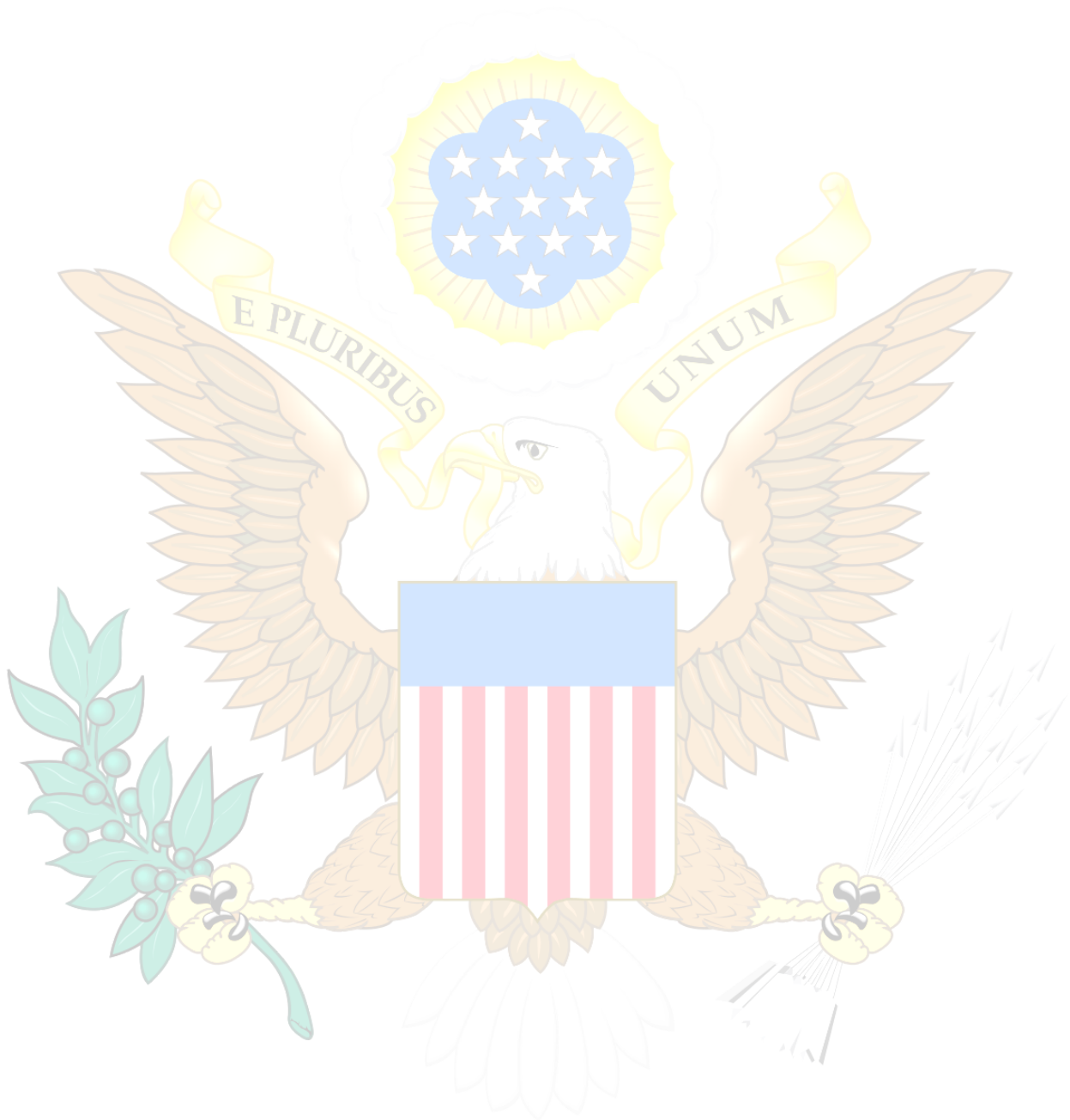
Monitoring host countries' human rights records before, during, and after major sporting events is of utmost importance to our country. We are always fighting for the athletes' well-being, so establishing binding protections for athletes' freedom of expression on human rights issues will be an idea we will propose during the conference. Implement labor rights standards for all Olympic construction projects, including independent inspections and worker grievance mechanisms we see as a priority. As we all know, what happened when Qatar hosted the 2022 World Cup. As for sports exchange programs and educational programs, we see that they are still necessary.

We wish for financial commitments from wealthier committees and athletes alike to achieve the implementation of these great ideas. Additionally, we will need agreements from host countries to allow independent human rights observers access to venues and construction sites. We are also wishing for commitment from the IOC to include human rights criteria as weighted factors in host city selection. We are open to cooperating with any and all committees and athletes present

¹ Ushkovska, M., & Petrushevska, T. (2015). Sports diplomacy: Development and practice. *Research in Kinesiology*, 43(1), 89-93.

² *Cultural, Educational, and Sports Diplomacy*. (n.d.). The National Museum of American Diplomacy. <https://diplomacy.state.gov/discover-diplomacy/topic/cultural-educational-and-sports-diplomacy/>

at the conference and are willing to find a middle ground to enhance sports diplomacy for the advancement of democracy and human rights.





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Topic: The Inclusion of Transgender, Intersex, and Non-Binary Athletes in Competitive Sports

We believe sex-based eligibility provides fairness and clarity for elite-level athletes. Recently, the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee has been directed to comply with federal policy, and is now obliged to follow the Executive Order 14201. As the host country of 2028, we believe we have the most necessity for clear criteria regarding athletes' participation. Not like the IOC Framework from (2021), which has caused confusion. We propose that the IOC works with all stakeholders to develop standards that protect women's sports while respecting human dignity. We are open to dialogue and wish for a comprehensive policy to be born by the end of the conference.

Post-puberty trans women retain some advantages even after hormone suppression, for example, lung capacity, bone density, and skeletal structure. The degree of these advantages varies from sport to sport, especially in contact sports, and ensuring the safety of our athletes is of urgency. Implementations of open categories have been talked about; however, not been fully implemented in elite-level sports events such as the Olympics. These categories would provide competitive opportunities for all athletes. We acknowledge that intersex/DSD athletes require careful consideration and policy development.

With the implementation of the Executive Order 14201 and the Ted Stevens Olympic & Amateur Sports Act, our committee has shown commitment to ensuring women an equitable competition.³ These implementations are not to deny the identity of any athlete; they are for fair competition and for the welfare until a comprehensive framework has been established. If policies regarding transitions and changes in competitive categories, we will keep working with Athletes and National Governing Bodies to help make these as seamless as possible, to ensure all athletes may train and compete to the best of their ability.⁴

What we want to achieve in this conference is that rather than each sports Federation setting its own rules, the IOC develops its own clear criteria for which members are to obey. We would also advocate for funding mechanisms for research on transgender athletes' performances since evidence shows mixed results. Until the evidence-based criteria are established, we advocate for women having separate competitive categories, mainly for the safety of our athletes. In the 2028 LA Olympics, our committee is very keen on establishing the right criteria for all the athletes.

³U.S. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE POLICY. (2025).

https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/blt9e58afd92a18a0fc/bltf456568858cc9c12/USOPC_Athlete_Safety_Policy.pdf

⁴ United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee. (2022, December 7). Transgender Athlete Participation in Sport. [Www.usopc.org. https://www.usopc.org/diversity-equity-inclusion/transgender-athlete-articipation-in-sport](https://www.usopc.org/diversity-equity-inclusion/transgender-athlete-articipation-in-sport)

We are also looking forward to the ideas/implementations of Intersex competitors, and of open categories to ensure the inclusion of transgender, and non-binary athletes in competitive sports.

