

Committee: International Olympics Committee (IOC)

Delegation: French National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSF)

Topic 1: Harnessing Sport Diplomacy for the Advancement of Democracy and Human Rights

Topic 2: The Inclusion Of Transgender, Intersex, and Non-Binary Athletes in Competitive Sport



France, as host of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, reaffirmed its commitment to the Olympic values of excellence, respect, and friendship, while preparing to carry this legacy forward with the Winter Games in the French Alps in 2030². The French National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSF) plays a central role in ensuring that sport remains a pillar of democracy, inclusion, and human rights. During Paris 2024, sport diplomacy was leveraged to project unity amid domestic political fragmentation following snap elections, creating what was described as a temporary “Olympic truce”^{3,4}. Yet France has also faced scrutiny over neutrality in sport, particularly regarding sanctions against Russian athletes⁵ versus continued participation of Israeli teams amid the Gaza conflict⁶, highlighting the challenge of selective enforcement.

Nationally, France has advanced initiatives such as “Generation 2030,” which promotes sport as a civic tool embedded in schools and municipalities⁷. The CNOSF has further advocated for sport as a major municipal cause, proposing integration into urban planning and education. These efforts align with the IOC Strategic Framework on Human Rights (2022), which emphasizes non-discrimination and athlete welfare⁸. David Lappartient, President of CNOSF and candidate for IOC presidency, has argued that sport must “remain a universal language of peace, but also a guarantor of rights and dignity”⁹.

The reach of these policies is evident: more than 700,000 students participated in Olympic and Paralympic Week in 2025¹⁰, demonstrating sport’s role in civic education. France’s investment in Paris 2024 infrastructure also created long-term facilities for inclusion and accessibility¹. At the governmental level, France supported sanctions against Russian athletes⁵ while maintaining dialogue on neutrality, and the CNOSF launched campaigns against discrimination in sport, echoing UEFA’s “No Room for Racism” initiative¹¹.

Internationally, France is party to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)¹², affirming its commitment to non-discrimination. It also supports the UN Olympic Truce resolutions¹³ and the EU Work Plan for Sport¹⁴, embedding sport in diplomacy. Looking ahead, France proposes independent human rights audits for host nations to ensure accountability in mega-events, the creation of athlete ombudsperson offices to protect against reprisals and discrimination, and transparent eligibility criteria for transgender and intersex athletes, balancing fairness with inclusivity.¹⁵

France's objectives within the IOC include securing commitment to uniform neutrality standards across conflicts, promoting inclusive frameworks for transgender and non-binary athletes, and embedding sport diplomacy mechanisms directly into IOC governance, linking them to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These positions align with U.S. and EU allies who push for stronger athlete rights protections, but face opposition from authoritarian states that exploit sport for "sportswashing," such as Qatar, China, and Russia.¹⁶

Through the CNOSF, France seeks to consolidate the legacy of Paris 2024 by advancing democracy and human rights via sport diplomacy. At the same time, it calls for inclusive solutions for transgender, intersex, and non-binary athletes, ensuring that the Olympic Movement remains credible, fair, and universal.

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