

AIOWF



Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations

ICANN
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
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USA

Zurich, 7 August 2013

The ICANN Public Comment on IGO/INGO Names Protection Report

Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to thank ICANN for providing this opportunity to comment on behalf of the Association of International Olympic Winter Sport Federations (AWOIF) and its constituent international federations. We support permanent reservation of the Olympic names “Olympic” and “Olympiad” in the six United Nations languages plus German, Greek, and Korean, at both the top and second levels in all gTLDs.

We would like to emphasize briefly the sound reasons for supporting this protection.

Every four years, billions of individuals worldwide watch the summer Olympic Games. It is estimated that a full two-thirds of the world population tuned in to television coverage of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, as well as the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London. The Olympic identifiers “Olympic” and “Olympiad” are thus some of the most recognizable words on the planet. Because of that recognition, there are many who seek to profit from them illicitly, and thereby undermine the Olympic Movement’s identity and reputation.

For our members, who are participants in the Olympic Movement, protecting the Olympic names “Olympic” and “Olympiad” in the existing 22 top level domains has been burdensome, time consuming and costly. We are inundated with pornographic, gambling, phishing, and fraudulent websites with domain names that utilize the Olympic names. It is our expectation, based on experience, that the approaching gTLD expansion will magnify these burdens and divert even greater financial resources from carrying out the humanitarian mission of the Olympic Movement.

Protecting the names “Olympic” and “Olympiad” in the expanded gTLDs will help allow our members to devote their time, attention, and energy to their responsibilities as part of the Olympic Movement. Their responsibilities are global, year round, and extend well beyond ensuring the celebration of the Olympic Games. The philosophy of Olympism, embodied by the Olympic Movement, emphasizes tolerance, social responsibility, education, and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles. The Olympic Movement is dedicated to using the universal language of sport in order to promote mutual understanding and world peace.

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For example, these efforts have included work between the IOC and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since 1996 on sports projects for refugee camps and resettlement areas around the world, and the establishment of the International Olympic Truce Foundation (IOTF), in collaboration with the United Nations General Secretary, as a part of the IOC's efforts to promote peace through sport. In recognition of the various efforts by the IOC and its partners to promote humanitarian assistance, peace-building, education, gender equality, environmentalism, and the fight against HIV/AIDS, the IOC was granted permanent UN Observer status in 2009.

The value of the Olympic Movement, and the necessity of maintaining the Movement's reputation and identity, have been recognized internationally by the signatories of the Nairobi Treaty, which protects the Olympic Symbols, and by more than thirty nations – representing nearly two-thirds of the world's population - that have adopted national statutes protecting the Olympic names, The Governmental Advisory Committee of ICANN, as well as the ICANN Board, have consistently supported the protections being sought, and we hope that the rest of the ICANN community will join in their support.

We are confident that the modest protections being sought will help to protect the Olympic Movement's identity, and we believe firmly that such protections should be adopted permanently.

Best regards,

ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC WINTER SPORTS FEDERATIONS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Horst Lichtner', written in a cursive style.

Horst Lichtner
General Secretary