The upcoming Beijing Olympics and a new formula for sharing Olympic TV revenue with the U.S. will be among the hot topics at SportAccord 2008 in Athens. It is the sixth edition of the trade show for international sports federations.

More than 1500 delegates are expected for the annual meeting, which brings together leaders from more than 100 international sports federations, including the 35 in the Summer and Winter Olympics.

As has become the custom, the IOC Executive Board will convene at SportAccord, meeting from June 4 to 6. Announcement of the short list for the 2016 Olympics is the most anticipated item of business, coming on June 4.

The international federations will meet for their assemblies on June 2 and 3, followed by a joint meeting with the IOC on June 4.

Two of the seven applicants are sure to make the list: Chicago and Rio de Janeiro. The rivals from the Americas are at the top the new edition of the Around the Rings Olympic Bid Power Index (page 18).

Madrid, Tokyo and Doha are expected to vie for status as finalists; all three also could be in the race.

The mystery will be solved June 4 when the IOC Executive Board meets behind closed doors to choose the candidate cities.

If the IOC elects to balance the field according to continent, Madrid is in, which would knock out Prague and Baku.

That will leave the dilemma of selecting Tokyo or Doha as the field’s Asian candidate.

The three cities perched on the edge can take solace from history. The IOC has considered at least five finalists for every Summer Games election in the past 22 years.

What’s New for SportAccord 2008?

Webcast of SportAccord program is a new feature for 2008.

2016

Cities on the Edge

Complete ATR Olympic Bid Power Index on page 18
A record number of athletes: 5,633 from all 42 countries in the Americas. 95 records set in sport competitions. More than one million spectators. 5,515 media reported and broadcast the Games to 150 countries.

We want to thank all the individuals and organizations who contributed to the success of the Games by sharing their energy.

To the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO), the International Federation and Pan American Confederation of the 34 Olympic and Pan American Sports; the National Olympic Committees of the 42 countries of the Americas; the employees of the Organizing Committee (CO-RIO) and more than 20,000 volunteers.

A very special thanks to the athletes who participated with great commitment and sportsmanship, leaving a long lasting legacy to the Pan American youth. They are the reason for the Games.

Finally we wish to thank the Brazilian Government, the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro and the City of Rio de Janeiro. The close cooperation and perfect coordination among the three levels of government was instrumental in successfully staging the Rio 2007 Games – widely acknowledged as the best Pan American Games ever.
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Publisher’s Note

Ever since SportAccord began in Madrid five years ago, Around the Rings has published special editions for this gathering that has grown to be like none other on the international sports meeting calendar.

This year’s SportAccord is timed to include one of the major events of the year for the Olympics -- selection of the final group of cities bidding to host the 2016 Games. In this special edition, ATR Editor Ed Hula and his team have compiled the latest Olympic Bid Power Index with insights on which of the seven cities in the race might be invited to continue.

European editor Mark Bisson reports on some of the issues ahead for the sports federations meeting this week in Athens.

We hope you will find other useful information, such as the SportAccord calendar and a day-by-day schedule for the Beijing Olympics, the high point of the year for the Olympic Family.

Our coverage of the Olympic Movement is noted for the attention we pay to reporting from the scene -- whether it’s the Olympic Games, world championships or important crossroads such as SportAccord.

In addition to me, our team in Athens includes Ed and Mark. Many of you are already old friends. We look forward to meeting those of you we don’t know, and to meeting with all of you in the coming days.

As always, we welcome your comments and ideas on how we can make Around the Rings more valuable to you.

– Sheila Scott Hula

ON THE SCENE IN 2008

August
– IOC Executive Board - 2 to 3
– 120th IOC Session, Beijing - 5 to 7
– Summer Olympic Games, Beijing - 8 to 24

September
– Summer Paralympic Games, Beijing - 6 to 17

October
– SportelMonaco - 20 to 23
– Vancouver Coordination Commission - 21 to 23

November
– 12th World Sport for All Congress, Genting, Malaysia - 3 to 6
– European Olympic Committees Executive Committee Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey - 20
– European Olympic Committees General Assembly, Istanbul, Turkey - 21 to 22

December
– IOC Executive Board, Lausanne - 10 to 12

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The mission of World Sport Chicago is to enhance the image, awareness, and participation in amateur sports across Chicago with the goal of giving all athletes the opportunity to see and experience sport across all levels.

*Helping youth reach their athletic dreams.*
Now in its sixth year, SportAccord has grown into a “must” for the international sports industry. Drawing up to 1500 delegates, the attendees include federation leaders, sponsors, bid and host cities, architects, broadcasters, rights holders and other sports specialists.

Past SportAccords have been held in Madrid, Lausanne, Berlin, Seoul and Beijing. The 2009 edition heads to the Americas for the first time, taking place in Denver, Colorado, next March.

HIGHLIGHTS AND CHANGES FOR SPORTACCORD 2008:

Representatives from YouTube and social networking site MySpace are among about 25 speakers participating in the conference.

High-profile speakers include Danny Jordaan, CEO of FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa; Laurent-Eric Le Lay, chairman and CEO of Eurosport; and Rick Dudley, president and CEO of Octagon Worldwide.

Interviews and case studies pepper the program, which this year has a greater focus on trends and technology in the sports business and on how to stay relevant to the younger generation.

There are no break-out sessions. This avoids scheduling clashes with other elements of the program and allows for more networking opportunities.

“We wanted to have a program that was eye-catching with good speakers but didn’t want to overload it,” says Anna Hellman, general manager of SportAccord.

A new athletes session features Olympic triple jump gold medalist Jonathan Edwards, Morocco’s sports minister and IOC member Nawal El Moutawakel and Aksel Lund-Svendal, the Norwegian winner of the 2007 Alpine Skiing World Cup.

SportAccord has responded to the increasing number of prospective bid and host cities visiting in recent years by organizing the City Forum, taking place in the afternoon of June 3. It will offer insights on developing long-term hosting strategies and how to maximize the benefits of staging a major event.

Also new for 2008 is SportAccord TV. Broadband users around the world and attendees will be able to see exclusive interviews with sports industry leaders on the dedicated channel available at www.sportaccord.com.

All the major presentations will be available on a video-on-demand basis. Video screens at the convention will also screen content. The video service has been developed through a partnership with WCSN, the largest broadband service dedicated to international sport. Conference content is also online at www.wcsn.com.

The online SportAccord NetWorker tool is also aimed at helping delegates achieve their networking objectives.
As a global sport, taekwondo gives hope to 188 member nations around the world.
SportAccord is the property of the three associations of sports federations that hold their annual meetings at the event: ASOIF, the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations; AIOWF, the Association of International Olympic Winter Federations, and the all-encompassing General Association of International Sports Federations, also known as GAISF.

Also seizing the moment will be the Association of Recognized IOC International Sports Federations (ARISF) and the International World Games Association (IWGA). Both groups will hold their annual meetings while all participants are in one hotel.

ASOIF ANNIVERSARY, U.S. REVENUE SPLIT

As ASOIF celebrates its 25th anniversary at SportAccord, the 28 member federations will be waiting for word on progress of IOC negotiations with the U.S. Olympic Committee over Olympic sponsorship and TV rights revenues.

Denis Oswald, president of ASOIF, recently wrote to IOC president Jacques Rogge, claiming that the share received by the USOC -- more than $300 million -- was “no longer morally acceptable”.

The USOC receives more from the IOC than the combined total received by the remaining 204 NOCs in the world.

ASOIF has lobbied for a less-favorable deal for the U.S. for a number of years; the issue was also a major talking point at last year’s SportAccord. The international federations receive shares of IOC revenues and would benefit from a new funding formula.

“We need to see more progress,” Andrew Ryan, director of ASOIF, tells Around the Rings.

Ryan says there are no big issues for federations to resolve concerning the Beijing Games.

“It’s no great surprise to me. The Chinese have been amazing in what they have achieved. They have really shown a will to solve any problems which have come up,” he says.

Reports from the IOC, WADA, Beijing 2008 and London 2012 will be presented at the assembly. WADA code compliance issues are expected to prompt some discussion.

A four-year strategic plan for ASOIF will also be presented to members.

VANCOUVER REPORT FOR WINTER FEDERATIONS, YOUTH GAMES

Highlights of the AIOWF general assembly include reports from VANOC 2010 director of sport Tim Gayda and a
representative of WADA, along with an IOC presentation on the first winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012.

“It’s a new event and there are lots of issues that will be addressed as we go along. It has a different philosophy so we need to be open-minded in that regard,” says Sarah Lewis, secretary general of the International Ski Federation and an AIOWF member.

The host of the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games will be chosen later this year by the IOC. The candidates include: Harbin, China; Innsbruck, Austria; Kuopio, Finland; Lillehammer, Norway.

GAISF FACES DOPING ISSUES

A major topic facing the 100+ members of GAISF is compliance with revised World Anti-Doping Code, due to come into force on January 1, 2009.

“It will be discussed in terms of what needs to be done to make sure everyone is on the same page,” Ron Froehlich, GAISF vice president and president of the IWGA, tells Around the Rings.

Some of the smaller federations are facing finance and resourcing challenges to become code compliant. Froehlich says proposals to form an international federations anti-doping group to provide support for smaller federations on WADA compliance issues may be discussed.

Martial arts is also on the agenda. Antonio Espinos, president of World Karate Federation and chair of the martial arts working group, will offer updates on membership issues and the organization of the first martial arts Games to be held under the patronage of GAISF.

There will also be a presentation on the 2009 World Games, which take place in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
World Championship Photo Highlights

FIVB World Championship
March 30, 2008
Adelaide, South Australia

Luge World Championship
January 26, 2008
Oberhof, Germany

Skiing World Championship
March 13, 2008
Bormio, Italy

Skating World Championship
March 9, 2008
Gangneung, South Korea

All Photos Getty Images

Winning Ways
Sochi 2014   Beijing 2008   Athens 2004

Strategic Planning, Brand Building and Communications for Successful Bids and Sports Events

Contact: Jon Tibbs   Email: jon@tassocs.com   Telephone: +4479099974727
Fencing World Championship
October 7, 2007
St. Petersburg, Poland

Taekwondo World Championship
May 21, 2007
Beijing, China

Handball World Championship
December 16, 2007
Paris, France

Table Tennis World Championship
February 27, 2008
Guangzhou, China

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The two candidates from the Americas are the strongest contenders in the race for the 2016 Olympics, according to the latest Around the Rings Olympic Bid Power Index.

Chicago and Rio de Janeiro tie for first. A group of three cities – Doha, Madrid and Tokyo – comprise the second tier of those hoping to make the field of finalists to be chosen by the IOC on June 4. Two other cities are certain to miss the cut.

The acclaimed ATR Power Index is the only ranking of cities bidding for the Olympics produced outside the IOC that is based on expert analysis and first-hand contact with the bid cities.

Chicago and Rio de Janeiro both score 79 on the 110 point index. The 11 categories range from ambience to venue plans. Some categories are subjective, others are based on hard numbers provided by the bid cities or gathered by ATR.

The first edition of the 2016 Index published in January indicated that four cities – Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo – would define the race, but the bids from the Americas could be on their way to lapping the field.

And there may be hope for Doha, the first bid from the Middle East, if the IOC decides to include five cities in the race, as has been the custom with Summer bids.

Out for sure: Baku and Prague, which are deficient in key categories.

Chicago would have the edge over Rio de Janeiro in existing infrastructure and a central city venue plan. Rio de Janeiro takes the lead over Chicago right now for its team and ability to connect with IOC members. And the Brazilian beach culture capital also may win points for ambience and scenery.

Tokyo and Madrid offer strong experience and infrastructure but seem to lack the allure of the American bids, which offer something new. So far, both Tokyo and Madrid lack compelling stories to lure the Games. Madrid may have a tougher geography sell, with the 2012 Olympics taking place a couple of hours northeast in London.

Doha is long on experience organizing international sports events. But it still needs to convince the IOC that a nation of less than one million can fill the stands and present an Olympic experience.

The rankings are not meant to predict the outcome of the IOC vote on October 2, 2009, but do show the relative strengths and weaknesses of the cities. The most recent ATR Power Index, which was calculated for the 2014 Winter Olympics, indicated the top two contenders – Sochi and PyeongChang – were tied going into the IOC vote. Sochi narrowly won.

Here are the results of the May 2008 ATR Olympic Bid Power Index, followed by category by category comments.

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**2016 Power Bid Index**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Baku</th>
<th>Chicago</th>
<th>Doha</th>
<th>Madrid</th>
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<td>Last Games</td>
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<td><strong>Power Index</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Previous</strong></td>
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<td><strong>77</strong></td>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
<td><strong>74</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACCOMMODATION: Quantity, quality and value for money.

Chicago is the one to beat in this category, with plenty of rooms across the scale of quality and price. Tokyo and Madrid have good hotel infrastructure; Rio needs more rooms and more modern ones. Doha says it will have 80,000 rooms by 2016. Baku and Prague will be challenged to provide sustainable accommodation.

AMBIENCE: Is the city comfortable, tourist-friendly, a pleasure to visit?

Chicago may win for its compact center loaded with parks, shops, hotels, dining and entertainment, all located on lakefront. For natural beauty, none of the cities can match the dramatic landscape of Rio de Janeiro or the easy going Carioca lifestyle. Tokyo, Madrid and Prague are renowned as tourist destinations. Doha offers a seaside setting that sparkles like a pearl, although it is not a touristic haunt; Baku is off the map to most to travelers.

BID OPERATION: Leadership, strategy and public relations.

Rio de Janeiro takes the lead in this category. It is based on the leadership of Brazilian Olympic Committee President Carlos Nuzman and his colleagues, who have been well-known to the IOC for years. The U.S. is trying hard to keep up with the Brazilians, but its IOC members don’t have Nuzman’s pull or his colleague on the IOC, doyen Joao Havelange. The U.S. bid might get a huge boost if Chicago resident Barak Obama is elected president.

Tokyo and Madrid likewise have assembled strong teams with IOC influence. The Doha team also is talented, but maybe not as connected within the IOC as others. Baku and Prague are playing the game as outsiders.

GAMES COST AND FINANCE: Operating expenses and infrastructure needed; unusual finance risks. Higher scores indicate lower costs.

Prague calls for more than $27 billion to be spent on infrastructure and another $1.5 billion for venues. Doha and Tokyo come in next with venue and infrastructure in the neighborhood of $10 billion. Doha has many venues in place from its hosting of the 2006 Asian Games.

Tokyo plans to spend $2.1 billion for venues, half of that for an Olympic Stadium. Rio lists $2.4 billion in transport spending ahead of 2016, not including airport upgrades. The budget of $507 million for venues is lowest of the field, a direct result of hosting the 2007 Pan American Games.

Chicago will spend about $800 million on venues. Some $2.7 billion of transport projects are planned, regardless of the Olympics.

Madrid infrastructure is billed at $8.6 billion, with just $24 million labeled for Olympic-specific projects; $1.4 billion is planned for Olympic venues.

Baku plans $4 billion in infrastructure development between now and 2016 to improve transportation, from streets, to metro and airport. Another $1 billion is planned to construct venues.

Continued on page 18

Contact: Lars Lundov, Executive Director · P. +45 4031 4855 · ll@sporteventdenmark.com · www.sporteventdenmark.com

FUTURE MAJOR EVENTS
World Road Cycling Championship 2011 (UCI)
World Track Cycling Championship 2010 (UCI)
121st Session & XIII Olympic Congress 2009 (IOC)
World Wrestling Championship 2009 (FILA)
UEFA Congress 2009 (UEFA)
World Taekwondo Championships 2009 (WTF)

PREVIOUS MAJOR EVENTS
World Sailing Farr 40 Championship 2007 (ISAF)
World Floorball Championship for women 2007 (IFF)
World Standard Championship 2006 (IDSF)
World Match Racing Championship for women 2006 (ISAF)
World Orienteering Championship 2006 (IOF)
World Artistic Gymnastics Championship 2006 (FIG)

Contact: Lars Lundov, Executive Director · P. +45 4031 4855 · ll@sporteventdenmark.com · www.sporteventdenmark.com
NEW MEMBERS FOR IOC, 2016 SHORT LIST FOR EB IN ATHENS

The IOC Executive Board will get down to business straight-away when it begins a three-day meeting in Athens this week. Within a couple of hours on day one, the board will name the short list of cities for the final round in the race for the 2016 Olympics.

The 15-member EB will hear from Olympic Games Executive Director Gilbert Felli the afternoon of June 2 when he explains the results of an expert review of the applications of the seven cities. The report won't rank the cities or suggest a short list, but it will indicate the levels of risk or opportunity in 20-plus categories, such as accommodations, venues and transportation.

IOC President Jacques Rogge will announce the shortlist at 1830 Athens time June 2.

For the first time, the short list announcement can be viewed around the world via the internet. WCSN, the World Championship Sports Network, is producing the coverage as part of its SportAccord TV package that is transmitting all the major events of SportAccord via the event website, www.sportaccord.com and www.wcsn.com.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED

Up to five new members could be nominated for election to the IOC at the Beijing session in August. Exactly who makes that list will be decided at the Athens EB meeting.

Nominations commission chairman Francisco Elizalde tells Around the Rings he and his five colleagues met in mid-May to review applications for the openings. IOC membership is supposed to follow a 115-member cap; the roster stands at 110.

Elizalde would not say whether the commission picked just five, or more to give the EB some choices.

More than 140 applications for IOC membership are on file. They include NOC presidents, federation leaders and other sport personalities.

EARTHQUAKE BUSINESS

In other business, the EB will hear reports on upcoming Games, especially Beijing. It is the last time the board meets before going to China.

It also will be the first time the board is briefed on the possible impact of the May 12 earthquake on the Games, now just two months away.

IOC Coordination Commission chair Hein Verbruggen, who was in Beijing two weeks ago, will report to the EB on his visit and what Beijing leaders have told him.

IOC members, such as Kevan Gosper, tell ATR that the earthquake aftermath should be “recognized appropriately” in the opening ceremony.

Gosper, who is vice chair of the Beijing coordination commission, says the Olympics could lift spirits in China.

“It may be a good thing to have an Olympics coming out of this,” he says.

The IOC has donated $1 million to earthquake relief in China.
## SportAccord 2008 Schedule of Events

### Monday, June 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>GAISF Council - (Patmos)</td>
<td>Terpsichore (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>ASOIF Council - (Terpsichore B)</td>
<td>(Thalia 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00 - 16:00</td>
<td>ARISF Council - (Thalia 1)</td>
<td>(Hesperides)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>IWGA Council - (Thalia 1)</td>
<td>(Thalia 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00 - 19:00</td>
<td>Meeting IFs participating in the Master Games - (Thalia 1)</td>
<td>(Thalia 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19:00 - 20:00</td>
<td>IMGA Board of Governors - (Thalia 1)</td>
<td>(Thalia 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>AOSIF 25 Year Dinner by invitation only - (Restaurant Boschetto)</td>
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### Tuesday, June 3

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<tr>
<td>08:30 - 19:30</td>
<td>SportAccord Exhibition - (Terpsichore-D, Erato ABC, Pre-Func)</td>
<td>(Exhibition Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:30 - 12:00</td>
<td>IWGA General Assembly - (Hesperides)</td>
<td>(Hesperides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>AOSIF General Assembly - (Terpsichore A)</td>
<td>(Hesperides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch for IFs - (TBC)</td>
<td>(TBC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch for AOSIF Members - (TBC)</td>
<td>(TBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 - 17:15</td>
<td>SportAccord CITY FORUM - (Terpsichore B)</td>
<td>(Terpsichore B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>ARISF General Assembly - (Hesperides)</td>
<td>(Hesperides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>AOSIF General Assembly - (Terpsichore A)</td>
<td>(Hesperides)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30 - 17:30</td>
<td>AIOWF General Assembly - (Thalia 1)</td>
<td>(Thalia 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18:00 - 19:30</td>
<td>SportAccord Exhibition Showcase Cocktail - (Exhibition Hall)</td>
<td>(Exhibition Hall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Official Opening Ceremony - (Athens Concert Hall)</td>
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### Wednesday, June 4

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<thead>
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<td>SportAccord Exhibition - (Terpsichore-D, Erato ABC, Pre-Func)</td>
<td>(Exhibition Hall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>IOC EB/ASOIF joint meeting - (Hesperides)</td>
<td>(Hesperides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>SportAccord Conference - (Terpsichore AB)</td>
<td>(Terpsichore AB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 - 11:45</td>
<td>IOC EB/AIOWF joint meeting - (Galaxy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 13:30</td>
<td>IOC EB/GAISF joint meeting and lunch buffet - (Galaxy)</td>
<td>(Galaxy)</td>
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### Thursday, June 5

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30 - 19:00</td>
<td>SportAccord Exhibition - (Terpsichore-D, Erato ABC, Pre-Func)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>IOC EB - (Galaxy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>SportAccord Conference - (Terpsichore AB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 - 14:30</td>
<td>Lunch - (Exhibition Area)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30 - 14:00</td>
<td>IOC Press Briefing - (Hesperides)</td>
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<td>14:30 - 16:00</td>
<td>SportAccord Conference - (Terpsichore AB)</td>
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<td>15:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>IOC EB - (Galaxy)</td>
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<td>16:30 - 18:30</td>
<td>SportAccord Speed Meeting &amp; Networking Period - (Exhibition Area)</td>
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<td>18:00 - 19:00</td>
<td>SportAccord Reception - (Exhibition Area)</td>
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<td>20:00</td>
<td>SportAccord Greek Evening - (TBC)</td>
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### Friday, April 27

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<td>IOC EB - (Galaxy)</td>
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<td>IOC Press Briefing - (Hesperides)</td>
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<td>14:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>Athens sight-seeing - (Olympic historic sites)</td>
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### 2008 Beijing Games Competition Schedule

**August 2008**

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#### SPORT

**Opening Ceremony**

**Closing Ceremony**

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“We in Jordan have always sought a bold peace. We have been conscious of our responsibilities towards the coming generations – to ensure that they will have the certainty of leading a dignified and fulfilled life. We have sought a peace that can harness their creative energies, to allow them to realize their true potential, and build their future with confidence, devoid of fear and uncertainty.”

His Late Majesty King Hussein of Jordan
Address to the Joint Session of the US Congress
Washington, DC
July 26, 1994

“Today as a leader, I understand that the future generations of whom my father so often spoke have arrived; more than half of the population in our region is aged under 30. It will not do for us to tell them that peace is a gift we can give to future generations. It is a promise that we must fulfil for them today, or risk condemning them to a future of violence, fear and isolation.”

His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan
‘A Responsibility to Make Peace’
Op-Ed Published in the International Herald Tribune
June 21, 2006

“Upholding the Hashemite legacy, Generations for Peace has been set up to run dedicated peace programmes to empower, train and support leaders of youth from conflicted communities around the world to use the power of sport to unite children from all sides of their divides; to transform the lives of children and youth and to enable communities to recognise that they have the power to actively develop peaceful co-existence today and for future generations.”

HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein of Jordan
Athens
June 2008

- 70 delegates were trained at the first training camp - over 7,000 children now involved in Generations For Peace programmes so far - more than 1,000 additional youth leaders trained by Generations For Peace delegates - one delegate alone from Afghanistan has already trained over 100 additional youth leaders across the country - Iraq implementing numerous programmes in association with the Ministry of Education and schools of all religious backgrounds - Lebanon trained additional trainers and activated 50 youth groups in 50 villages with youngsters from different religions and backgrounds - Sri Lanka bringing together and involving 25,000 children from three communities in on-going programmes throughout 2008 - Sudan have reunited girls & boys from the North and South, divided for 22 years through war and hatred, through football - Palestine providing an alternative to gangs and violence with after school programmes for all religions - three Generations For Peace training camps scheduled for 2008, with more delegates from more countries participating.
LAST GAMES IN THE COUNTRY: Years since last summer or winter Olympics. Higher the score, the longer since the games.

Baku, Doha, Prague and Rio de Janeiro are the high scores in this category, never hosting the Games in their countries.

Chicago and Madrid are middling scores as both U.S. and Spain are past Olympic hosts. Tokyo is aiming to host its second Summer Games.

LEGACY: Impact of the Olympics in a city; sustainable venues.

Baku and Prague would gain the most from a Games’ legacy, but whether the legacy is sustainable would be in question. Baku plans to restore oil field wastelands and needs a massive project such as the Olympics to stimulate the renewal.

Rio de Janeiro plans a new Olympic Park that could become a training center for elite athletes across South America. A backbone of venues exists from the Pan Ams.

Chicago is well-endowed with existing venues and plans some that would create sports legacies, such as an aquatic center.

Doha, with many venues in place from the 2006 Asian Games, plans to use the Games to build up its transport infrastructure and other upgrades for the Qatari capital.

Madrid’s plan would develop new venues and reclaim abandoned areas for parks and housing. Madrid alone among the cities is pushing for a social legacy to improve the well-being of its people.

Tokyo would deliver new venues for the 21st Century at the same time employing a number of iconic venues from the 1964 Games. Tokyo Metropolitan Government wants to use the Games to create a green city.

MARKETING: The size and impact of marketing programs.

Chicago, with $2.5 billion forecast for marketing revenue, leads the 2016 cities. Tokyo and Madrid are in the $1.6 billion range, while Rio and Doha propose figures about half that amount.

Prague forecasts $930 million, Baku $969 million.

Rio de Janeiro will be pressed to prove that the hosting of the 2014 World Cup won’t cut into the estimated $750 million in revenues the Rio Bid Committee expects the Games to receive. That’s less than projections from Prague and Baku, which may very well be inflated.

PUBLIC SUPPORT: Ranking based on dossier information.

Lack of public support is one of the issues that dooms the bid from Prague. But Baku won’t be saved by its supposed 92 percent support, which is highest of the 2016 cities. Doha and Madrid follow with 86 percent support, Rio next with 78 percent, Chicago at 76 percent and Tokyo with 60 percent public support.

SECURITY: Reputation and quality of security, perceptions of risk.

Rio de Janeiro is the one city on the 2016 list that has a reputation for security issues due to gang violence and street crime, although the 2007 Pan American Games were problem-free.

Chicago has its own history of gang violence nearly a century ago but has calmed down since. Some controversies affect the city police department today, but 21st Century Chicago is a safe destination.

The threat of terrorism looms for bids from the U.S., Spain and Tokyo, where trouble has soared before.

Doha is a calm place, but its geographic position in the Mideast would raise concerns by some travelers.

Prague is not known as a dangerous place but resources needed for the Olympics could be stretched for a small country. Resource issues also confront Azerbaijan. And a separatist movement in Nagorno-Karabakh has closed off a portion of Azerbaijani to normal travel.

TRANSPORTATION: Ease of travel, multiple transport options, airports, quality of public transit, taxis.

Chicago seems to be best prepared today across the multiple factors in this category. Its airport is the best of the field.

Tokyo and Madrid have extraordinary public transit systems and strong airports.

Rio de Janeiro will need improvements to its airport and surface street transit to handle the Olympics and has a plan to do so.

Traffic can be a surprising hassle for tiny Doha, which has aspirations for a multi–billion dollar transit line helping to handle Olympic crowds.

VENUES AND OVERALL PLAN: The number of venues to build, Olympic Village, compactness.

Most compact plan goes to Chicago, which has only a few venues to build, most in the center of the city. Those include a temporary Olympic Stadium and the Olympic Village.

Rio de Janeiro has a limited construction budget, thanks to the Pan Ams and coming World Cup, but venues are spread across the sprawling metropolis. A new Olympic Village would border the planned Olympic Park.

Tokyo claims its plan is the most compact, but with a number of venues to build, including a $1 billion Olympic Stadium.

Madrid’s compactness is based on a convenient plan that is based largely in the suburbs.

Doha could probably host the Olympics tomorrow if needed, based on its venues from the 2006 Asian Games.

Baku needs to build all, as does Prague, compounding the long shot status of each city.
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Siempre en Madrid

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TourismMadridCity
Op Ed: New Opportunity for Sport, Olympics

After some clumsy attempts in the past few years to change the sports program for the Summer Olympics, the IOC is preparing to try again in 2009. It's an opportunity to reinvigorate the Olympic program that the IOC and sports federations can't afford to miss this time around.

Tinkering with the program has been difficult for the IOC under President Jacques Rogge.

A proposal to cut baseball, softball and modern pentathlon fell apart at an IOC Session in 2002.

In 2005, baseball and softball were cut, but then the IOC failed to muster the votes needed to add any of five sports proposed: golf, karate, roller sport, rugby and squash.

Last year, with some apparent encouragement from the IOC, the International Cycling Union and the International Skateboard Federation forged an unlikely alliance to include skateboarding in London as a cycling discipline. That plan quickly crashed.

Now the IOC will try again where it has failed so far: add sports that will provide some spark to the Olympic program.

The same five sports that floundered in 2005 apparently will be back for consideration. Baseball and softball also will face review for a chance to return to the Games after London.

But with only two spots open against a limit of 28 sports, most Olympic hopefuls will remain just that.

And due to an IOC rules change, one more sport will be cut from the Games program. The IOC wants to establish a core of 25 permanent sports from the 26 now on the program for London.

While a 25-sport core means up to three openings for more sports, whichever one is cut will be like baseball and softball -- hoping for a quick return to the program.

To make it easier to add sports to the program, the IOC changed its rules to require only a simple majority instead of a two-thirds vote to join the Olympics. That may help the IOC avoid the debacle it suffered in 2005 when it cut sports, but couldn't secure the votes to replace them with new ones.

Even so, the slope will be steep for any sport to join the Games.

But neither the IOC nor the international federations can refuse the climb. The relevance of the Olympic program is at stake for a new generation of 21st Century sports fans.

Incredibly, the IOC overlooked the opportunity that adding rugby to the London Games would have provided. England -- the sport's home -- would have generated fervent crowds for Olympic matches. Reports say that when rugby was booted from the program after the 1924 Paris Olympics, it was drawing bigger crowds than track and field events.

Karate may be one of the most widely practiced of the martial arts, with studios seemingly found in every corner of the world. Should Tokyo win the race for 2016, wouldn't the Olympics be served with the addition of this sport of Japanese heritage?

Should Chicago take the 2016 prize, wouldn't it be silly to overlook baseball and softball in a city (and country) where venues and devotees are in high numbers?
The connection between a homegrown sport and a host city may not always apply, but maybe the IOC and sports federations should consider opportunities to capitalize on local interest in formulating the program for the Games. The decision on the sports program for 2016 will come just a few days after the decision on which city will be the Olympic host.

The interest of young people around the world who like to hop on skateboards instead of running track may be the best example of a sport that could make the program relevant to a new generation.

Yet the proposal to add roller sports to the Olympics calls for a road race of shoe skaters, not the edgy side of the sport. And FIRS, the International Roller Sport Federation, which would seem to be the logical governing body, still has to resolve the conflict with the separate International Skateboard Federation, which also claims to run the sport.

While federations seeking to join the program might get a boost from being home-grown in a host city, sports will still have to prove their worthiness on matters such as universality and quality of competition.

Program recommendations will be formed over the next 18 months. We hope the IOC allows federations under consideration the chance to fully explain their rationale for joining the Olympics.

To tell their story effectively, the federation hopefuls must rise to the level of professionalism in administration and competition now expected from Olympic-level sports. And in the interest of transparency, the IOC must allow those sports to speak publicly about their Olympic aspirations.

IOC members, who have the final say, also must keep an open mind as they approach their decision at the Copenhagen Session in October 2009. Keeping the Olympics relevant and exciting -- perhaps their very future -- is at stake.
Rings Puzzle

Across
1. This women’s sport was introduced in 1996
6. Acronym for association of recognized sports
9. 1996 torch bearer
10. Doping punishment
11. 1936 Olympic hero
13. Drink
14. Jin Sun-Yu won 3 medals here
16. Soccer feature
17. First appeared at the Olympics in 1964
19. London 2012 chief Seb Coe’s sport
23. Shooting requirement
25. Olympic flag color
26. Commonwealth Games starting locale
28. MVR’s domain
30. May be a factor in some events

33. Blood group
35. This country has a tradition of winning many wrestling medals
38. See 3 down
40. This class of athlete used to be banned from the Olympics
41. Top grades
42. Major network that covers the Olympics
43. In 2000, Cliff Meidl was the US flag bearer representing this sport
45. Olympic ceremony
46. This nation won the men’s epee team event gold in 2004, abbr.
48. US athlete who won 8 gold medals
49. Competes
50. Empire that banned the Olympic Games
53. Hawaiian dance
54. Canoeing gold medal winner 8 times
55. Conclude
56. OR to US compass point

Down
1. Olympic Games locale in 1988
2. Cost
3. Sport that was voted off the Olympic program in 2005 (goes with 38 across)
4. 1936 diving medal winner, Greene
5. Got the torch going
6. Location of the 1920 Summer Olympics
7. More than suffix
8. Inspiration for 2007 Games mascot
10. Lawyer from Germany
12. Compass direction
15. Company abbr.
18. Always the bedrock of the Olympics
19. Steeplechase great Biwott
20. One kind of sport
21. Security requirements
22. Lim __ Jeong
23. Winter sport region, sometimes
24. Very popular person
26. Creator of Games, according to legend
27. Writer’s need
29. Kayaking contest must
31. First modern-day sponsor of Olympics
32. Capitan Starter
34. Take part in an Olympic sport
36. 1980 shock winners
37. Blood type letters
39. The marathon, for example
40. Pan American Games contesting nation
44. Finland’s Olympic great
45. Rock
46. Important Olympic number
47. Downhill requirement
51. Ancient
52. Time period when the Olympic Games were started
53. Gentleman

Crossword by Myles Mellor
www.themecrosswords.com
imagine sharing the brightest side of the human spirit.

Every four years humanity has a chance to shine at its brightest. As a proud Worldwide partner of the Olympic Games, Samsung lights up the spirit of the Olympic Movement.
TOKYO: new gourmet capital of the World

Tokyo was awarded more Michelin stars than any other city in the world.

Michelin Guide Tokyo