



## OQS GUIDANCE NOTE

# DELAY, INTERRUPTION, POSTPONEMENT, ADVANCEMENT, AND CANCELLATION

### Scope

This document sets out IFSC policy and guidelines for managing unplanned Competition Schedule Changes at the Olympic Qualification Series (OQS) Events.

The policy and guidelines within this document are to be considered and implemented within the framework of the IOC's Delay, Interruption, Postponement, Advancement, and Cancellation (DIPAC) Policy and Competition Schedule Change Management Group (CSCMG) Policy for the OQS Events. For the avoidance of doubt, the IOC has overall decision-making authority on any schedule change.



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## Introduction

### Managing unplanned events in competition

The IFSC Rules include limited provisions related to the management of unplanned events within its competition disciplines and events, summarised as follow:

#### Disciplines

Article 9, which sets out the rules relevant to the Speed discipline, allows for the cancellation of the final round, or stages within that round.

Article 11, which sets out the rules relevant to the Boulder&Lead discipline, allows for the cancellation of up to one boulder in any round, and requires the cancellation of a round where a stage in that round is cancelled.

#### Events

Article 12 allows for the cancellation of either the semifinal or final rounds in a World Cup series event.

Article 13 allows for the cancellation of either the semifinal or final rounds in a World Championship event.

note. An implication of the rules governing World Cup series and World Championship events is that where more than one round of a event is cancelled, the competition itself must be cancelled. **This is inapplicable for the Olympic Qualification Series, where the results for an event will be considered valid so long as the qualification round has been completed.**

In contrast, the Olympic Qualification Series (OQS) and the Paris 2024 Games require organisers and participating International Federations to anticipate and plan for a range of scenarios where schedule disruptions occur. This greater emphasis on contingency planning reflects the scale of the events, and the larger number of external stakeholders potentially affected by unplanned competition schedule changes, e.g. impact on broadcast schedules, event ticketing, human and physical resources.

The IOC uses the terms Delay, Interruption, Postponement, Advancement and Cancellation (DIPAC) to categories the potential consequences of such schedule disruption. Working definitions of these terms are set out in the Glossary of this document.

### Core management principles for the OQS

The Olympic Qualifier Series (OQS) is a series of 2 events, the sporting purpose for which is to produce a series ranking which will be used to determine a number of qualification spots for the Paris 2024 Games.

**The primary goal for the IFSC event team when addressing unplanned competition schedule changes is to ensure that the qualification phase of each event can be completed such that all athletes have a series ranking with points from all of the events in which they have participated.**



The secondary goals for the IFSC event team when addressing unplanned competition schedule changes is. are (i) to minimise schedule changes on a day-day basis (i.e. to minimise the knock-on effects of any schedule change), and (ii) maintain the schedule for, and completion of, the medal phases within each event.

note. To exemplify. Where the originally scheduled plan for Day 3 cannot be achieved, whether because of overruns on Days 1/2 or considerations specific to Day 3, the IFSC event team should seek to limit any schedule changes to that day and not impact the schedule for Day 4.



## Management Principles

Under the overarching Delay, Interruption, Postponement, Advancement, and Cancellation (DIPAC) Policy for the OQS Events, the IOC has overall decision-making authority on any schedule change, and will balance the interests of the OQS product with the realities of live event operations and local factors and stakeholders involved in the Competition Schedule Change Management Group.

The IFSC Event Team must in **all** circumstances adhere to Sport Climbing's DIPAC Plan for the OQS Events, as well as the decision-making process the outline framework for which is set out at Attachment A (Schedule Change Flow & CSCMG Approval).

The general principles set out in article 12.7 of the IFSC Rules (i.e. as defined for the World Cup series) will apply to the OQS Events, with the following provisos:

1. an *event* may not be cancelled, and the results of each *event* will be considered valid for the purposes of calculating a series ranking, **unless** the qualification round of that *event* has not been completed;
2. the authority of the Event Delegate under article 12.7(B) to cancel an *event* is subject (1) above and to the agreement of both the IFSC Sport Director and the IOC Competition Schedule Change Management Group.

A qualification round (and therefore the overall *event*) may only be *cancelled* where, having explored all options and having *cancelled* all other planned rounds of the *event*, it is considered impractical to complete the qualification round within the 4 days of the relevant OQS Event.

note. In the circumstance where an *event* at the Budapest OQS Event is cancelled, the series ranking for that *event* will be determined from the results of the Shanghai OQS Event only.

Where any schedule disruption can be expected (e.g. based on weather forecasts) the IFSC Event Team should lay out a clear timeline for decisions and ensure that teams are appraised of the timeline, options and decisions. i.e. if disruption to the Boulder&Lead sessions scheduled for Day 4 can be foreseen prior to the commencement of the semifinals scheduled for Day 3, teams should be made aware of this so that all stakeholders are aware that series rankings may, if the final is cancelled, be calculated from the results of the preceding rounds.

The competition time thresholds per each competition session are set out in the DIPAC Plan.

## Boulder&Lead

The general principles set out in article 12.7 of the IFSC Rules (i.e. as defined for the World Cup series) apply to events in the Boulder&Lead discipline, with the following proviso:

1. the authority of the Jury President under article 12.7(A) to abandon or *cancel* either of the semi-final or final rounds of an event is subject to the agreement of the IOC Competition Schedule Change Management Group;

Where it is not possible to complete the qualification round stages on Day 1 and Day 2 of an OQS Event, the aim should be to complete the qualification round on Day 3.

note. In assessing options for rescheduling activities originally planned for Day 1 and/or Day 2 of an OQS Event, the IFSC Event team should take into consideration the following potential constraints:

- the Games timing system is limited to a single mode of operation (boulder/lead/speed). e.g. running a stage of a Boulder&Lead event in parallel with a Speed event would require the timing system to be configured for one event and manual timing for the other;
- the Results Service may be unable to handle data entry for multiple events in parallel and manual data entry may be required for one event.
- the Olympic Broadcast Service may be unable to broadcast two events simultaneously. In this case, priority should be given to the broadcasting the final rounds of the Speed events.

In practical terms, it may not be possible to run a boulder stage in parallel with a round of a Speed event.

The semifinal round of an event may be *cancelled* where it is necessary or prudent in order to provide time to complete the qualification round and the final round.

note. Consistent with the secondary goals set out in §1 above, where completion of the qualification round has extended into Day 3, or where it is either expected or established that the semifinal round cannot be completed on Day 3, the semifinal round should be *cancelled* in order to preserve the Day 4 schedule.

note. If the semifinal is *cancelled*, the best 8 competitors from the qualification round will be advanced to the final.

The final round of an event may be *cancelled* only where, having explored all options, it is considered impractical to complete the round within the 4 days of the relevant OQS Event.

note. Where circumstance preclude the delivery of the Day 4 schedule as planned, the IFSC event team should ensure that the following options are considered prior to making a decision:

- running the final rounds for the two categories in parallel before contemplating cancellation of either or both finals.
- advancing (by reducing the gap between Women's and Men's Final) the transition between the final rounds for each discipline by adjusting preparatory operations (e.g., stripping off the boulders behind the curtain during lead final of one category).
- As a last resort, maintaining the medal session for one category and cancelling the medal session for the other.

note: Other options are not precluded

## Speed

The general principles set out in article 12.7 of the IFSC Rules (i.e. as defined for the World Cup series of competition) apply to events in the Speed discipline, with the following proviso:

1. the authority of the Jury President under article 12.7(A) to abandon or *cancel* the final round of an event is subject to the agreement of the IOC Competition Schedule Change Management Group;

The final round of an event may be *cancelled* where either:

- it is necessary or prudent in order to provide time to complete the qualification round; or
- the 1/8 final stage of any event has not been completed.

The final round of an event should not be *cancelled* where the 1/8 final stage has been completed.

note. Per articles 9.18 and 12.7 of the IFSC Rules, where the 1/8 final stage of an event has been completed, the subsequent stages of the final round may be cancelled and the ranking of competitors will be determined from their ranking after the last stage completed.

## Terminology & Communications

### Terminology

The use of consistent and clear terminology is important for communicating clearly with internal/external stakeholders. As DIPAC protocols and terminology are not formalised for IFSC events, terms commonly used may have different meanings to those used by the IOC.

For the purposes of internal and external communications, the IFSC will promote the use of IOC recommended terminology in connection with any unplanned or planned changes to the competition schedule for OQS Events. The Glossary to this document includes common definitions for these key terms:

- The IOC recommended terms *delay(ed)*, *interrupt(ed)ion*, *postpone(d)ment*, *advance(d)ment* and *cancel(l)ed* should be used with the meanings and in the circumstances set out in the glossary.
- Event and IFSC staff should in particular avoid use of the term *cancelled* other than where a phase of competition is **removed** from the schedule.
- Event and IFSC staff should avoid use of the terms *abandoned*, *resumed*, *suspended* and use IOC terminology in preference.

Example: A competition phase halted for any reason (such as rain) should be referred to as *Interrupted*.

### Stakeholder communications

In **all** cases of delay, interruption, advancement etc. the Event Delegate should sign off an Official Communication and liaise with OMEGA for publication.

Note: Even with short (< 10 minute) delays, timely external communication is necessary for external stakeholders, TV and media to know exactly what is happening on the Field of Play. An Official Communication should be published immediately, even if the timing of any restart or rescheduling is uncertain and a second, later, Official Communication released once a resolution and timeline have been decided.



## Glossary

The glossary contains words/phrases which need clarification or explanation beyond the detail in the rules and/or which are not always easily translated into other languages.

### General Terms

#### ***Advancement***

For the purposes of this document, an *advancement* means a rescheduling of some phase of competition to a time earlier than that originally scheduled.

#### ***Cancellation***

For the purposes of this document, an *Cancellation* means the **removal** from the competition schedule of some phase of competition.

#### ***Completion Time Threshold***

The target duration allowed for the completion of some phase of competition, or a time by which competition activities should be completed.

example: A *completion time threshold* might be defined relative to the closing time for the venue, or the end of a ticketing session.

#### ***Delay***

For the purposes of this document, a *delay* means that an event (such as the start of the round, publication of results, etc) is expected to occur or occurred at a later time than scheduled.

#### ***Event***

For the purposes of this document, an *Event* is a competition for a specific gender-discipline combination, e.g. Men Speed

#### ***Interruption***

For the purposes of this document, an *interruption* means a halt in competition activities.

#### ***Postponement***

For the purposes of this document, a *postponement* means the rescheduling of some phase of competition to a time later than that originally scheduled.

### Sport-Specific Terms

#### ***Repeated***



Where a competition phase has been *interrupted* and cannot be resumed for any reason, the phase will be referred to as *repeated* where the results of the *interrupted* phase are discarded and the phase restarted at a rescheduled time.

# Attachment A - Schedule Change Flow & CSCMG Approval

## OQS SPORT SCHEDULE CHANGE FLOW AND CSCMG APPROVAL

Level	Minor Delays	Major Delays	Major Delays	Major Delays	Major Delays
<p>• ≤ 10 mins delay expected</p> <p>• Managed within own sport schedule</p>	<p>• ≥ 10 mins to "completion time threshold"</p> <p>• Subsequent session in same sport may require minor delay</p> <p>• Other OQS sport broadcast content choices may mean adapted content coverage.</p>	<p>• ≥ 10 mins to "completion time threshold"</p> <p>• Subsequent session in same sport may require delay</p> <p>• Other OQS sport broadcast content choices and minor delays may be required</p>	<p>• ≥ "completion time threshold"</p> <p>• Existing sport session or subsequent session rescheduled</p> <p>• Other OQS sport changes may be required</p> <p>• Cancellation options assessed</p>	<p>• ≥ "completion time threshold"</p> <p>• Existing sport session or subsequent session rescheduled</p> <p>• Other OQS sport changes may be required</p> <p>• Cancellation options assessed</p>	<p>• ≥ "completion time threshold"</p> <p>• Existing sport session or subsequent session rescheduled</p> <p>• Other OQS sport changes may be required</p> <p>• Cancellation options assessed</p>
<p><b>FYI</b></p> <p>As part of end of day reporting.</p> <p>CSCMG Members</p> <p>- CM</p> <p>- IF</p> <p>- OBS</p> <p>- VRM</p> <p>- VEN</p> <p>- EGM/IOC</p> <p>- IOC Lead</p> <p>- IOC Comms</p> <p>Validate Plan as applicable</p>	<p><b>FYI and Oversight</b></p> <p>CSCMG informed of the plan being executed. Delegated authority to venue team and EGM oversees execution for event.</p> <p>IOC Comms oversee external communications including updates to digital channels and social as applicable.</p> <p>Where the delay to the sport and / or subsequent session is expected to be 30 mins or greater, then a CSCMG will form to check the overall communications / management approach, and for visibility should the situation deteriorate going forward.</p>	<p><b>Approve / Refine event recommendation</b></p> <p>As per major delay sequence plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- other OQS sport may require rescheduling content or operational choices.</li> </ul> <p>CSCMG may disapprove the recommendation. IOC makes final decision in event of disagreement.</p>	<p><b>Approve / Refine event recommendation</b></p> <p>As per major delay sequence plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- same sport may require rescheduling</li> <li>- other sports may require rescheduling</li> <li>- revised sport options</li> <li>- ticket holder implications and complex communications across clients.</li> </ul> <p>CSCMG may disapprove the recommendation. IOC makes final decision in event of disagreement.</p>	<p><b>Approve / Refine event recommendation</b></p> <p>As per major delay sequence plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- same sport may require cancellation</li> </ul> <p>CSCMG may disapprove the recommendation. IOC makes final decision in event of disagreement.</p>	
<p>Venue Team</p> <p>Refine + Confirm Plan</p>	<p><b>FYI</b></p> <p>Cascade of info to venue functions as appropriate to manage services.</p> <p>If other OQS sport schedules require adjusting proceed to increased major delay severity.</p>	<p><b>Review / Confirm sport recommendation</b></p> <p>OBS confirm coverage for and sport session, EGM validate spectator service plans. Confirmation of sport extension, minor delay to subsequent session, cascade info to venue functions to manage.</p> <p>If other OQS sport schedules require adjusting proceed to increased major delay severity.</p>	<p><b>Review / Refine venue recommendation</b></p> <p>OBS confirm broadcast priorities and content choices across sports. Assess preferred approach is to delay own sport plus adjust other OQS sport with minor delay to support content.</p> <p>EGM validates spectator servicing and local plans.</p> <p>If delay to other OQS sport greater than 10 mins then proceed to increased severity level.</p>	<p><b>Review / Refine venue recommendation</b></p> <p>OBS confirm broadcast priorities and content choices. EGM validates spectator servicing plans. Sport rescheduling plan developed. Other OQS sport session may be adjusted following review with respective IF and CM.</p> <p>If rescheduling appears unlikely even with revised sport formats, and cancellation is an option, then proceed to increased severity level.</p>	
<p>FOP Team (including OBS, OVR, SPP)</p> <p>Develop Plan</p>	<p><b>Manage</b></p> <p>Review the live schedule adaptations, forward look for venue resources, communication to FOP spectators.</p> <p>If delay greater than 10 mins then proceed to increased major delay severity.</p>	<p><b>Develop sport recommendation</b></p> <p>OBS align content coverage and on-venue resourcing. FOP spectator comms plan developed. Sport can manage within own sport without operational changes. Only adaptation is per sport content selection. No other OQS sport competition schedule changes expected.</p>	<p><b>Develop sport recommendation</b></p> <p>As per previous major delay sequence. OBS align content coverage and on-venue resourcing per content priorities to manage sport. Other OQS sport may require content coverage changes.</p>	<p><b>Develop sport recommendation</b></p> <p>OBS align content coverage and on-venue resourcing per content priorities to manage sport. Sport format options</p>	
<p>IF + CM</p>	<p><b>Assess, Determine sport approach</b></p> <p>Approach to managing occurrence is within the sport responsibility to realign the schedule.</p>	<p><b>Assess, Determine sport approach</b></p> <p>Approach to managing the occurrence requires extending current session and may include a minor delay to the subsequent sport session. Sport operations and team comms plan developed. Review of sport DAPC Plan.</p>	<p><b>Assess, Determine sport approach</b></p> <p>As per major delay sequence plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- subsequent same sport session may require delay.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Assess, Determine sport approach</b></p> <p>As per major delay sequence plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- subsequent same sport session may require delay.</li> </ul>	
<p>Start</p>	<p>≤ 10 mins delay expected</p>	<p>≥ 10 mins to "completion time threshold"</p>	<p>≥ 10 mins to "completion time threshold"</p>	<p>≥ "completion time threshold"</p>	

Incident / scenario and initial review of severity / time impact / implications