



STUDIO LEGALE MORELLI

MILANO - ROMA

Associazione Professionale

USA - OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (USOPC)

In the United States, the functions of Olympic Committee and Paralympic Committee are centered into the same entity, *“The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee”*¹.

SCOPE

The USA Olympic Committee and Paralympic Committee is an association the scopes and functions of which are outlined by the so called *Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act*² (“TSOAS”), issued by the US Congress and which establishes the Committee itself³.

¹ Official website: <https://www.teamusa.org/about-the-usopc>.

² Full title of the Act, issued in 1978 during the presidency of Jimmy Carter, is *“An Act to promote and coordinate amateur athletic activity in the United States, to recognize certain rights for United States amateur athletes, to provide for the resolution of disputes involving national governing bodies, and for other purposes”*. Link to full text: <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title36/subtitle2/partB/chapter2205&edition=prelim>.

³ TSOAS provides the following purposes for USOPC:

- to establish national goals for amateur athletic activities and encourage the attainment of those goals;
- to coordinate and develop amateur athletic activity in the United States, directly related to international amateur athletic competition, to foster productive working relationships among sports-related organizations;
- to exercise exclusive jurisdiction, directly or through constituent members of committees, over—
(A) all matters pertaining to United States participation in the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, and the Pan-American Games, including representation of the United States in the games; and (B) the organization of the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, and the Pan-American Games when held in the United States;
- to obtain for the United States, directly or by delegation to the appropriate national governing body, the most competent amateur representation possible in each event of the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, and Pan-American Games;
- to promote and support amateur athletic activities involving the United States and foreign nations;



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In particular, the Statutes identifies one main objective of the activity of the Committee, which is *“to empower Team USA athletes to achieve sustained competitive excellence and well-being”*.

The reaching of such objective is bound to the implementation of multiple principles specifically drawn by the sports system. USOPC therefore:

- a) promote and protect athletes’ rights, safety, and wellness;
- b) champion the integrity of sport;

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- *to promote and encourage physical fitness and public participation in amateur athletic activities;*
 - *to assist organizations and persons concerned with sports in the development of amateur athletic programs for amateur athletes;*
 - *to provide swift resolution of conflicts and disputes involving amateur athletes, national governing bodies, and amateur sports organizations, and protect the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in amateur athletic competition;*
 - *to foster the development of amateur athletic facilities for use by amateur athletes and assist in making existing amateur athletic facilities available for use by amateur athletes;*
 - *to provide and coordinate technical information on physical training, equipment design, coaching, and performance analysis;*
 - *to encourage and support research, development, and dissemination of information in the areas of sports medicine and sports safety;*
 - *to encourage and provide assistance to amateur athletic activities for women;*
 - *to encourage and provide assistance to amateur athletic programs and competition for amateur athletes with disabilities, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by such amateur athletes in programs of athletic competition for able-bodied amateur athletes;*
 - *to encourage and provide assistance to amateur athletes of racial and ethnic minorities for the purpose of eliciting the participation of those minorities in amateur athletic activities in which they are underrepresented; and*
 - *to promote a safe environment in sports that is free from abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete.*

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- c) respect the important role of our member organizations and support their need for success;
- d) set clear standards of organizational excellence and hold ourselves and all member organizations accountable;
- e) engage as a trusted and influential leader to advance the global Olympic & Paralympic Movements;
- f) honor and celebrate the legacy of Olympic & Paralympic athletes.

FUNDINGS

With regard to the Committee's funding, it should be highlighted that it does not receive direct federal fundings, except for select Paralympic military programs.

The USOPC's main sources of revenue are therefore the typical ones of the private sports system, such as:

- the incomes of the television broadcasting rights licensing;
- sponsorship agreements; and
- philanthropy in the form of major gifts by citizens, which are invited to contribute to the sustaining of the olympic and paralympic movement.

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