



Press Release

10-06-09

International Golf Federation (IGF)

Av. de Rhodanie 54

1007 Lausanne

Switzerland

www.igfgolf.org

Golf Stars and Leaders Will Make Final IOC Presentation

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, USA (June 10, 2009) – International Golf Federation Global Ambassador Annika Sorenstam and 2010 European Ryder Cup captain Colin Montgomerie will join representatives of the International Golf Federation when golf's final case for inclusion in the 2016 Olympic Games will be made to the International Olympic Committee Executive Board on Monday in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Sorenstam, who serves as a Global Ambassador in support of the IGF's effort, and Montgomerie will join Tim Finchem, PGA TOUR Commissioner, LPGA of Japan President and World Golf Hall of Fame member Hisako "Chako" Higuchi, IGF Co-Secretary Peter Dawson and IGF Executive Director Ty Votaw for the presentation. Dawson and Votaw have been coordinating golf's Olympic bid.

"We feel it is very important for the IOC Executive Board to be able to personally hear from two of the game's most highly respected players in Annika and Colin," Votaw said. "We will also be presenting a film featuring 16 of the game's most prominent players including current World # 1 ranked Lorena Ochoa and Tiger Woods, as well as IGF Global Ambassador Jack Nicklaus describing the compelling reasons why golf should be reinstated as an Olympic sport after an absence of more than a century."

Golf last was part of the Olympic Games in 1904, when the United States and Canada were the only competing nations.

The IGF also has announced that its Olympic Golf Committee, whose purpose is to oversee and administer all aspects of golf's inclusion on the Olympic Programme, was expanded from its original seven members to 19 organisations. The new member organisations are: The Asian Tour, Australian Ladies Professional Golf Tour, Canadian Professional Golf Tour, Japan Golf Tour Organisation, The Ladies Professional Golfers Association of Japan, Korea Ladies Professional Golf Association, Korean Professional Golf Association, Ladies European Tour, Ladies Asian Golf Tour Ltd., PGA TOUR of Australasia, The Sunshine Tour and The Tour de las Americas.

These organisations previously served on the IGF Professional Golf Advisory Committee, whose role is to ensure the Olympic Golf Committee's objective and associated activities are consistent with the values of both golf and the Olympic Movement. They join the original IGF Olympic Golf Committee members The R&A, European Tour, USGA, PGA of America, PGA TOUR, LPGA and the Masters Tournament.

Additionally, the IGF announced that the Guam National Golf Federation and Cambodian Golf Federation have joined the IGF, increasing the total number of members to 121 from 116 countries.

"These developments within the IGF structure are reflective of the continued strong international interest and support for golf becoming an Olympic sport," Dawson said. "As we have noted, never before have all levels of golf around the world been as united towards a single goal as golf becoming an Olympic sport. Additionally, golf's inherent values align very closely with those of the Olympic Movement, including honesty, honour, dignity and sportsmanship."

Golf is one of seven sports being considered for inclusion starting with the 2016 Games. The IOC Executive Committee is expected to recommend two sports in August to the IOC membership to vote on for the 2016 Olympic Programme.

The IOC's final vote will take place in early October at the 121st IOC session in Copenhagen, Denmark. The host for the 2016 Games will also be determined during this session. The candidate cities are: Chicago, USA; Madrid, Spain; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Tokyo, Japan. Dawson and Votaw previously noted the ease with which golf would fit into any of the four finalist cities due to existing golf facilities in those countries.

During the upcoming presentation to the IOC Executive Board, the IGF representatives will stress the unprecedented commitment by member organisations to adjust their summer schedules to ensure that no major championship conflicts or competes with the Olympic golf competition, and that the sport's best athletes would be available to participate in the Olympic Games.

The IGF will also review the proposed format of 72-hole individual stroke play for both men and women, reflecting leading players' opinion that this is the fairest and best way to identify a champion, mirroring the format used in golf's major championships. In case of a tie for either first, second or third place, a three-hole playoff is recommended to determine the medal winner(s).

The IGF also is recommending an Olympic field of 60 players for each of the men's and women's competition, utilizing the official world golf rankings as a method of determining eligibility. The top 15 world-ranked players would be eligible for the Olympics, regardless of the number of players from a given country. Beyond the top 15, players would be eligible based on world ranking, with a maximum of two eligible players from each country that does not already have two or more players among the top 15.

Under this proposal, at least 30 countries would be represented in both the men's and women's competitions, from all continents.

In related news, the IGF was voted in as a member of SportAccord, formerly the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), during the Sportaccord conference held this past March in Denver. Sportaccord, which was launched in 2003 and is owned by the GAISF, the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations and the Association of International Olympic Winter Federations, is an annual gathering of 1,500 leading representatives from international sport federations from around the world. Dawson and Votaw attended the meetings in March.

Also, the IGF's official Web site (www.internationalgolffederation.org) has been updated to include materials from past presentations as well as promotional videos.

About the International Golf Federation

The IGF was founded in 1958 to encourage the international development of the game and to employ golf as a vehicle to foster friendship and sportsmanship. Recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the official international federation for golf, the IGF is comprised of 121 Federations from 116 countries.

The IGF is recognized as the representative body for golf by the International Olympic Committee and has created the IGF Olympic Golf Committee to drive its effort for the sport's inclusion in the 2016 Games. Organizations represented on the committee are The R&A, European Tour, USGA, PGA of America, PGA TOUR, LPGA, the Masters Tournament, The Asian Tour, Australian Ladies Professional Golf Tour, Canadian Professional Golf Tour, Japan Golf Tour Organisation, The Ladies Professional Golfers Association of Japan, Korea Ladies Professional Golf Association, Korean Professional Golf Association, Ladies European Tour, Ladies Asian Golf Tour Ltd., PGA TOUR of Australasia, The Sunshine Tour and The Tour de las Americas.

Contacts:

Chris Smith, PGA TOUR, +1 904.273.3379, csmith@pgatourhq.com

Dave Fanucchi, USGA, +1 908.470.1993, dfanucchi@usga.org

David Higdon, LPGA, +1 386/843-0073, david.higdon@lpga.com

Malcolm Booth, The R&A, +44 1334 460000, malcolmbooth@randa.org

Copyright © 2012 International Golf Federation. All rights reserved.