

Good day all,

As an athlete representative for the Bermuda Olympic Association Athletes Commission, I agree that these universality places should be utilized by our NOC.

At the moment we have 5 athletes who are trying to compete for positions at the Tokyo Games, 2 in Track and Field (Jah-nhai Perinchief and Tyrone Smith), 1 in triathlon (Tyler Smith) and 2 in swimming (Maddy Moore and Jesse Washington). I am confident that these athletes will all represent Bermuda at an elite level and I am hopeful that these athletes will reach their respective Qualifying Standards before the end of the Qualifying period. However, I believe that our NOC should use every opportunity that we can to give our athletes the ability to compete at the highest level in sport including selection from the IFs via Tripartite and Universality spots.

I accept that there is a nuance between an 'invitation' from an IF for a quota spot and a submission of a Universality or Tripartite position, however both have been provided by respective IFs and the discretion of the NSGBs. It is my understanding that the Universality places offered by FINA are both representative of swimming merit and in line with the Standards Committees objective to send athletes to the Games without compromising sporting competition.

In swimming and track and field (blue ribbon sports) the standards have improved incredibly from 2012, as they have decreased the total athlete participants at the Games to continue to improve the competition of these sports. Swimming has set their OQT / "A" standard as a Top-14 finishing time at the previous Olympics, which is not in line with how other selections are made on the Standards Committee. These improved standards have made funding and resources even more relevant in the preparation of the Games. As a small nation, it is not surprising that we do not have the same access to elite programs as some of our larger competitors. We have the opportunity to send (1) track and field athletes, pending no athletes qualify, and (2) swimming athletes on Universality and my opinion is that we should be accepting the FINA standards and World Athletics, including any opportunity to send our athletes. Also, the (1) Tripartite position in Triathlon would be based on the athlete reaching the 190th position in the World Rankings prior to the qualification period closing, and is not a guaranteed position at the Olympic Games.

In summary, our athletes have persevered through Government lockdowns, facility closures, cancelations of competition and travel restrictions. The Olympic postponement has affected each of our athletes differently and as a National Olympic Committee, we should want to work with our athletes, IFs and NSGBs to promote our accomplishments at international competition.

Sincerely,

**Julian Fletcher, OLY**