

ICSC International Sports Chiro Module 10

FICS and the World of Sport Presentation (Part 1)

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Video Lesson: 21:12

Hello, I am Dr. Brian Nook. I am currently the associate dean of academic affairs at Palmer College of Chiropractic West in San Jose, California. I am also the liaison for FICS to the International World Games Association. I have been involved with FICS for many years and worked many of their international sporting events. It is my pleasure to be presenting to you today FICS and the world of sport. My hope that through this presentation, you will get an understanding and appreciation of FICS' involvement of chiropractic and sports chiropractic in the world of sport, how FICS and you, yourself, fit into this world of sport, and how you might be able to become more involved in sports chiropractic in sport.

To begin with, I would like to give you a little background about where FICS actually fits into the world of the sport. We are involved with many different groups. Most people think that the IOC is the parent organization of sport and represents sport from around the world and all sports. In reality, there is a larger body called the General Assembly of International Sports Federation, used to be called Sport Accord. Sport Accord, now, is just the organization that holds a congress of all the different sports federations, which are near 100 different sports federations, for GAISF. The General Assembly of International Sports Federations, or GAISF, is the parent body that represents all international sports federations that are currently recognized.

There are those sports federations that are new and just starting, and they must make application in order to be part of GAISF. The IOC actually only represents certain sports federations that compete in a well-recognized event called the Olympics, either the Summer Olympic Games or the Winter Olympic Games. The other sports federations compete usually in the World Games, which I will talk about briefly. Most of you, of course, have an interest in professional sports or Olympic sports, and I would like to talk a little bit about the agenda and where the IOC is headed with their organization. If we look at the third slide, you will see that the IOC has recognized organizations. The first is the IFs, the International Federation Associations. As I say, they put on this event of the Olympics, either winter or summer, every four years for certain international federations or IFs. They recognize other federations, but their sports currently do not compete.

We are seeing a trend now where there are a core groups of sports, such as ice skating in the Winter Games, such as track and field and gymnastics in the Summer Games, that are core and will probably always be involved in the Olympics. But we are also seeing a rotation of new IFs that are recognized that are being brought into sports, and in particular to the Olympics that are hosting the games those years. For example, in Japan in the upcoming Summer Games, baseball will be one the sports that will be at those games that has not been involved in Olympics. We have also seen that rugby in Rio was part of the Olympic event.

They also recognize National Olympic Committees, education, multi-sports organizations events, disabled sports, and has a large contribution into sports medicine and science through a group called IXBY which is wanting us to get involved with them more as far as FICS, and sports equipment and facilities. Interestingly, they have also recognized certain groups from an organizational paradigm. This is, as I have already talked about, is the Association of Summer Olympics International Federation, or ASOIF, and also the Association of IOC Recognized International Sports Federations, which is ARISF, and then, of course, GAISF or Sport Accord. We, as FICS, became a member of the GAISF back in 1991 and continue to be a member. We are only an associate member. We are not a full member, because full members are only for federations that represent sport.

Since FICS is an associate member, that means that we have full rights and privileges and are involved in being recognized through GAISF, but we are not too a full voting member. We have membership and representation through the associate members. But since we are not a sport, we cannot be full members. This gives us an involvement within the IOC but also especially GAISF. Then there are the Alliance of Independent Recognized Members of Sports or AIMS. We have a provisional membership within that, and we have currently trying to become more involved with AIMS to have more of a voice in the world of sport and with the IOC.

Additionally, you will see that there's multi-sports organizations that the IOC recognizes. In particular, the International Workers and Amateurs in Sports Confederations, or the CSIT. CSIT has a standing agreement with FICS that whenever they provide a games, which is every two years, a delegation of FICS chiropractors will be there to support their athletes. Then the International World Games Association, or the IWGA, which we have had a standing agreement, again, with the IWGA that whenever they have their event, which is every four years, FICS will provide a delegation for these games. Then the International Masters Games is one in which we are working closely with, but yet do not have a standing agreement, and we hope to become more involved with them.

As you will see, these three groups are very important, especially with our strategy to eventually get the IOC to recognize FICS. A goal for FICS for many, many years is to get the IOC to recognize us, so that FICS can provide the support for their Olympic games, and we can have access to the athletes at the Olympics. There are two primary strategies that we work with in the Olympics and is goals for FICS is to get as many of our members working with the national Olympic committees and go with their countries' teams to provide care for those athletes. Additionally, the Olympics provide a polyclinic, which is providing services that a doctor with a team may not be able to provide, such as dental, other care, or MRI, or special imaging, and special diagnostic services, and of course emergency services.

That is one strategy is to support you and our national sports chiropractic associations to try to get as many people working with their country. Additionally, if we can get the IOC to recognize FICS, they will then, as they do with all their host countries, mandate that FICS provide a delegation to the polyclinic in order to allow any athlete from any country this service in chiropractic care. Up to this point, we have had involvement with certain Olympics, for quite some time now. But these have been mainly generated from a local organizer of the Olympic games, such as in Vancouver, the London Olympics, and Rio. We had chiropractors that were in the polyclinic and providing this care to all athletes.

However, this has been generated mainly by that local Olympic committee and not the IOC. So, unfortunately, it only happens for that event, and it is a one-off type of event. The goal for FICS is to get the IOC to fully recognize us. As some country puts in a bid for the Olympics, we are part of the agenda and the requirements for them to work with us to provide care through FICS for all athletes in the polyclinic. This has been the aspiration and the goal for FICS for many years. For over 35 years, they have been working with the IOC in order to try and get this recognition. A monumental change happened in the Olympics a couple years ago in 2014, when they opened up their Olympic agenda, with the 2020 paper.

In the 2020 paper, it was unanimously agreed to take the 40 recommendations out of this paper about where the future of the IOC and the Olympic agenda was headed. In interest to FICS and to us as sports chiropractors are that in Recommendation 6; it is stated to cooperate closely with other sport event organizers. In particular, they mentioned the IOC and the International World Games, the IWGA, to closely cooperate regarding sports program composition and their respective evaluations. The primary goal was this, is to continue to monitor those sports, those disciplines, and those international sports federations that might become part of the agenda of a future Olympic game. The IOC also in this

Recommendation 6 stated that the IOC and the International Masters Games Association to study the possibility of the Olympic games hosting the IMGA event in the years following the Olympic games.

They are conscious that building all the venues and the resources and infrastructure that is necessary for the Olympic games for a one-off event is not the best use of resources. Getting a bidding or a host Olympic city to then go on and support the IMGA would be a better use of these resources. From a strategy point of view, FICS is working closely with the IMGA to become involved with them, so that we can continue to support the Olympics and, of course, the IMGA. The IOC also has a strong association with the Youth Olympic Games. It is one of our strategy to work closely with the Youth Olympic Games. The nice part about this Olympic Agenda 2020 paper is it really helped to identify a key strategy for FICS and what we need to focus on in trying to align with as close as possible and outline a clear strategy for us to work with the IOC and also other associations, so that we can support the IOC and further our recognition with the IOC, with the possible involvement with the Olympics in the future.

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