



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

**Relations with the National Olympic
Committees Department**

Ref. No. CNO/2013/PMS/awh
By e-mail only

Mr. Leri KHABELOV
President
Georgian National Olympic Committee
11, Machabeli Street
0105 Tbilisi
Georgia

Lausanne, 28 September 2013

RE: “Abkhazia” and “South Ossetia”

Dear President,

This is in reference to the recent issues which have been raised in relation to the above-mentioned subject and the Olympic Winter Games, Sochi 2014.

Through this letter, we wish to clarify the IOC's position, as follows:

- To date, the IOC recognises 204 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), including one which is currently suspended, and, as stated in the Olympic Charter, “they have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective countries at the Olympic Games and at the regional, continental or world multi-sports competitions patronised by the IOC”.
- To be eligible for participation in the Olympic Games a competitor must be entered by their respective NOC, as recognised by the IOC.
- As things stand for the moment and in accordance with the Olympic Charter, the IOC does not recognise an NOC for either “Abkhazia” or “South Ossetia”.
- The IOC does recognise the NOC of Georgia which has jurisdiction over the whole territory of Georgia as recognised by the United Nations / international community.
- The IOC protocol and the list of NOC territories as recognised by the IOC must be strictly respected by the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs) in all their operations (including but not limited to the accreditation system).

We hope that this letter clarifies the IOC's stance and eases any concerns that your NOC may have in regard to this situation.

Yours sincerely,

Pere Miró
Director NOC Relations