



Paris JO 2024 – J13 - The Volunteers (VOP), highly valued VIPs

The associative sport is characterized by amateurism of practitioners, which corresponds to the volunteer work of the leaders and most of the management. Volunteering is the touchstone for sports associations and federations. The Council of Europe has been a pioneer in considering sports volunteering as a source of funding, as well as household consumption (purchase of sports goods and services), public funding (state and local authorities) and private donors (sponsors and television). Volunteers do not contribute funds to sport; they provide free labor for the sports movement. Their contribution is valued by considering the number of hours spent and the skills mobilized. The sport has been able to develop and democratize thanks to the commitment of millions of volunteers who ensure the operation of clubs & federations (presidents, treasurers, secretaries, other administrators) and the supervision of practice (coaches, referees,...) The volunteering of the families for the transport of the teams for competitions or the stewardship (providing and repairing equipment...) is also highly appreciated.

Olympism is based on the amateurism (increasingly theoretical) of athletes. The members of the organizing committee are all paid. But volunteers remain associated with the Olympics - a contract is signed with reciprocal commitments. A Charter of Olympic and Paralympic Volunteers (VOPs) has been established by the Organizing Committee for the Paris 2024 Games with the State services, responsible for promoting volunteerism within associations. An evaluation of the 45,000 full-time volunteers engaged in the preparation and animation of the Paris 2024 Games ranges from 126 million euros (30 days, 8 hours per day at a legal minimum of 11.65 euros) and a higher estimate closer to 250-300 million considering the true market «price» of the tasks performed. The VOPs would therefore represent the equivalent for the 2024 Olympics budget of the “Hospitality and Licensing”.

The VOP 2024 Charter establishes “the rights, duties, guarantees, conditions of recourse, categories of missions entrusted and conditions of exercise applicable to volunteers wishing to participate in the promotion, preparation, organization and/or conduct of the Games”. The basic conditions of volunteering are recalled – engagement is free and altruistic, within the limits of the volunteer’s abilities. The tasks are clearly delineated - preparation, organization and/or conduct of the Games. They are entrusted to him by any person designated and authorized by Paris 2024 . The commitment must respect the three republican principles – freedom, equality, brotherhood. It is part of a policy of diversity and inclusion, gender/gender parity, non-discrimination, openness to all ages, access to people with disabilities, and all nationalities (no national preference). It is important to delimit the rights and duties of the VOP, to avoid any confusion and any suspicion of exploitation or abuse (we commit ourselves in full knowledge of the facts).

The 45,000 volunteers were carefully selected and trained to be able to perform their contractually agreed tasks in full knowledge of the facts. They are dressed from head to toe (by a sponsor) and equipped. They were given a key mission - to be the ambassadors of JOP 2024, Paris and France. They also provide entertainment during breaks and before competitions. Many thanks to the 45,000 VOPs, unique "VIPs" who are most appreciated by all participants and contribute to the friendly spirit of the Paris 2024 Games.

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