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1 Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Welcome to OGI UK

The St Peter's Italian Youth Club in London founded the Olimpiadi Gioventú Italiana in the UK, OGI UK in 1978. The first games took place over the Whitsun Bank Holiday in May 1980, and have continued to take place at the same time every two years since. The games are organised by the OGI Committee. The assembly at the OGI Annual General Meeting elects this committee every two years.

The address for all OGI correspondence is:

OGI UK, 2 Back Hill, London EC1R 5EN

Or email at: info@ogi-olympics.co.uk or visit our website: www.ogi-olympics.co.uk

1.2 What are the objectives of the games?

The objectives of the games are to provide an athletic sporting arena every two years for youngsters of the Italian community and friends, regardless of their ability, and to encourage the participation of as many Italian associations, schools and clubs as possible.

1.3 What is the purpose of this handbook?

The Handbook contains all the necessary information about OGI, stating the official rules, regulations and procedures for the benefit of new Italian organisations wishing to take part in future games, and for teams who have taken part before. If you require information on any matter not covered by this handbook, then please write to OGI at the address above. New handbooks will be issued as and when there are any major changes to the rules and regulations of OGI

REMEMBER
OGI is for your children

2 Section 2: Team and Competitor Registrations

2.1 Which teams can enter the games?

Any Italian based organisation such as an association, school or social club is eligible to become a member of OGI, subject to the committee approval.

If you would like to enter a team, please write to the Secretary at the address above. You will be required to register your interest. A team should consist of at least 10 competitors of both sex and aged between 9-21 years inclusive (see 2.2 for eligibility of competitors). If your team has less than 10 competitors, then the Committee will give special consideration to your application.

If the team has less than 10 competitors, the team will not be eligible for the Les Rickard award.

2.2 Which youngsters can take part in the games?

The games are open to boys and girls who comply with the following conditions:

- a) All athletes must provide proof of date of birth (Birth Certificate or Passport) to their team manager at the time of registration. Team managers must have these proofs of identification with them for the duration of the games.
- b) The competitor must not be younger than 9 years old or be older than 21 years old on the first day of the games.
- c) The competitor must be of Italian origin or a member of an Italian organization. For OGI purposes, a competitor is considered of Italian origin if at least one of the following is satisfied:
 - I. He/she was born in Italy.
 - II. He/she holds, or has held Italian citizenship.
 - III. Or at least one parent or grandparent meets conditions (I) or (II).
- d) The competitor is registered as a member of one team only.
- e) A non-Italian competitor, who belongs to an athletics or swimming club, is not eligible to take part in the games
- f) Competitors who are registered as Italian who belongs and trains with an Athletic or swimming club are allowed to take part in the games.
- g) At least 60% of the competitors in each team must be of Italian origin.

2.3 When do I register my team?

All the teams wishing to take part in OGI must be registered before January 31st in the year of the games.

2.4 When do I register my competitors?

All team managers must return the completed competitors registration forms by the date specified by the OGI Committee. This date can be found on the OGI official website, www.ogi-olympics.co.uk.

2.5 Is there a registration fee?

There is a registration fee for each competitor. Teams will be advised of the fee amount at the time of team registrations. The fees are due no later than 4 weeks before the first day of the games.

If a competitor withdraws completely from the games less than 4 weeks before the first day of the games, then the fee will not be refunded.

2.6 What are the age groups for the competitors?

The competitors are divided into six age groups as follows:

Age (inclusive)	Age Group
9yrs	A
10yrs	B
11-12yrs	C
13-14yrs	D
15-16yrs	E
17-21yrs	F

Competitors and events are identified by the groupings: Boys A, Girls C, etc. The correct age group for a competitor is determined by his/her age on the first day of the games. E.g. a competitor who is 9 years old on or before the first day of the games and his/her 10th birthday is after the first day of the games will be in the age group 'A'.

2.7 Can athletes compete in an age group other than their own?

For individual events, a competitor may only compete in their own age group. In track and swimming relays, an athlete may move up one age group only in order to make up a team in that higher age group. If the competitor does so he/she forfeits the right to compete in his/her own age group.

In Girls Netball event the teams are grouped (A-B), (C-D), (E-F), e.g. a girl from group B may join the combined (C-D) team. However she will not be allowed to play for her own combined group (A-B). In Netball the groups are classified differently, in this instance ONLY Girls in group A will be allowed to move up to group (C-D) and only if they do wish to, however the final decision is at her Team Manager's discretion. This does only apply to group 'A' girls, all other age groups can only move up one age group.

Under no circumstance may competitors compete in a younger age group than their own.

2.8 Can athletes compete in a different gender group?

Exception are made for: Girls 'A' who may be added to the Boys A & B football team with a maximum of 2 girls; boys 'A' may be added to girls A & B netball team with a maximum of 2 boys; a girl 'A' may be added to the boys 'A' relay (4x100m) to make up a team only if there are not sufficient 'A' boys in that participating team to make up a relay team.

2.9 What information or documents do I need to register my competitors?

Each competitor will be required to provide two current passport size colour photographs, proof of age (passport or birth certificate) and to complete each section of the registration form in full. The competitor must sign and return the form to his/her team manager, who must check, verify and endorse the competitor's registration with his/her signature. Incomplete forms received will be returned for completion.

If false information is given, or relevant information is withheld, this will result in the rejection of the registration and/or disqualification of the competitor.

2.10 What happens after my registrations are sent to OGI?

After the registrations have been received and checked by OGI, they are entered into a computer database. A printout listing all your team's competitors and their selected events will be sent to the team manager. He must then check all the details thoroughly.

If any of your competitors wish to add, delete or change any events, these must be clearly listed on the separate amendments form sent with the printout. If there are any mistakes (i.e. events listed, first names, surnames or age groups), then the corrections must also be clearly listed on the amendments form.

The printout and the amendments form (even if not used) must both be signed by the team manager and returned to OGI no later than April 30th in the year of the games.

Between March 31st and April 30th the returned printouts and amendments forms will be collated. All team managers will be notified of the current status of the events for the games. If one or more events are found to be non-scoring events (see 3.5.1) then the OGI committee will endeavour to make as many of these as possible into scoring events by constant communication with the team managers.

After April 30th, all the events for the games will be declared and no further changes will be made. A competitor may only withdraw from an event.

Events declared as scoring events will remain so regardless of any later withdrawals. Even if only one competitor takes part the event must still be completed. A final printout including any authorised amendments will be sent back to the team manager. The printout must be checked as before for any mistakes or omissions on the part of OGI. If there are any errors OGI must be notified immediately.

Amendments will only be accepted and valid if listed on the appropriate forms and returned to OGI.

2.11 Will my team be required to help in the running of the games?

Yes. Each team will be required to provide some helpers to assist in various tasks around the arena. A duty rota will be issued each morning of the games. Each team will also be expected to assist in keeping the arena clean and tidy throughout the duration of the games.

2.12 Does my team need to have a special kit (tracksuits, etc.)?

It is not obligatory, but if your team has its own 'colours' it will help you (and your spectators) to identify your competitors.

2.13 How do I get my team to and from the stadium?

It will be the responsibility of each team to organise their own transport.

3 Section 3: Events and Rules

3.1 Which events can a competitor enter, and how many?

The events, which a competitor can enter, depend on the competitor's Age Group and sex. A full list of the events available for competition will be given to the team managers at the time of team registrations. These events may change from one game's to the next, depending on circumstances, and the O.G.I committee reserves the right to include or delete any events at any time.

For boys and girls in group A-B the maximum is 8 events, in summary the number of events that a competitor from Age Group A-B may enter is as follows:

- 2 individual track events
- 1 track relay event
- 1 field event (long jump)
- 1 individual swimming events
- 1 swimming relay event
- For Boys Football\Netball
- For Girls Netball\Football

For boys and girls in group C-F the maximum is 7 events for boys and for girls the maximum is 8 events, (as they may also enter Netball)

In summary the number of events that a competitor from Age Groups C-F may enter is as follows:

- 3 individual athletics events (track/field or a combination of both)
- 2 track relay events
- 1 individual swimming events
- 1 swimming relay event
- For Girls Netball

3.2 How is each event judged?

The O.G.I committee appoints a team of marshals and timekeepers who are under the supervision of the Chief Marshall and Referee.

With the exception of how a competitor qualifies for the next round where possible the track and field events conform to AAA regulations and the swimming events conform to ASA regulations. Refer to Appendix Section, *Netball Association Rules* on page 12 for details.

The rules for Football will be issued at the team managers meeting (about 2 months before the games).

The Netball rules are standard, and conform to the Netball Association rules.

The appointed official reserves the right to alter the format of events at any time, for example if there are unforeseen circumstances which require any changes to be made. Any such changes will be announced to all teams before such altered events take place.

3.3 Who qualifies from heats to the next round?

Track and swimming events in 8 lanes

Events with 3 to 8 competitors will be straight finals. Events with 9 to 64 competitors will have 2 to 8 heats accordingly. The winner and second placed in each heat automatically go through to the next round. The fastest losers of all other heats fill any available lanes in the next round

The heats/semi-finals/finals are held as follows:

No. of competitors	Heats	Next round	Next round
9 to 16	2 (semi-finals)	Final	-
17 to 24	3	Final	-
25 to 64	4 to 8	2 (semi-finals)	Final

Events with more than 64 competitors will have 9 or more heats. Only the winner of each heat automatically goes through to the next round (semi-finals). The fastest losers of all other heats fill any available lanes.

Swimming events in 6 lanes

Events with 3 to 6 competitors will be straight finals. Events with 7 to 36 competitors will have 2 to 6 heats accordingly. The winner and second placed in each heat automatically go through to the next round. The fastest losers of all other heats fill any available lanes in the next round. For the swimming relay only one relay team can be entered per team per group. One swimmer is allowed to swim twice, 1st and 4th leg of the relay.

The heats/semi-finals/finals are held as follows:

No. of competitors	Heats	Next round	Next round
7 to 12	2 (semi-finals)	Final	-
13 to 18	3	Final	-
19 to 36	4 to 6	2 (semi-finals)	Finals

Events with more than 36 competitors will have 7 or more heats. Only the winner of each heat automatically goes through to the next round (semi-finals). The fastest losers of all other heats fill any available lanes.

3.4 Do competitors need any special equipment?

No, all games equipment is provided at the stadium. However for Netball and for Football each team should provide at least a ball per team entered. The ball must meet the standard regulatory requirements for each of the sport.

3.5 What is a scoring event?

A scoring event is one in which three or more different teams take part. Medals awarded to the competitors will count towards the “Padre Russo” winners shield. Scoring events declared after April 30th remains as scoring events, regardless of subsequent withdrawals.

3.6 What is a non-scoring event?

A non-scoring event is one in which has at least three competitors from two different teams. As such, it will not count towards the “Padre Russo” shield. However, medals will still be presented to the winning competitors.

3.7 What is a non-event?

A non-event is one that does not take place. The two reasons for this are:
(i) no competitors have entered this event; (ii) only one team has entered this event, regardless of the number of competitors.

3.8 “Relay events”

Team manager must declare by the end of the second day which of the ‘Relay’ events their team will take part, once the list has been submitted any further change will not impact the status (event vs. non-event) of race.

Change overs as stipulated in OGI “Rules for Relays Sheet“

In a relay race no runner can run in two sections of the same race.

Competitors can move up a group only one age group, if they move to the group above, they will not be allowed to run in the event in their own group.

3.9 How are the medals used to determine the “Padre Russo” Shield Winners?

The winners of the “Padre Russo” shield are the team with the highest number of gold medals. If two or more teams finish with an equal number of gold medals, then silver medals will be compared, and if necessary, bronze. If two or more teams have the same number of gold, silver and bronze medals, then the competition will be declared a draw. This applies only to scoring events. During the games, the current medal positions will be announced at intervals, and a printed list will be issued at the end of each day.

Please note that the winners of the “Padre Russo” shield may keep the shield for two years up to the next games. They will return the Shield during the opening ceremony of the next games with the team name engraved.

3.10 What other trophies can be won?

Apart from the “**Padre Russo**” shield, which is won by the team with the most gold medals, there are two other trophies to be won.

The Les Rickard Award

This award is given to the team with the best performance ratio, according to the number of competitors in each team. A gold medal is worth 30 points, a silver medal is 20 points, and a bronze is 10 points. The total point-value of medals for a team is added and then divided by the number of competitors in that team. The team with the highest performance ratio wins the award unless they are the winning team. In that case it will pass on to the next best ratio.

The Sportsmanship Trophy

At the end of the games, each OGI official, team manager and games referee is asked to vote for one team that in his/her judgement have shown the most sportsmanship and best conduct throughout the games, in and out of the sports arena. The team with the most votes receives the trophy. In case of draw the President will have the casting vote.

4 Section 4: Complaints, Disputes and Conduct

4.1 What happens when there is a dispute over time, position, distance or height

In any circumstances of a dispute over a time/position/distance/height, the competitor must bring the matter to the attention of his/her team manager.

Only the team manager may register a complaint solely with the O.G.I Referee. The Referee will consult with the marshal(s) involved, and the Referee’s decision will be final.

4.2 What happens when there is a complaint/query on any matter?

In any circumstances of a complaint/query on any other matter, the competitor must bring the matter to the attention of his/her team manager.

Only the team manager may bring the matter to the attention of the O.G.I Officials in the Control Box. Most matters will be dealt with immediately. For matters, which require further consideration and/or investigation, the team manager will be notified as soon as possible of the response and of any action taken.

A complaints and discipline committee selected on the day and made up of three members of the O.G.I. officials will deal with all complaint, thus allowing all other officials to continue with the running of the games. Their decision will be final and irreversible. The officials must not have any linkage with any of the teams in dispute.

4.3 What happens if someone breaks the rules or brings the games into disrepute?

Misrepresentation

In case of dispute where the competitor fails to declare his or her registration to an athletic or swimming club, both the competitor and Team will be penalised. As result the Team will lose twenty gold medals and the athlete will lose his/her medals and be disqualified from the games and will not be allowed to take part in future OGI games.

A dispute if raised must be solved by the end of the day in question.

Athletes

Any breach of the rules will result in disqualification. Any misconduct, including using abusive language, and threatening behaviour, and violence, etc., will result in the athlete being disqualified and asked to leave the stadium. The athlete will face an indefinite ban from O.G.I.

Team Managers and Team Officials

Any breach of the rules or misconduct by a team manager will be considered as bringing the games into disrepute and will result in the team manager being asked to leave the stadium. The team manager will face an indefinite ban from O.G.I.

Teams

Any breach of the rules or misconduct by a team as a whole will be considered as bringing the games into disrepute and will result in the team as a whole being disqualified. The team may face an indefinite ban from O.G.I.

Parents/Spectators

Any spectator who disrupts or interferes with any O.G.I event will be expelled from the arena.

5 Section 5: Appendices

5.1 Weights for Javelin, Discus and Shot Putt

Age Groups		C	D	E	F
Javelin	Boys	400g	600g	700g	800g
	Girls	400g	600g	600g	600g
Discus	Boys	1.25Kg	1.50Kg	1.75Kg	1.75Kg
	Girls	1.00Kg	1.00Kg	1.00Kg	1.00Kg
Shot Putt	Boys	3.00Kg	4.00Kg	5.00Kg	6.25Kg
	Girls	3.00Kg	3.00Kg	3.00Kg	4.00Kg

5.2 Heights for Hurdles

Barriers to use	Distance	Hurdle height	Age Groups
6 every 10Mts	80m	68.50cm	C & D
8 every 10Mts	100m	76.20cm	E & F

5.3 Definition of events specialities

All track events have been categories in the following specialities:

Category	Events included
Track	100, 200, 300, 400, 800 & 1500m
Field	Discus, Javelin, Shot Put, Long jump, Triple jump

5.4 AAA Regulations

Refer to “UKA Rules for Competition 2010 (latest)”, site link, additionally a copy can be obtained by making a request to the OGI secretary.

<http://www.englandathletics.org/page.asp?section=444&search=rules>

5.5 ASA Regulations

Refer to “ASA Regulations Swimming” site link additionally a copy can be obtained by making a request to the OGI secretary.

www.swimming.org/assets/uploads/library/ASATechRulesOfficials.pdf

5.6 Netball Association Rules

Refer to “England Netball guide line” site link:

<http://www.netballonline.com/TheGame/Technical/NetballRules/tabid/69/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

5.7 Football Youth academies

Most youth systems attached exclusively to one club are often called youth academies. In a youth academy a club will sign multiple players at a very young age and teach them vital skills required to play at that club's standard. Clubs are often restricted to recruiting locally based youngsters, but some larger clubs such as Arsenal, Real Madrid and Chelsea have recruited many foreign talent besides locals.

Many of the larger clubs in Europe such as FC Barcelona in Spain, Ajax in the Netherlands, Sporting CP in Portugal and Manchester United FC in England, to name a few, are regarded as having some of the finest youth academies and have produced many players widely regarded as some of the best in the world. Other clubs such as Brazilian club Grêmio, Espanyol in Spain and English clubs Leeds United, Middlesbrough, Arsenal, Watford F.C, Aston Villa and West Ham United, while not as financially successful as others, have a world class academy. West Ham's youth academy is known as The Academy of Football and has produced many English talents that have gone on to play with larger clubs in the Premier League.

Another example is lower league clubs who have produced higher quality players through the academy and sold them to keep the club running. The main prime example of this is Crewe Alexandra who under Dario Gradi and his staff nurtured players into higher quality players such as David Platt and Dean Ashton and sold them when the time was right.

An alternative name for a Youth Academy is "Centre of Excellence". In English football these terms have distinct meanings and are licensed and regulated by The Football Association and The Football League.