



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

## Story script and Shot log

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) OFFERS THE FOLLOWING VIDEO NEWS RELEASE TO ALL NEWS AGENCIES, BROADCASTERS AND ALL ONLINE PLATFORMS FREE OF CHARGE

**STORY HEADLINE:** International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Tokyo 2020 agree to postpone Olympic Games due to COVID-19 pandemic

**LOCATION:** Olympic House Lausanne, Switzerland

**DATE:** 24 March 2020

**LANGUAGE:** English

**Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom:** <http://iocnewsroom.com>

### STORY SCRIPT:

IOC President Thomas Bach and the Prime Minister of Japan, Abe Shinzō, held a conference call this morning to discuss the constantly changing environment with regard to COVID-19 and the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

They were joined by Mori Yoshiro, the President of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee; the Olympic Minister, Hashimoto Seiko; the Governor of Tokyo, Koike Yuriko; the Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission, John Coates; IOC Director General Christophe De Kepper; and the IOC Olympic Games Executive Director, Christophe Dubi.

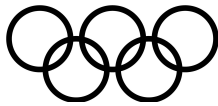
President Bach and Prime Minister Abe expressed their shared concern about the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, and what it is doing to people's lives and the significant impact it is having on global athletes' preparations for the Games.

In a very friendly and constructive meeting, the two leaders praised the work of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee and noted the great progress being made in Japan to fight against COVID-19.

The unprecedented and unpredictable spread of the outbreak has seen the situation in the rest of the world deteriorating. Yesterday, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that the COVID-19 pandemic is "accelerating". There are more than 375,000 cases now recorded worldwide and in nearly every country, and their number is growing by the hour.

In the present circumstances and based on the information provided by the WHO today, the IOC President and the Prime Minister of Japan have concluded that the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo must be rescheduled to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021, to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community.

The leaders agreed that the Olympic Games in Tokyo could stand as a beacon of hope to the world during these troubled times and that the Olympic flame could become the light at the end of the tunnel in which the world finds itself at present. Therefore, it was agreed that the Olympic flame will stay in Japan. It was also agreed that the Games will keep the name Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.



SHOTLIST:

00:02 Various external shots of Olympic House

**00:16 SOUNDBITE: IOC President, Thomas Bach (English Language).**

**Q. What was decided in the conference call today?**

*"This telephone call between Prime Minister Abe and me, we have been discussing the seriousness of the pandemic of the coronavirus and most importantly the devastating effects it has had on so many peoples' lives around the entire globe. We are both very worried about the worldwide development because in the last two to three days in particular, we have seen the rapidly growing numbers, we have seen the beginning of an outbreak in particular in Africa, we have seen the beginning of an outbreak also in some islands in Oceania and we have seen the rapidly growing numbers in South America and many other parts of the world. The World Health Organization speaks of the acceleration of the spreading of the virus so we were addressing this situation and came to the conclusion that, in order to safeguard the health of the athletes and everybody involved in the Olympic Games, we have to postpone the Olympics and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 to the year 2021, with the aim to have it there at the latest in summer time 2021."*

**02:04 SOUNDBITE: IOC President, Thomas Bach (English Language).**

**Q. The human and logistical costs of this decision are huge. Can you give us an idea of the challenges you face?**

*"We are facing an unprecedented challenge now because this postponement is the first ever postponement of an Olympic Games in Olympic history. The Olympic Games is one of the most complex events on this planet. We have to get together 11,000 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees, as well as the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, in one place. Not only for sport and showing sporting excellence, but also living together in an Olympic Village, celebrating humanity together."*

**02:50 SOUNDBITE: IOC President, Thomas Bach (English Language).**

**Q. This is a difficult situation but is there an element of hope here?**

*"Yes, there will be an Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. So there the athletes will have the chance and the opportunity of their life, to make their Olympic dream come true even in these uncertain times, and their preparations will need the cooperation of everybody. And also the understanding in particular of the athletes. They have to come together and address this unprecedented situation together. If we do so, if we are all standing together and everybody makes his or her contribution, then I am really confident that in the end these Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 can be the light at the end of this dark tunnel we are all going through together now, and we all want to see the Olympic flame at the end of this dark tunnel."*

**04:06 SOUNDBITE: IOC President, Thomas Bach (English Language).**

**Q: The Games will still be called Tokyo 2020. Can you tell us why that decision was made?**

*"We are showing our commitment to these Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and to the success of these Games, and also our gratitude to the Japanese people, the Organising Committee, the Government authorities and everybody who have prepared these Olympic Games so well, by having decided that the Olympic flame, which arrived in Japan a couple of days ago, will stay in Japan until the Games finally begin and we also agreed that the name will be kept as 'Olympic Games Tokyo 2020', again to show our commitment and the highly symbolic meaning these Olympic Games then hopefully can and will be - at the the end - a celebration of humankind having overcome this unprecedented challenge of the coronavirus."*

05:22 Tokyo 2020 mascots.



## Story script and Shot log

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05:28 Sped up time lapse video of the building process of Olympic/Paralympic Village, Tokyo, Japan.

05:37 Shots of IOC President Thomas Bach handing over the Olympic flag at the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games Rio 2016 to Tokyo Governor Koike Yuriko.

05:53 Mario Kart animation and Prime Minister of Japan Abe Shinzō at the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

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