



## Visa and Immigration Considerations for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris

As anticipation builds for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, athletes, support staff, and spectators from around the globe are actively planning their journeys to France. Amid the excitement, however, it remains crucial for all those traveling to the Games to navigate the complex landscape of visa and immigration requirements. This guide will clarify the visa and immigration requirements for these groups, ensuring their focus can remain on the build-up to the Games.

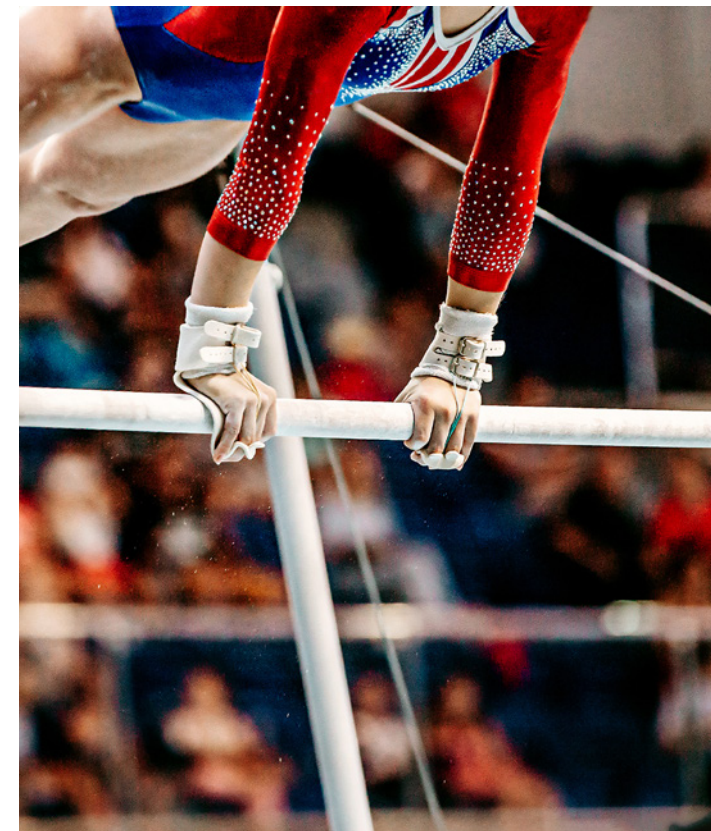
### Categories of visa applicants

Only non-EU/Schengen nationals attending the Games who are visa-required nationals will need to apply for a visa.

Note that special cases apply according to the immigration status of the participant. For example, foreign nationals holding a valid Schengen visa that already covers their stay, or a residence permit from an EU or Schengen state, do not need an additional visa. Each participant can use the Entriva website to check whether they require a visa to enter the Schengen Area.

The French authorities expect about 70,000 visas to be issued and distinguish between three categories of applicants and respective processes:

1. Members of the Olympic Family accredited from the 2024 Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (OCOG)
2. Persons invited by the OCOG
3. Supporters



## 1. Members of the Olympic Family accredited from the 2024 OCOG

### Who qualifies?

Any person, member of the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, international federations, national Olympic and Paralympic committees, Olympic Games organising committees and national associations—such as athletes, judges/referees, coaches and other sports technicians, medical personnel attached to teams or athletes as well as journalists accredited to the media, senior executives, donors, patrons, or other official guests—who is accredited by OCOG as a participant in the 2024 Olympic and/or Paralympic Games..

### What do they require to travel?

Accreditation Card and associated Schengen Visa from the newly-opened “Olympic Consulate.” Note that the Schengen Visa is requested as part of the Accreditation Card application.

### What is the process?

Unlike previous Olympic Games, the Accreditation Card will not act as a visa waiver. For accredited participants who need a visa to enter the Schengen Area, a special procedure is in place for the Paris Games:

- Applicants requiring a visa must confirm the request for visa assistance during the accreditation process. The OCOG then submits the visa request as part of the accreditation process (applicants must not complete a visa application on the France-Visas website).
- The virtual “Olympic Consulate”, open since January 2024, centralises the applications in France.
- Applicants will only need to proceed with the in-person biometric data submission, and can do so at any French Consulate, including in a country other than their place of residence.
- Priority access is in place, but the process differs from one country to another, depending on the external visa centre (TLS/VFS/Capago). It can be without appointment, or with dedicated appointments outside the standard system.
- Limited documentation is required.
- No services or application fees apply.
- Applicants can keep their passport throughout the process, as the visa number will then be printed onto the Accreditation Card (contrary to the standard Schengen visa process).

## 2. Persons invited by the OCOG

### Who qualifies?

Official invitees from the OCOG.

### What do they require to travel?

Ordinary Schengen visa and Letter of Invitation

### What is the process?

The ordinary Schengen visa application process applies, with a few specificities:

- Applicant must still complete a visa application on the France-Visas website.
- When requesting an appointment, they should go via the standard system, but choose the visa type “Invited by the Organising Committee of the Paris Olympics 2024” or “short-stay visa application” > “work” project > “sporting event”. The visa type differs from one country to another, depending on the external visa centre (TLS/VFS/Capago).
  - No services or application fees apply.
  - Applicants must surrender their passport and a standard Schengen visa inserted

## 3. Supporters

### Who qualifies?

Fans and visitors attending the Olympic Games as tourists.

### What do they require to travel?

Ordinary Schengen visa

### What is the process?

The ordinary Schengen visa application process applies and a standard Schengen visa will be issued.

## Additional Frequently Asked Questions

**QUESTION:**

**Will Olympic participants, support staff, or journalists require a Work Permit to engage in work activities during the Olympic Games?**

Sporting events, such as the Olympic Games, fall under the work permit exemption for a short stay under 90 days. The exemption applies to athletes, as well as the accompanying staff who participate at the event or are accredited by the organizers: referees, coaches, trainers, doctors, sponsors, technical staff, organizers, etc.

Note that while journalists are not specifically mentioned in the waiver, if they are accredited by the organizers to cover the event, they would also be covered by the exemption.

**QUESTION:**

**What is the difference between the Olympic Family visa and a Schengen visa?**

The “Olympic Consulate” will only issue members of the Olympic Family with a multiple-entry short stay visas (maximum of 90 days within 180 consecutive days), **valid for the Olympics dates.**

Any participant requiring a long-stay visa, or a short-stay visa outside of these dates, will have to follow the standard visa process available from the French authorities.

Note that it is not possible to hold two Schengen short-stay visas with overlapping dates. Therefore, if a member of the Olympic Family, whose visa has been approved, will no longer be travelling for the Olympic and/or Paralympic Games, but needs to travel to the Schengen Area during those same dates for another reason, the responsible organisation will need to inform the OCOG to have their visa cancelled. If not, that person will not be able to receive another Schengen visa.

Finally, note that the Olympic visa number is printed on the individual’s Accreditation Card whereas the ordinary Schengen Visa is stamped into the holder’s passport.

**QUESTION:**

**What is the visa process for Olympic family participants traveling to Tahiti for the surfing competition?**

Tahiti is part of French Polynesia, which is a French overseas territory. As such, it is not part of the Schengen area and, exemptions aside, would normally require a specific visa.

However, for the limited duration of the Games, members of the Olympic family holding a Schengen visa or a French visa are exempt from the visa requirement for entry into French Polynesia. Thus, Olympic family participants travelling to Tahiti for the Olympic surfing competition do not need to apply for an additional visa, but will be required to undergo the standard process for accredited Members of the Olympic Family.

**QUESTION:**

**What is needed for Olympic and Paralympic Family members to stay in France either before or after the Games?**

Some Olympic and Paralympic Family members may need to stay for more than 90 days. For example, persons training ahead of competitions or staying for an activity lasting longer than the visa issued by the “Olympic Consulate”, persons who reached their maximum Schengen allowance, preventing the issue of a new short-stay visa covering the period of the Games, persons who do not require a visa but who have already stayed in the Schengen area for a period that would cause them to exceed the short stay requirements when they arrive for the Games.

For these individuals, the standard, non-Olympics immigration processes must be used and applications for pre-Games, post-Games, and long-stay visas will not be processed by the OCOG or the “Olympic Consulate.” Note that it is the responsibility of the participant to assess their Schengen allowance and make sure they do not exceed their limit.

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**QUESTION:**

**What is the procedure for individuals who reside in a country that does not have French consular representation or has a suspension of diplomatic relations with France?**

French consular representation cannot be found in some specific regions and countries. In such circumstances, a few alternatives exist:

- Another Schengen State is representing France within the country of application for Schengen visa issuance.
- A French Consulate in a nearby country has been designated responsible for the visa applications in lieu of the said jurisdiction.

In the specific countries where French visa issuance has been suspended for diplomatic and security reasons (currently Niger, Burkina-Faso, and Mali), there is no alternative offered to date.

**QUESTION:**

**What is the proper immigration process for individuals who are sent to France to perform work related to the Olympics, but who are not members of the Olympic family and not specifically invited by the OCOG?**

These travellers should follow existing immigration processes or applicable exemptions. Please reach out to Newland Chase for a case-specific assessment if needed.

**Contact Us**

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to your Newland Chase dedicated contact or submit an inquiry [here](#) should you have any specific questions regarding this announcement.