European Capitals of Sport Association

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SPORTS TERMS OF APPLICATION

Objectives

The European Capitals of Sport Association (›ACES‹) was founded in 1999 in Milan/Italy as a non-profit organisation. The work is based on the manifesto of the European Capitals of Sport.

The European Capitals of Sport Association, with its comprehensive understanding of sports, is in keeping with the Olympic tradition. ACES wants to promote the universal Olympic values on a municipal level. Just as the Olympic rings are linked with one another, so too are the five objectives of the member cities of ACES:

① Enjoyment in exercise
② Willingness to achieve
③ Sense of community
④ Learning fair play
⑤ Improvement of health

These five objectives are what the member cities of ACES want to promote for the entire population, whether young or old, local or foreign, disabled or not.

To promote these objectives, ACES awards each year the title ›European Capital of Sport‹ to one city in Europe.

So far the following cities have received the award:

2001: Madrid
2002: Stockholm
2003: Alicante
2004: Glasgow
2005: Rotterdam
2006: Copenhagen
2007: Stuttgart
2008: Warsaw

European Capitals of Sport Association

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2001 Madrid
Spain
2002 Stockholm
Sweden
2003 Glasgow
United Kingdom
2004 Alicante
Spain
2005 Rotterdam
Netherlands
2006 Copenhagen
Denmark
2007 Stuttgart
Germany
2008 Warsaw
Poland

Application criteria

Each year, the award is given to either a city with a population of at least 500,000 or to a state capital. The distinction is awarded to a city that has proven its commitment to promoting sports along the lines of the five objectives mentioned above and that also practises an innovative municipal sports policy. A city can not apply for the award within four years of another city in the same state having received the award (e.g. no German city may be given the award before 2012.)

Cities that have already been singled out for the honour can compete for the title of ›European Capital of Sports‹ again on expiry of this period.

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The appraisal shall consider efforts made in the field of sports and physical culture during the last five years. These include:

① Continuous sustained and diversified promotion and development of sports.
② Improvement in health in all social and age groups via sports.
③ Integration of socially disadvantaged groups via sports.
④ Development of a sports infrastructure.
⑤ Realisation of innovative sports and building projects.
⑥ Organisation and realisation of large sporting events and competitions on a national and international scale.

The appraisal shall be based on the enclosed questionnaire.

In addition, the applicants shall undertake:

① To actively support the tasks determined in the ACES manifesto.
② To play host to an international sports congress with the participation of ACES in the year of distinction.

Selection process

① The application documents (manifesto, criteria, questionnaire) for the award as European Capital of Sports is available to download from the Internet at www.aces-europa.eu.
② The application must be submitted to the Secretary General of ACES. If the city is not given the award, it may apply again in the following year.
③ On the basis of the application criteria, a pre-selection of the applications submitted shall be made by the Award Commission. The Award Commission shall propose three candidate cities to the Executive Committee.
④ The candidate cities shall be subject to a thorough examination by the Award Commission during a visit to the city. The applicant cities commit themselves to bear the entire costs of the visit by the Award Commission (maximally a three-person delegation comprising ACES members as well as one representative from cities that previously held the title) for three days and two nights.
⑤ The examination include the inspection of sport facilities, as well as a presentation in English, which shall also be provided to the Award Commission in written form.

The presentation shall in particular include information on:

① Sport and physical exercise programmes and sports facilities for children, teenagers, senior citizens, disabled persons.
② Offers on health promotion and integration by sport.
③ Sports infrastructure of the city.
④ Important events of the last years and big events planned.
⑤ Innovative projects.
⑥ Good practice – examples which can also be implemented in other European cities.
⑦ Specific strengths and special profile of the applicant city as a city of sports
⑧ Realisation of the five main objectives of ACES in the context of sport development in the applicant city.
⑨ Initiatives and activities the applicant city wants to contribute to the work of ACES.

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Decision

① The Jury shall prepare an audit and evaluation report which shall be presented to the Executive Committee.
② The title ›European Capital of Sports‹ shall be awarded by the Executive Committee. Its members are representatives of each of the European cities that have already been awarded this distinction and members appointed by the Board of Directors of ACES.
③ The decision is final. There can be no recourse to litigation.

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