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Mapping climate frameworks for sport

Updated September 2022

Topic	ISO 20121	SfCA framework	Race to Zero
Principles/themes /goals	ISO 20121 describes the building blocks of a management system that will help any event related organisation to: Continue to be financially successful Become more socially responsible Reduce its environmental footprint	Greater environmental responsibility Reduce overall climate impact Educate for climate action Promote sustainable and responsible consumption Advocate for climate action through comms	Greater environmental responsibility Reduce overall climate impact Educate for climate action Promote sustainable and responsible consumption Advocate for climate action through comms
Criteria	The standard does not specify which sustainability issues to manage or what performance levels to achieve. What the standard requires is that an organisation has in place a transparent process through which it systematically evaluates the issues relevant to its operations and sets its own objectives and targets for improvement.	'Sports organizations are invited to sign up to the Sports for Climate Action principles, regardless of their current stage in their environmental endeavours and work collaboratively to identify and spotlight climate solutions' Pledge - Plan – Proceed – Report (same as Race to Zero)	The minimum joining criteria are: Pledge: by CEO or equivalent to be net zero GHG asap (or by mid century) Plan: Within 12 months made pledges. Proceed: Take immediate action. Report: Commit to publish progress reports on targets from 2021
Linked to UNSDG?	Developed before UNSDGs came into force	Yes	Yes
Goals related to offsetting/ reducing?	Carbon offset policy reviewed	Term used for offset is 'compensate'	Net zero definition legitimate through 'purchase of valid offset credits' 'Reducing GHG emissions (including through avoided emissions) or increasing GHG removals through activities external to an actor, in order to compensate for GHG emissions, such that an actor's net contribution to global emissions is reduced. Offsetting is typically arranged through a marketplace for carbon credits or other exchange mechanism. Offsetting claims are only

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			valid under a rigorous set of conditions, including that the reductions/removals involved are additional, not over-estimated, and exclusively claimed. Further, offsetting can only be used to claim net zero status to the extent it is "like for like" with any residual emissions'
Implementation support	Checklists, training, guides, toolkits, certification	The UN Climate change will deploy its existing Global Climate Action platforms such as NAZCA, Climate Neutral Now, and the Momentum for Change initiative to inspire action, track progress and/or highlight success and provide recognition 'Signatories to the Sports for Climate Action are committed to support the implementation of the principles contained in its Framework, both by pursuing the principles within their own organizations, by leading the work for a specific principle, and by working collectively with other signatories.' Working Groups set up, including: reducing climate impact, sustainable consumption and educate & advocate for climate action	Expert Peer Review Group will re-review participating networks and initiatives each year to check in on progress, offer support to partners and their members to speed ahead in the Race to Zero, and to ensure all participants continue to meet the criteria

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Travel/spectator advice	It is not prescriptive. LOCOG, which was certified, included transport solutions in its Pre-Games Sustainability report The standard should help organisations improve venue selection and transport	Scope 3: indirect emissions from upstream and downstream activities, such as travel, purchased goods and services.	Scope 3: indirect emissions from upstream and downstream activities, such as travel, purchased goods and services.
Sponsorships	'In time, demonstrating compliance to ISO 20121 is likely to become a minimum requirement for anyone wishing to operate in the events industry as event clients, sponsors, local authorities and other key stakeholders choose to work with organisations that have implemented the standard'		

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Assessments	Organisations can seek independent certification (often mistakenly called 'accreditation') to ISO 20121 in order to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of the standard. During the certification process, the certifier inspects the management system and interviews key personnel in order to verify the system is designed in accordance with ISO 20121 and is operating effectively. Evidence needs to be sufficient to demonstrate that the event sustainability management system is an integral part of the event management process and not an additional 'add-on' component. As long as there are no major problems (or non-conformities) then a Certificate of Conformance to ISO 20121 is awarded.	There is a requirement to demonstrate ongoing progress, over time, after commitment to the principles is established. UN Climate Change can track progress	Assessment of joining criteria, carbon inventories and operational readiness

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Accountability	Organisations that successfully implement the standard will be able to seek independent recognition of their achievement through a process called 'Certification' The management system operated by the organisation is compliant not necessarily the event To reach ISO standard an organisation may need to carry out contextual analysis of core areas – comms, events, procurement – and re-organise Certification last three years and regular checks are conducted	Annual face-to-face meeting to track progress and next steps	Annual review. Clear benchmarks to be met
Timelines	Reduce carbon emissions over the entire event supply chain	Signatories are now requested to commit to achieving specific climate goals of halving emissions by 2030 and aiming to achieve net-zero by 2040.	Net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest. Interim target of 50% reduction by 2030