



## Title information



### **Igniting the Games**

Thomas Bach's Olympic Vision

By David Miller

#### **Key features**

- Fascinating story of Thomas Bach, a fencing gold medallist at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, who decades later as IOC president has made it his mission to protect athletes' independent rights
- Bach has saved a ponderous ancient institution from itself: financially and administratively
- His tenure has involved resolving crises in five Olympic Games
- His nine years in charge have generated controversy – from confronting mass cheating by Russia to competitive host cities resigning in bankruptcy, from legal authority in drug testing to political interventions by North Korea and global demand for the Tokyo Games to be cancelled because of the pandemic
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

#### **Description**

The US boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics left German lawyer Thomas Bach unable to defend his fencing title. Instead, he devoted the next 20 years to climbing the sports administrative ladder. His mission was to protect athletes' independent rights, and his ambition to become IOC president. Bach was elected IOC president in 2013, and immediately set about transforming the organisation's century-old constitution. His 40-point agenda launched a radical host city election procedure, while enforcing the International Federations' internal disciplines and introducing new Olympic sports such as skateboarding. New age Olympics had arrived – but it wasn't all smooth sailing. With Russia's institutional cheating marring three consecutive Games, the near financial collapse of Rio '16 and the threatened cancellation of Tokyo 2020, Bach sustained IOC equilibrium through repeated crises. *Igniting the Games* reveals how Bach transformed the Olympics and saved a ponderous ancient institution from itself.

#### **Details**

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