

Glossary of Terms

1. **IOC – International Olympic Committee** – there are currently about 105 active members of the International Olympic Committee who are charged with representing and promoting the interests of the IOC and the Olympic Movement as a whole. They are allowed to use the Olympic rings logo and grant the use of the rings to NOCs, International Federations, the TOP level of Olympic sponsors and the official Olympic broadcasters.
2. **NOC – National Olympic Committee** – there are currently 205 NOCs charged with developing, promoting and protecting the Olympic Movement in their respective countries. NOCs have the rights to use their own logos which usually include the Olympic rings. They are allowed to use just the IOC rings for editorial and news items, but are supposed to use only their own logos within their countries.
3. **IF – International Federations** – these are the worldwide governing bodies charged with promoting and developing the various Olympic (and non-Olympic) sports at the world level. They are responsible for setting and administering the various sport programs at the Olympics.
4. **OCOG – Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games** the group responsible for organizing a particular Olympic Games. For example, the London Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) was the OCOG for London 2012. The OCOGs may (but are not required to) give the NOCs permission to use their logos.
5. **National Federations** – these are the groups that manage the various Olympic (and non-Olympic) sports within a single country. They are responsible for choosing their Olympic teams. The national federations can (with permission) use their NOC logo, but they have no right to use either the OCOG logos or the Olympic rings.

Below is one method of trying to describe the range of pins, both legal and illegal, that have been made for prior Olympic Games. This is a complex and difficult subject to describe cleanly. The information below might be more than the average collector cares about but we feel it is necessary to give everyone a road map to collect what they want to collect. We are not the "pin police" and are in no position to tell anyone what is collectable and what is not.

The NOC logos are the intellectual property of the NOC, the Olympic rings are the intellectual property of the International Olympic Committee and the Games marks of a particular Olympics are the intellectual property of the Olympic Organizing Committee in question. The use of any or all of these items without permission is a violation of international law.

The What: what category a given pin falls into regardless of who has the pin made.

Legal: No copyright laws are broken either because the entity making the pin has the right to do so or the pin being made does not use protected material.

Authorized: The NOC had this pin made following whatever rules are in place for that NOC and authorized or delegated by that person in NOC who has that authority. At times these pins are distributed by all members of the delegation that goes to the Games. At other times, these pins are distributed less liberally or perhaps used only by one or a few high officials with authority to do this. Also sometimes these pins are available officially for sale and may or may not be used by their delegation in another official capacity.

Ambush: Unauthorized but does not use protected marks. It is an attempt to capitalize on the goodwill, reputation, and popularity of a particular event by creating an association with it, without the authorization or consent of the necessary parties. Most of these pins are found in the sponsor category and NOC ambush pins are rare but they do exist. Perhaps the best example is an athlete that makes their own pin to distribute personally. Some famous athletes do this in conjunction with their sponsors and we have even seen some with just the athlete's name or image.

Illegal: Pins that use protected marks without permission from the necessary authority who can grant permission.

Counterfeit: Copy of an existing and authorized NOC pin, with the intent of tricking a collector(s) into thinking it is the official pin. Collectors often call these "knock-offs".

Illegal Original: New design using protected marks without any authority.

The Who: while there is no argument that illegal and unauthorized pins are illegal, some collectors find certain types more "collectable" than others. Here are some ways of differentiating the illegal pins. Again, we are not the pin police and only wish to make collectors aware of factors that might influence what they choose to collect.

Illegal:

Renegade: Made by someone associated with the NOC. Usually an illegal original design.

Outlaw: Made by someone not associated with the NOC. Usually an illegal original design.

Conspiracy: Someone within and someone outside the NOC team up to create a pin. Usually an illegal original design. "Some pins like this are called "fundraiser" pins but are only illegal if authorized by someone associated who does not have the authority to do so. If an outside individual convinces an official within the NOC who has the authority to allow this than the pin is legal and authorized. Some collectors will not collect these pins.

Back Door: Overrun by the manufacturer and given to individuals not authorized to receive them. These are impossible to distinguish from the properly ordered pins.