



The Foundation and Development of the IOC's Athletes' Commission

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Structure

1.

- Role of Athletes at the Xth Olympic Congress (1973)

2.

- Foundation of a President-Led Athletes Commission

3.

- Changing Profile of the Athletes' Commission

4.

- Conclusion

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67th Session of the IOC

1968

- 7th – 11th October in Mexico-City

- IOC-President Avery Brundage
(1952 – 1972)

- Decision to re-establish the Olympic
Congress tradition

1973

- Olympic Congress (originally planned for
1971 in Sofia), held in Varna

Composition

Commission for Olympic Congress:

- 3 IOC Vice-Presidents
- 3 IF representatives



IOC's Tripartite Commission

- 3 IOC Vice-President
 - Lord M.M. Killanin (IRL)
 - J. de Beaumont (FRA)
 - H. A. von Karnebeek (NED)
- 3 IF representatives
 - Th. Keller (Rowing)
 - St. Rous (Football)
 - R. H. Russel (Boxing)
- 3 NOC representatives
 - C. Andrianov (USSR)
 - G. Onesti (ITA)
 - H. E. Adefope (NGA)



Early Discussion on Topics and Athletes' Representation

15th March 1971: Meeting of the Tripartite Commission

Proposal G. Onesti (ITA):

- Invitation of a symbolic representation of athletes chosen from all five continents
- Congress session on the topic 'The Athlete in the Olympic Games'



No detailed discussion on these proposals but the topic had appeared on the agenda and gradually continued to appear during the next meetings.

Decision on Motto & Topics

May 1972: Final decisions

Date and Place: 30th September –
4th October 1973, Varna

Motto: Sport for a World of Peace

Subjects:

1. Redefinition of the Olympic Games and its future
2. Relations between IOC, IFs and NOCs
3. Plans for the future of Olympic Games



Decision on Participants

Total number: approx. 357

- “members of the International Olympic Committee (participants)
- three delegates per International Olympic Federation (participants)
- three delegates per National Olympic Committee (participants)
- one delegate per International Federation recognized by the I.O.C. but not on the Olympic programme (observer)
- twelve delegates of the Organising Committees of the Summer and Winter Games (observers)
- one delegate from A.I.P.S. (observer)
- accredited press (observers)
- one delegate from the Comité Pierre de Coubertin (observer)
- **ten former Olympic Champions.”**

(Minutes of the IOC`s Tripartite Commission for the Preparation of the Olympic Congress, 28th August, Munich 1972, Annex 3, 11.)

Athletes at the Congress

- U. Meyfarth (FRG, gold medalist high jump),
- A. Medved (USSR, gold medalist wrestling super heavyweight)
- R. Kárpáti (HUN, six times Olympic Gold medalist in fencing at the 1948 London, 1952 Helsinki and 1960 Rome Olympic Games)
- L. Viren (FIN, gold medalist long distance run 5000m)
- S. L. Neilson (USA, gold medalist 100m free style, 4x100m relay freestyle and 4x100, combined)
- T. Stevenson (CUB, gold medalist boxing super heavyweight)
- S. Maury (FRA, gold medalist sailing finn-dinghy)
- J. Zapędzki (POL, gold medalist Olympic pistol)
- W. Nordwig (GDR, gold medalist pole vaulting)
- M. E. Peters (GBR, gold medalist modern pentathlon)
- D. Wolde (ETH, bronze medalist marathon)

With only two exceptions, all of the athlete participants were gold medalists at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.

Athletes at the Congress

Bulgarian Olympic Committee selected and invited athletes in consultation with the Tripartite Commission

Observer Status:

- No possibility to deliver a speech
- No possibility to contribute to discussions

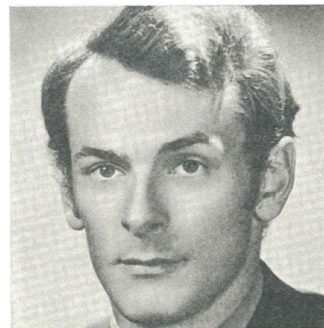


No chance to comment on topics which directly impacted them

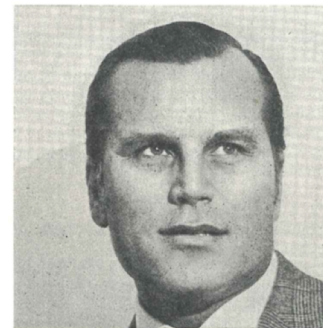
Athletes at the Congress

“We [the Olympic Movement] **exists for the athletes**, not vice versa. All of us must recognize and accept this or risk losing the athletes and eventually the movement”

“Finally, I would urge **greater athlete representation at all levels (IOC, International Federations and NOCs)**. I applauded when I learned athletes would be present here. I`m just sorry we have not heard from any of them. I think we need **their impact**”



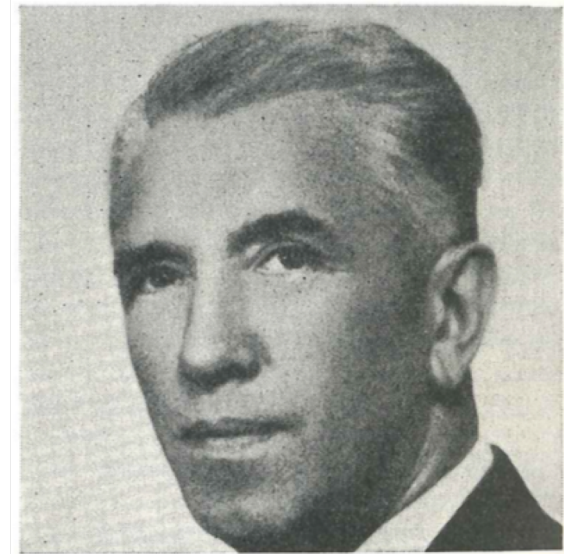
Mr. Richard W. Pound,
Secretary General of the Canadian Olympic Association



Mr. John B. Kelly,
Vice-President of the United States Olympic Committee

Athletes at the Congress

“It [the Belgium Olympic Committee] recommends that the IOC study the creation of an “Athletes Committee” having a consultative role. This committee among other things would be responsible for an enquiry immediately after the Olympic Games on the reactions of their colleagues”



(R. Mollet, BEL. 1973/Varna)


It was this speech of Mollet that the idea to establish an Athletes’ Commission of the IOC emerged on the radar of the leading institution of sport

Concluding Congress Recommendations

- 
- IOC-President Lord Killanin (1972 – 1980)

- 
- Diplomatic but passive response, no concrete policies

- 
- Transfers of responsibilities to NOCs and IFs

- 
- At that time with no experiences to build on a too challenging reform step for the IOC

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Value of an Olympic Congress

- IOC decided to go on with the tradition of Olympic Congresses
- Olympic Congress as a forum to discuss a sustainable profile of the Olympic Games
- Discussion on new policies
- Commercialization, liberalisation of eligibility code, women's participation at the Olympic Games and as sport officials
- Ongoing discussion on the issue of amateurism and professionalism

Participation of Athletes at an Olympic Congress

- After Varna ongoing discussions among members of the Tripartite Commission
- Leading voices from NOCs: Mollet (1975*) and Krumm (1975*)
- Leading voice from IFs: Keller (1970/71*)
- Role of the Athletes should be more considered
- Strong support from Samaranch

* Date of joining the Tripartite Commission as member

XI. Olympic Congress: Baden-Baden 1981

Date: 23rd September –
28th September 1981

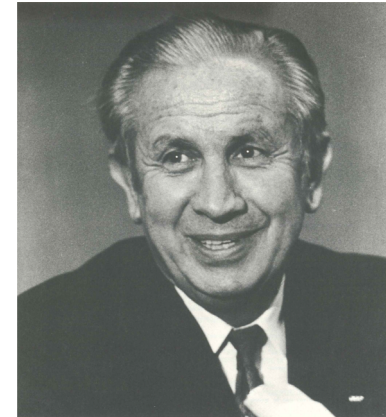
Motto: United by and for Sport

Subjects:

1. The Future of the Olympic Games
2. International Co-operation
3. The Olympic Movement in prospect

Chair of Board: IOC-President J. A. Samaranch (1980-2001)

Chair of the Organising Committee: W. Daume



XI. Olympic Congress: Delegates and Observers

462 official delegates, including

- 80 IOC-Members
- 310 representatives from NOCs
- 67 representatives from IFs
- 6 representatives from the Tripartite Commission
- Secretary General of the Congress

Approx. 150 observers, including representatives from

- non-Olympic Federations
- from 1980 and 1984 OCOGs
- international sport organizations
- bidding cities for the 1988 Olympic Games
- 10 coaches and
- **34 athletes**

Selection of Athletes

- 34 athletes in total
- Medal winners and holders of Olympic Diploma
- Male and female athletes should be elected on a equitable basis and ideally representing all continents
- Age between 18 and 30 years
- Invitation by the IOC in consultation with Tripartite Commission



THE ATHLETES

Athletics



Mohamed Gamoudi (Tunisia) **Mirius Yifter** (Ethiopia) **Sebastian Coe** (Great Britain) **Kip Keino** (Kenya) **Wladislaw Kozakiewicz** (Poland)

Rowing



Svetla Otretova (Bulgaria)



Teofilio Stevenson (Cuba)



Slobodan Kacar (Yugoslavia)



Bernd Gemehausen (German Democratic Republic)



Hermínio Menendes (Spain)



Status of Athletes

- 
- Observer

- 
- 6 athletes invited as speakers

- 
- Athletes could select speakers amongst themselves

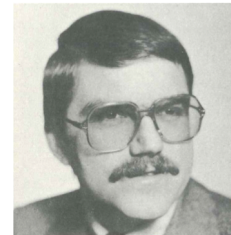
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- Support by P. Tallberg: IOC liaison officer with athletes

XI. Olympic Congress: Baden-Baden 1981

Topic:

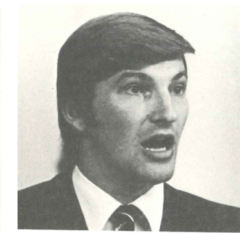
1. The Future of the Olympic Games

- Th. Bach (FRG)
- I. Formo (NOR)
- S. Otzetiva (BUL)



3. The Olympic Movement in prospect

- K. Keino (KEN)
- V. Tretyak (USSR)



Concluding Statement

- S. Coe (GB)



Comments

“...I personally feel that we should restructure our tripartite basis into a fourpartite one, thus giving the athletes equal possibilities to contribute to the success of the world`s `sports parliament`“

(P. Tallberg, FIN. 1981/Baden-Baden)



Mr. Peter Tallberg,
Member of the IOC

“We strongly suggest that this group of athletes be regarded as the consulting body to help us attain the way in which athletes can participate in decision-making processes for our movement”

(S. Coe, GBR. 1981/Baden-Baden)



Mr. Sebastian Coe
Athlete, GBR

Comments

“Athletes should be given more opportunity to participate in all aspects of the Games. We urge the IOC to establish an Athletes` Commission, whose members should be active or recently retired from competition. We are sure that this Commission will be very useful to the IOC, to the International Federations and to the National Olympic Committees as well.”



(V. Raña, MEX. 1981/Baden-Baden)

Comments



“My meetings and discussions with the athletes have been extremely fruitful. Let them be assured that the **IOC is ready to support them** and to help them in order to organise themselves, in the group formed, to follow the discussions begun here in Baden-Baden between themselves and the Olympic world.”

(J.A. Samaranch, ESP. 1981/Baden-Baden)

December 1981: Executive Board Meeting in Sarajevo (SFR)

Commission des athlètes

Président - Chairman:

- M. Peter Tallberg (FIN)

Membres - Members:

- Thomas Bach (FRG)
- Sebastian Coe (GBR)
- Ivar Formo (NOR)
- Kipchoge Keino (KEN)
- Svetla Otzetova (BUL)
- Vladislav Tretyak (USSR)

Annexe 8

Comosition des commissions et des
groupes de travail du C.I.O.



(IOC: *Proces-verbal de la Réunion de la Commission Executive. Sarajevo, du 2 au 4 Décembre 1981, 45.*)

Strategy Samaranch

- More proactive than Killanin after Varna
- Athletes' Commission as a jigsaw piece in Samaranch's reform agenda
- Support of transparency in reform process
- President-Led Athletes' Commission

President-Led Commission(s)

- Appointment of commission members by Samaranch (like in other IOC-Commissions)
- Appointment of commission chair by Samaranch (like other IOC-Commissions)
- Commission members not in the IOC
- Regular Meetings with the IOC Executive Board

Fields of activities

- 
- Eligibility rule

- 
- Anti-Doping

- 
- Sports programmes at the Olympic Games

- 
- Athlete's Office at the Olympic Village

- 
- Women in the Olympic Movement / increase of female athletes at the Olympic Games

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IOC 2000 Commission

- Structure and composition of the IOC
- IOC and the Olympic Movement
- Administrative reforms
- The candidate city process
- Culture and education

Self-determined and Presidential-Led Representation

- Increase of commission budget

- 12 athletes are elected (Summer and Winter Olympic Games)
- 3 up to max. 11 athletes appointed by IOC-President

- Intensive campaign for those few opportunities: 3.500 athletes for the Winter and 12.000 athletes for the Summer Olympic Games

- 15 of max. 23 Commission members will be appointed IOC-members (12 of the elected athletes & 3 of the appointed athletes)

- Chair of the commission appointed by IOC-President
- Member of the IOC – Executive Board


Activity fields of the Athletes' Commission



- Anti-Doping



- Dual career



- Safeguarding and development of institutional self-determined representation



- Development of trans-institutional self-determined representation

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

ATHLETES' COMMISSION

The IOC's mission is to place athletes at the heart of the Olympic Movement and Olympic Agenda 2020 recommendations further support and protect clean and fair sport. The IOC Athletes' Commission serves as a link between the athletes and the IOC. In order to achieve this, the IOC Athletes' Commission has the leading role with athletes and with the Olympic Movement.

The Mission of the IOC Athletes' Commission is to ensure that the athletes' viewpoint remains at the heart of the Olympic Movement decisions.

The responsibilities of the IOC Athletes' Commission are to:

- Empower Athlete Representation in Olympic Movement decision-making processes.
- Support Athlete Development in their sporting and non-sporting careers.
- Promote Athlete Involvement in decision-making across the Olympic Movement.
- Ensure Athlete Representation in Olympic Movement decision-making.

To find out more about the Athletes' Commission visit: hub.olympic.org/athletes-commission

The IOC Athletes' Commission Strategy can be viewed here: hub.olympic.org/ioc-athletes-commission-strategy

<	MISSION
<	COMPOSITION
<	GETTING INVOLVED
<	ITS WORK
	WHAT WE DO +
	WHO WE ARE -
	THE ORGANISATION
	MEMBERS
	COMMISSIONS -
	ATHLETES' COMMISSION ▶

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Concluding remarks

1973

- Olympic Congress Varna: Initial considerations

1981


- Olympic Congress Baden-Baden: President-led representation

Post
2000

- Self-determined and president-led representation

- Securing and development of representation on institutional and trans-institutional level

Future research perspectives

- 
- Historical and contemporary profile of the Athletes' Commission
 - Identification of initiatives
 - Analysis and evaluation of impact
 - Challenges of the research project: limited access to resources



Thanks for your attention



Deutsche
Sporthochschule Köln
German Sport University Cologne
Institute of Sport History • Olympic Studies Centre