

Argentina and Olympism

"The social and educational value of sport is exceptional. If practised honourably, it assures a better moral development of young people.

"Through the Ministry for Education, the State is responsible for its teaching and educational use.

"Competition sport comes under the sports federations.

"It is the National Olympic Committee's task to guarantee the propagation of the Olympic movement and the preservation of sport's high values for the well-being of youth."

Argentine Olympic Committee

ARGENTINA

1,073,000 square miles.

23,100,000 inhabitants.



COMITE OLIMPICO ARGENTINO (COA)

(Argentine Olympic Committee)

Founded on 31st December 1923.

President in office: Ing. Pablo C. Cagnasso*.

Secretary General in office: Dr. Juan Carlos Laurens*.

Address: Carlos Pellegrini 1362, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Telephone: 42 8679.

* See biographical notes.

Role of the COA

- To promote, develop and protect the ideals of the Olympic movement and amateur sport, by exciting the interest of Argentinians, particularly the youth, in the Olympic Games and the Pan American Games.
- To follow the absolute jurisdiction on all matters relating to the application on Argentinian territory of the rules, resolutions and instructions of the IOC and the Pan American Sports Organisation.
- To guarantee the participation of an Argentinian delegation in these Games, in collaboration with the affiliated national sports federations.

Creation

Although the Argentine Olympic Committee was officially created more than fifty years ago, by decree of 31st December 1923, the Olympic movement in this country started well before then. In 1894, the original International Olympic Committee included an eminent Argentinian pedagogue, Dr. José Benjamín Zubiatur*, amongst its first twelve members. When meeting Coubertin during a trip to Europe in 1889-1890, he shared his faith in the future of sports education. As he was unable to attend the Sessions, Dr. Zubiatur* was replaced in 1907 by Mr. Manuel Quintana,

future President of the Republic. His attempt to form an NOC failed, but in 1908 he supported the entry of one of his fellow countrymen to the Olympic Games in London. This was the skater Torromé, who until 1920 was the only Argentinian to take part in the celebration of an Olympiad, as, without financial assistance, the invitations addressed to Argentina by the Organising Committees had no effect. However, in 1910, the citizens of Buenos Aires attended "Olympic Sports Games", organised for the centenary celebrations of the independence of Argentina. These Games provoked angry reaction from Pierre de Coubertin who was anxious to protect the use of Olympic symbolism, but they did help to spread the Olympic ideal.

In an official speech during the COA's 50th anniversary celebrations, the current President, Mr. Pablo C. Cagnas-



Dr. Alvear



Dr. Aldao

so*, paid warm tribute to the Argentine Sports Society, organiser of these celebrations and which took a decisive hand in the organisation of sport and the foundation of Olympism in Argentina. The development of sport in school and the erection of the first national stadium in 1910 contributed greatly to this.

From a letter of 20th April 1921 addressed to Pierre de Coubertin by Mr. Cesar Viale who worked with Marcelo de Alvear*, the Argentinian Minister with full powers in Paris, we quote: "After a good deal of hard work, our Committee, presided by Marcelo T. de Alvear, and organised for the first time in this country to compete in the VIIIth Olympiad at Antwerp, had succeeded in forming teams to compete in fencing, shooting, riding, lawn tennis and rowing, but at the last moment ill-considered opposition by higher authorities has wrecked all our efforts. The Argentine Committee is not discouraged however, but will continue its work in order to attend the VIIIth Olympiad in 1924. Every year we organise large meetings to prepare the athletes." The Argentine NOC thus became reality.

With the election of Marcelo T. de Alvear* to the IOC in 1922, the Olympic movement in Argentina was able to count on one of its most ardent supporters. Elected President of his country a few weeks later, Dr. T. de Alvear* decided to continue as an IOC member, and until 1932 he maintained his firm and competent support.





Dr. Zubiatur



E. Alberdi



M. L. Negri

IOC members for Argentina

1. Dr. José Benjamin Zubiatur*, from 1894 to 1907.
2. Dr. Manuel Quintana, from 1907 to 1910.
3. Dr. Marcelo T. de Alvear*, from 1922 to 1932.
4. Dr. Ricardo C. Aldao*, from 1923 to 1949, honorary member until his death in 1958.
5. Ing. Horacio Bustos Moron, from 1932 until his death in 1952.
6. Mr. Enrique Alberdi*, from 1952 until his death in 1959.
7. Ing. Mario L. Negri*, from 1960 until his resignation in 1974.

Successive Presidents of the COA

- 1923-1927: Dr. Ricardo C. Aldao*.
 1927-1928: Dr. Juan C. Palacios.
 1928-1929: Dr. Juan B. Peña.
 1929-1932: Ing. Horacio Bustos Moron.
 1932-1933: Dr. Juan C. Palacios.
 1933-1934: Dr. Alberto Leon.
 1934-1938: Mr. Prospero G. Alemandri.
 1938-1947: Dr. Juan C. Palacios.
 1947-1948: Ing. Ricardo Sanchez de Bustamante.
 1948-1955: Dr. Rodolfo G. Valenzuela.

- 1955-1957: General Fernando I. Huergo.
 1957-1964: Mr. José Oriani.
 1964-1965: Colonel Esteban Mallo.
 1965-1966: Dr. Ricardo Levene.
 1967-1971: General Jorge Noceti Campos.
 1971-1973: Esc. Fernando Madero.
 Since 1973: Ing. Pablo C. Cagnasso*.

* See biographical notes.

ARGENTINA AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Date of first participation: 1924.

However, before the constitution of the COA, two Argentinian sportsmen participated in an Olympiad celebration: the skater Torromé, 7th in London in 1908, and a boxer at Antwerp in 1920.

1924: first Argentinian Olympic delegation



Representation of Argentina at the Olympic Games from 1908³ to 1972¹

	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1920			●	1	●						
1924	10	10	●	10	●	5		13			3
1928	7	9	●	8	●	6	4	9	16		2
1932	11		●	8	●			5			1
1936	8	3		8				11			
1948	24(2)	25	14	8		12	9	19(3)		7	8
1952	16(6)	9	14	10		6	6	11(1)		2	5
1956	2(1)		10				7	1			2
1960	4	9	10			8	9	6	13	1	
1964	6(4)	12	10			10	8	11(1)	14	1	2
1968	5(1)	9	7			9	8	10(1)			1
1972	10(1)	19		9		9	12	6(1)			

¹ The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.

² Demonstration Sport.

● Not included on the programme.

	Handball	Hockey	Judo	Wrestling	Swimming	Modern Pentathlon	Shooting	Archery	Volleyball	Yachting	Total
1920	●		●		0				●		
1924	●	●	●		4		8	●	●	6	69
1928	●		●	5	10		●	●	●	5	81
1932	●		●		5		2	●	●		32
1936	0 ²		●		1(1)		5	●	●	11	47(1)
1948	●	11	●	8	23(5)	3	12	●	●	19	202(10)
1952	●		●	6	17(1)	3	7	●	●	14	126(8)
1956	●		●	2		1	4	●	●	6	35(1)
1960	●		●	2	10	3	7	●	●	9	91
1964	●		3	4	7(1)		8	●		6	102(6)
1968	●	18	●	3	8(3)		4	●		6	88(5)
1972		21	2	4	6(2)		5			11	114(4)

³ 1908: 1 skater.

Representation of Argentina at the Winter Games from 1924 to 1972¹

	Biathlon (skiing & shooting)	Bobsleigh	Ice Hockey	Luge	Speed skating	Figure skating	Skiing	Total
1924	●			●				0
1928	●	10		●				10
1932	●			●				0
1936	●			●				0
1948	●	5		●			6	11
1952	●	4		●			8(1)	12(1)
1956	●			●				0
1960				●			6(1)	6(1)
1964		4					6(4)	10(4)
1968				1			6(3)	7(3)
1972							2	2

¹ The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.

● Not included on the programme.

● Organisation of Games

Buenos Aires applied to stage the Olympic Games in 1936, 1940, 1956 (Olympic Games¹ and Equestrian Games), 1960 and 1968.

This city organised the 1st Pan American Games under the patronage of the IOC from 25th February to 5th

March 1951, with the participation of 21 countries.

Dr. Rodolpho G. Valenzuela, member of the High Court of Justice, former Olympic fencer in 1932 and 1936 and President of the Argentine Olympic Committee from 1948 to 1955, presided the Organising Committee.

¹ The city of Melbourne was elected by only one vote, ie 21 to 20 for Buenos Aires.

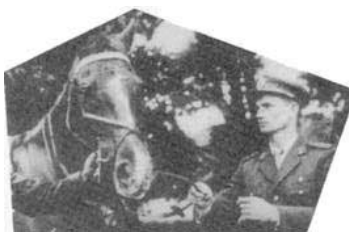
The Argentine Olympic champions

To date, the COA can account for eleven Olympic champion titles. It is worth adding the two victories of the Argentinian polo teams in the Olympic demonstration tournaments in Paris (1924) and in Berlin (1936). We would also mention Humberto Selvetti who came a brilliant second for heavyweight weightlifting in 1956, having come third in 1952, after equalling the performance of the American Paul Anderson, but beaten because of his greater weight.

An amazing tradition has been established in Argentina with the successes gained in the marathon. Besides the Olympic titles won by Carlos Zabala (1932, and 6th in 1936) and Delfo Cabrera (1948, and 6th in 1952), we would also point out the second place of Reynaldo Gorno (1952) and the fifth place of Eusebio Guinez (1948).

Other Argentinian victors appear in Olympic records:

Luis A. Brunetto (1924, 2nd in hop, step and jump); footballers (1928, 2nd in the second final, the first ending in a goalless draw); the foil fencing team (1928, 2nd); Jeannette Campbell (1936, 2nd in 100 m. freestyle); Noemi Simoneto de Portela (1948, 2nd in women's long jump); Diaz Saenz Valiente (1948, 2nd in rapid-fire pistol); Enrique and Julio Sieburger, Homps, Rivademar, de la Torre (1948, 2nd in coxed 6 m. yachting); the Argentinian boat (4th in 1952 and 1956) came second in the Dragon class (1960), sailed by Jorge Salas Chave, Hector Calegaris and Jorgel del Rio; Carlos Alberto Moratorio (1964, 2nd in the three day event) and the sculler Alberto Demiddi (2nd in 1972 and 3rd in 1968).



1964 - Carlos Alberto Moratorio



1936 - Jeannette Campbell



1932 - Juan Carlo Zabala



1968-1972 - Alberto Demiddi

Titles obtained at the Olympic Games *



Name	Christian name	Sport	Event
Zorilla	Alberto	Swimming	400 m
Avendano	Victorio	Boxing	Light heavyweight
Rodriguez Jurado	Arturo	Boxing	Heavyweight
Zabala	Juan Carlo	Athletics	Marathon
Robledo	Carmelo	Boxing	Featherweight
Lovell	Santiago Alberto	Boxing	Heavyweight
Casanovas	Oscar	Boxing	Featherweight
Cabrera	Delfo	Athletics	Marathon
Perez	Pascal	Boxing	Flyweight
Iglesias	Rafael	Boxing	Heavyweight
Capozzo	Tranquillo	Rowing	Double sculls
Guerrero	Eduardo	Rowing	Double sculls



1932 - Santiago Alberto Lovell



1952 - T. Capozzo - E. Guerrero

* We would like to thank in advance all readers able to help us complete this table and give us news of all the champions.



1928 - Alberto Zorilla

Year	Birth	Death	Notes
1928	1906		
1928	1907		
1928	1907		
1932	1911		6th in 1936. Creator in 1964 of the National Olympic Medal Association.
1932	1912	†	
1932	1912	†	2nd in 1936
1936	1914		
1948	1924		6th in 1952.
1948	1924		
1948	1919		
1952	1918		
1952	1928		



1948 - Delfo Cabrera



1948 - Rafael Iglesias



In the front row, Ing. Pablo C. Cagnasso, President of the NOC, with Dr. Juan Carlos Laurens (Secretary General) on his left and Mr. D. Delfor Fanton (Vice-President) on his right. Standing, from left to right: Messrs. Alberto Echeverria (Legal Secretary), Antonio Juan Sacco (Assistant Treasurer), Fernando Casariego (Treasurer), Leopoldo F. Oliveto (Assistant Secretary) and Alberto H. Lucchetti (Sports Co-ordinator).

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE COA

The statutes in force were adopted on 14th September 1966.

● **Composition**

The COA comprises the IOC member for Argentina and a representative appointed by each of the national sports federations recognised by the International Federations whose sports appear in the Olympic Games.

● *The Council*, which includes all the COA members, constitutes the management body in charge of the Committee's administrative, executive, sports and social activities. Apart from its monthly meeting, it can assemble in extraordinary session.

● *The Executive Board*, elected by the Council every four years, includes a

President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Legal Secretary, a Treasurer and his assistant.

● **Members of the present Board**

PT: Ing. Pablo C. Cagnasso*; *VPT:* Mr. Delfor Fanton; *SG:* Dr. Juan Carlos Laurens*; *Asst. S:* Mr. Leopoldo F. Oliveto; *T:* Mr. Fernando Casariego; *Asst. T:* Mr. D. Antonio Juan Sacco; *Legal S:* Mr. Alberto Echeverria; *Adviser and Sports Co-ordinator:* Mr. Alberto H. Lucchetti.

● **Financing of the COA**

The COA's revenue is made up from subscriptions from members and affiliated organisations, donations, bequests, contributions and a substantial state subsidy, which does not however limit the NOC's independence in any way.

Federations affiliated to the COA

<i>20 Olympic Federations</i>	<i>Members in 1972</i>
Athletics	17,500
Basketball	161,231
Boxing	6,000
Canoeing	?
Cycling	3,500
Equestrian events	6,500
Fencing	1,400
Football	400,000
Gymnastics	600
Handball	2,040
Hockey	6,000
Judo	35,000
Modern pentathlon ¹	150
Rowing	?
Shooting	100,000
Skiing	5,000
Swimming	3,000
Volleyball	7,500
Weightlifting	?
Wrestling	165
Yachting	15,000

¹ Argentine Military Sports Federation.

THE COA AND OLYMPISM

● Olympic Awards obtained

Olympic Cup

1943 - by the Argentine Olympic Committee.

Sir Thomas Fearnley Cup

1967 - by the Club Atlético Sudamérica de Buenos Aires for its organisation of the 5th International Baron Pierre de Coubertin Games (see Olympic Review No. 82-83, page 471). Under the motto "Sport for sport", these Games aim to honour the memory of the Renovator of the Olympic Games by assembling the best athletes from as many countries as possible.

● International Olympic Academy

Since the 9th session of the IOA in 1969, the NOC has been responsible for two or three Argentinian participants, chosen from athletes, officials, sports doctors and physical education and sports teachers.

● Protection of the Olympic emblems

This is provided in the statutes: the COA has the exclusive right to use these emblems in accordance with the IOC's rules and the duty to prohibit their use by any other public or private company.

● Publications of the COA and Argentinian Olympic Bibliography

Many books and reviews on Olympism are published in Argentina, a list of which will shortly be published.

THE ARGENTINIANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

Apart from Mr. Mario L. Negri*, President of the Fédération Internationale de Natation Amateur from 1952 to 1956, several Argentinians have occupied and continue to occupy important posts in international sports administrations, such as Mr. Pedro Oscar Mayorga, Vice-President of the Fédération Equestre Internationale, Dr. Hugo V. Tedin, Council member of the International Yacht Racing Union representing nine South American countries, Dr. Ricardo Levene, Vice-President for South America of the Fédération Internationale d'Escrime, Mr. Hector Lucchetti, member of the Fencing Technical Commission at the 1952 Olympic Games and Mr. Miguel Azriel, member of the Fédération Internationale de Hockey since 1968.

SPORT IN ARGENTINA

● Other sports governing bodies

- *The National Office for Physical Education, Sport and Recreation*, under the Ministry for Culture and Education, controls the teaching of physical and sports education in schools.
- *The National Secretariat for Sport and Tourism*, a State body, co-ordinates sports activity at all levels, and on which the *regional Sports Councils* are dependent. The *local Sports Councils* deal with problems in their own areas under the control of municipalities.
- *The Argentine Sports Confederation*, which is a private body, maintains contact between the sports federations and unifies their activities.

● Sport at school

A law regulates sports activities at school. The Ministry for Culture and Education lays down the principles and programmes for the degrees of elementary and secondary education as well as for university tuition.

● Sports installations in Argentina

There are more than 60 *stadia* with a capacity of over 10,000 spectators throughout the country. The largest of these belong to clubs, such as the following athletics clubs in Buenos Aires: River Plate (90,000 spectators), Racing (80,000), Velez Sarfield (60,000), Rosario Central (60,000), Boca Junior (50,000), Independiente (50,000), Uraacan (50,000).

Apart from the KDT velodrome in Buenos Aires (20,000 spectators), there are eight velodromes capable of seating 10,000 people (four in Buenos Aires, two in Cordoba, one in Santa Fé and one in San Juan).

Ten 50 m. open air swimming pools, three of which have space to accommo-

date 10,000 spectators on terraces are to be found, together with nine indoor pools and five other municipal pools.

● Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football, basketball, boxing, hockey, rugby, polo, tennis, motor racing, cycling, etc.

● Sports experiencing the greatest developments

Basketball, football, motor racing, riding, boxing, rugby, polo, tennis, cycling.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Enrique ALBERDI

IOC member for Argentina from 1952 until his death in 1959. Born in 1910 at Coronel Suarez Peia (Buenos Aires). Attracted to sport at a very young age, he won important titles, particularly in polo: winner of the 1936 Olympic demonstration tournament and captain of the 1949 world champion team. For a long time President of the Argentine Polo Federation, he took part in this capacity in the formation of the International Federation.

Ricardo Camillo ALDAO

IOC member for Argentina from 1923 until his resignation in 1949. He then became the first honorary member of the IOC. Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Buenos Aires, he embarked on a brilliant career as a statesman. He became Finance Minister and represented his country at many international conferences. From 1899, the year he joined the "Club Gimnasia y Esgrima" of Buenos Aires, until his death in 1958, he greatly influenced national and international sport: he presided the Argentine NOC, the National Sports Confederation, and the National Football, Fencing and Shooting Federations.

Marcelo T. de ALVEAR

IOC member for Argentina from 1922 to 1932. Born on 4th October 1868. He founded and presided over the Argentine NOC, even before it received official recognition. In 1919, while Ambassador in Paris, he contacted Pierre de Coubertin, whereupon close collaboration was established between them. Dr. de Alvear was elected member of the IOC in 1922 when he also became President of his country. He kept his seat on the IOC however and made himself the protector of sport and the Olympic movement in Argentina. Devoted to sport, he practised fencing, riding and above all shooting: 1903 world revolver champion, his speciality, and second in the individual event the following year. At the 1910 championships held in Buenos Aires to commemorate the independence centenary, and of which he headed the Preparatory Commission, he won the revolver shooting title, and team rifle event. He died on 23rd March 1942.

Pablo C. CAGNASSO

President of the Argentine Olympic Committee since 1973. Before taking on the management of the Argentine NOC, he was one of the most famous shots on the South American continent and one of the most well-known leaders of this sport. In his international prize-list appears a world record (1947) for free pistol, standing, an award as first world shooting master of all weapons in 1947, 1949 and 1952, 11 titles at the 1951 Pan American Games, etc.

Member, Secretary and then Vice-President of the National Shooting Federation which he presided from 1973-1974.

Juan Carlos LAURENS

Secretary General of the Argentine Olympic Committee since 1973. Born in Buenos Aires in 1914. Doctor of Economic Sciences and lawyer, and at present Secretary for Economic Affairs

of the city of Buenos Aires after being National Customs Director. Vice-President of the International Chess Federation (1949-1955), Treasurer of the South American Rowing Confederation (1966-1970), he has presided the Argentine Rowing Association since 1971.

Mario L. NEGRI

IOC member for Argentina from 1960 until his resignation in 1974, when he became an honorary member. Born on 14th April 1889 in Buenos Aires. Engineer, for a long time occupied high positions in the Fédération Internationale de Natation Amateur, of which he was President from 1952 to 1956, after presiding the South American Swimming Federation from 1929 to 1951 and from 1956 to 1961, and the Amateur Swimming Union of the Americas from 1948 to 1956. He was also Vice-President of the International Pelota Federation. At national level, he presided the Swimming Federation for 22 years and was Treasurer of the Football Federation.

José Benjamin ZUBIAUR

Born at Parana (Argentina) on 31st March 1856. He obtained the title of Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Buenos Aires in 1884. Inspector of national colleges and schools until 1914, he took part in teaching conferences in Paris (1889-1900) and in the United States (1901-1902). While in Paris he had the opportunity of getting to know Baron de Coubertin. He wrote many books on education in which he extolled the merit of physical exercises. As Rector of the National Concepcion del Uruguay College (Entre Rios - 1892-1898) and as member of the National Education Council, he strongly recommended the introduction of physical education into schools throughout the country. Died on 6th September 1921.

