Portugal and Olympism

“In eighty years the Olympic movement has spread throughout the world. Never in the course of history has the world seen a phenomenon comparable to this amazing advancement of amateur sport.

The success of the Olympic Games can be explained by two reasons: they are reserved for amateurs and they are totally independent.

It is, however, regrettable to see that day after day the recent alterations to Rule 26 seem to be leading to a growing discrepancy between the Olympic movement and the lofty heights of the Olympic ideal so ably defined by the renovator of the modern Olympic Games, the immortal Pierre de Coubertin.”

General Alexander Corrêa Leal *
Former President and honorary member of the Portuguese Olympic Committee.

PORTUGAL

89,000 sq. km.
9,300,000 inhabitants.

COMITE OLIMPICO PORTUGUES (COP)
(Portuguese Olympic Committee)
Founded on 26th October 1909.
President in office: Brigadier Daniel Neves Sales Grade *.
Secretary General in office: Colonel Jose Aires Garcia Alvarez *.
Address: Braamcamp 12, R. C. Lisbon 1.
Telephone: 41673.
Telex: 16611 vipama p.
Telegram: Olympico.

Role of the COP

Dedicated to the encouragement of sport and physical education, the COP endeavours to:
— adhere to and ensure adherence to the Olympic Rules,
— collaborate with the national federations in preparing an Olympic delegation and assume responsibility for entering Portuguese sportsmen in the Games,
— support national projects for the development of sport,
— foster the Olympic spirit throughout the country.

Creation

In 1909 a Physical Education Society was founded in Lisbon which, together with various sports groups, instigated the creation of the Portuguese Olympic Committee (COP). From 1906 to 1912 the IOC was represented in Portugal by Duke Antonio de Lancastre *, while Count de Penha Garcia* succeeded him until 1940.

See biographical notes.
The first President of the COP was Dr. Mauperrin dos Santos. In consequence to the First World War the Committee was disbanded, but took up its activity again in 1920 under the new presidency of Commander Prestes Salgueiro.

In 1923 the Committee underwent a reform under the presidency of Dr. José Pontes * who had been the Secretary General of the original Committee. After that the Committee was reconstituted every four years through elections by the delegates of the national federations.

The Second World War put an end to the activity of the Portuguese Olympic Committee, which was reorganised after the 1948 Games in London.

In 1940 Dr. Pontes * was appointed IOC charge d'affaires in Portugal, and in 1946 became member of the IOC, combining this office with that of President of the COP. Upon his retirement in 1956, Mr. Nobre Guedes, who had been Secretary General of the COP from 1919 to 1948 and Vice-President from 1948 to 1953, naturally succeeded him. Saul Cristovam Ferreira Pires was to sit on the IOC from 1957 to 1962, followed by the conscientious and capable General Raul Pereira de Castro.

**IOC members in Portugal**

1906-1912 Duke Antonio de Lancastre*
1912-1940 Count de Penha Garcia*
1946-1956 Dr. José Pontes *
1957-1962 Saul Cristovam Ferreira Pires.
Since 1962 General Raul Pereira de Castro*.

**Successive Presidents of the COP**

1909-1912 Dr. Jaime Mauperrin dos Santos.
1912-1919 Commander Prestes Salgueiro.
1920-1957 Dr. José Pontes *.
1957-1968 Francisco Nobre Guedes *.
1968-1972 General Alexander Corrêa Leal *.
Since 1977 Brigadier Daniel Neves Sales Grade *.
PORTUGAL AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Munich 1972: the delegation of Portugal.

● Date of first participation in the Olympic Games: 1912 in Stockolm.
Since then a delegation from Portugal has attended all the Olympiad celebrations.

● Organisation of the Games
No Portuguese city has so far presented its candidature for the organisation of the Olympic Games or regional games.

1949: Olympic day in Portugal.
Doctor José Pontes gives the awards. Standing is law professor Luis Pinto Coerbo. On the right, seated, the engineer Francisco Nobre Guedes.
### Representation of Portugal at the Olympic Games from 1912 to 1976

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1. The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.
2. Not included on the programme.
3. Sport included in the programme but in which no event was contested.
4. Demonstration sport.
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**Representation of Portugal at the Winter Games**

Skiing: 1 in 1948, 1 in 1956.
Olympic medallists

Although no Portuguese athlete has become Olympic champion, several outstanding performances should be mentioned:

Everyone will remember the splendid performance at Montreal in 1976 achieved by Carlos Sousa Lopes, the talented long distance runner, who was in the lead for most of the 10,000 m but finished second, a few metres behind Lasse Viren.

Another brilliant Portuguese at Montreal was the shooter Armando Silva Marques who came second in the Olympic trap shooting.

In yachting the Portuguese, as traditional seamen, have won various Olympic honours: Mario and Jose Manuel Quina in 1960 (2nd in the Star class), Joaquim Fiuza and Rebelo de Andrade in 1952 (3rd in the Star), Duarte and Fernando Bello in 1948 (2nd in the Swallow class).

The riders in the Grand Prix des Nations twice mounted the podium—Borges de Almeida, Helder Martins, Mouzinho de Albuquerque and Luiz Margaride came 3rd in 1924, while Mena e Silva, Beltrão and Marques do Funchal also came 3rd in 1936.
THE PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE COP

Some members of the COP. From left to right: Raul Worm, Ernesto Soares, José García Alvarez, Luis Vieira Caldas, Gaudencio Luis da Silva Costa, Vincente de Paulo Martins, Manuel Magno, Fernando Machado, Daniel Sales Grade, Lauro Amarim.

● The statutes in force were adopted on 27th March 1974.

● Composition: the COP is composed of the IOC member in Portugal, ordinary members (two representatives of national federations whose sports are on the Olympic programme, eight members of the previous committee, some co-opted members, with the number of these members being such as to allow the national federations to maintain a majority) and extraordinary members (two delegates from national federations whose sports are not on the Olympic programme, and two representatives from each of the following sectors: school sport, university sport, military and club sport, sports medicine).

● The full assembly brings together all the members. Only ordinary members and the IOC member have voting rights.

● The Executive Board, managing body of the COP, consists of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary General, a Deputy Secretary, a Treasurer, five members and the IOC member as an ex officio member.

● Present members of the Board

PT: Brigadier Daniel Neves Sales Grade*; VPT: Dr. Francisco Ferreira Alves; SG: Colonel Jose Aires Garcia Alvarez*; Asst. S: Mr. Luis Vieira Caldas; T: Mr. Fernando Luis Pereira Machado; Ms: Messrs. Hugo Alberto d’Assumpção and Fernando Lima Bello, Prof. Fernando Ferreira, Mr. Ernesto Matros Soares, Dr. Antonio Augusto Tender; IOC M: General Raul Pereira de Castro*.
 Elections take place every four years.

 Meetings: the assembly is convened regularly once a month. The Executive Board theoretically holds a meeting each week.

 Federations affiliated to the Portuguese Olympic Committee

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* Statistics not communicated.
THE COP AND OLYMPSM

● IOC Session organised in Portugal

May 1926 - Session at Lisbon.

● Olympic awards obtained

– Olympic Order

1978 : silver medal attributed to Colonel Don Domingos Antonio de Sousa Countinho, Marques do Funchal, member of the third place team in the jumping grand prix equestrian events in 1936, official for the Portuguese riders from 1960 to 1968, member of the NOC since 1951.

– Olympic Diploma of Merit

To Francisco Nobre Guedes*, 49th holder in 1968 for his work as President of the COP; this award was presented to him in Lisbon by the IOC President, Avery Brundage.

– Fearnley Cup

1951 - To the “Ginasio Club Português” of Lisbon, the most popular gymnastics club in the country comprising over 4,000 adepts.

– Mohamed Taher Trophy

1966 - To Rodrigo de Castro Pereira for remaining an active sportsman and demonstrating on several occasions great moral and sporting qualities.

● Olympic day

It is commemorated each year in Portugal in the form of an Olympic week held around 23rd June. The sports federations organise competitions, the winners of which receive their prizes at a closing banquet attended by a large number of sports leaders, journalists and athletes. The best amateur athlete of the year, elected by the members of the COP according to proposals from the federations, and the journalist having made the greatest contribution to Olympism, receive their awards at this banquet.

Throughout the week lectures on the Olympic ideal are given in schools and clubs.

● Protection of the Olympic emblems

This is ensured by a law passed on 6th August 1958.

● The International Olympic Academy

The COP has supported the work of the IOA since 1962. The Academy has been an honorary member of the COP since 1970.

● Pierre de Coubertin Avenue

Situated near the Lisbon national stadium, was inaugurated on 22nd February 1968 by the then President of the IOC, Avery Brundage.

● COP publications

Since 1961 the COP has published an official bulletin in Portuguese, the editorial of which is also published in French.

● Portuguese Olympic bibliography

– “Portugal and Modern Olympism” published by the COP in 1942 - one volume.

– “Munich 72” by Fernando Garcia, published by Platano - two volumes.
SPORT IN PORTUGAL

The national stadium.

Other sports governing bodies

The General Sports Authority directs, governs and subsidises national sports activities, particularly school sport.

The National Foundation for Fulfilment at Work supervises sports activities of workers.

The Armed Forces Physical Education Commission.

The University Sports Authority.

Training of sports officials

Physical education teachers are trained at the National Institute of Physical Education in Lisbon, which is part of the General Direction of Higher Education.

Physical education instructors receive training in schools in Lisbon and Porto.

Training of sports technicians is the responsibility of the General Sports Authority.

Sports installations

Sports grounds: 692
Athletics tracks: 36
Swimming pools (50 m): 7
Other swimming pools: 149
Gymnasia: 725
Sports pavilions: 3
Sports halls: 107
Cycle tracks: 10
Small sports grounds: 303
Roller skating rinks: 80
Tennis courts: 251

Sport at school

Elementary schools: 2 hours weekly.
Intermediate schools: 4 hours weekly.
Secondary schools: 4 hours weekly.

Owing to the lack of both facilities and teachers this timetable cannot always be adhered to.

Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football, basketball, cycling, handball, athletics and boxing.

Sports experiencing the greatest development

Handball, athletics, judo and rugby.

Percentage of practising sportsmen

About 3% of the population.
PORTUGAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

Mr. Gaudencia Luis da Silva Costa presided the international Roller Skating Federation from 1960 to 1964.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Colonel José Aires Garcia Alvarez

Secretary General of the COP since 1973.

World class gymnast, he participated in the Olympic finals for the 1948 and 1952 Games and was captain of the Portuguese team participating in the first European championships in 1955 at Frankfurt. President of the National Gymnastics Federation between 1968 and 1972, he is an international gymnastics judge.

Count de Penha Garcia

IOC member from 1912 to 1940.

Honorary President of the first COP in 1911, he was chosen, the following year, by Coubertin and his friends as an IOC member.

Brigadier Daniel Neves Sales Grade

President of the COP since 1977.

Born on 19th December 1907. Having chosen a military career, he never ceased to engage in and defend sport. Member of the National Fencing Federation since 1947, he has filled the positions of Treasurer, President of the technical council and, since 1973 of President. As President of the federation, he became a member of the COP, of which he was Vice-President for two years.

Mr. Francisco Nobre Guedes

President of the COP from 1957 to 1968 and honorary President from 1968 until his death in 1970.

Engineer, statesman, ambassador, he served as the Secretary General of the COP from 1919 until his accession to the presidency in 1957. In 1935 he headed the "Portugal Youth" movement which he organised with particular success. He was awarded the Olympic Diploma of Merit in 1968.

Duke Antonio de Lancastre

First IOC member in Portugal from 1909 to 1912.

Doctor, peer of the realm, he was one of the first devotees of Olympism in Portugal.

General Alexander Corrêa Leal

COP President from 1965 to 1972.

Born in 1894, national athletics champion from 1912 to 1915, COP member from 1957. President of the national federations of rowing, shooting, athletics; first director of the Lisbon national stadium in 1946. He passed away in 1978.

General Raul Cordeiro Pereira de Castro

IOC member in Portugal since 1963.

From his youth, General Pereira de Castro was an enthusiastic devotee of physical education; he achieved his highest distinctions in fencing. In 1933, he was a finalist in the Portuguese national fencing championships and was champion in the sabre and foil events. He repeated this success in 1934 and 1938 adding to his credit the team championships as well. For nine years he headed the Portuguese Fencing Federation as its Secretary and also served as President of its technical council. He is currently a member of the international jury for sabre, épée and foil as well as a member of the Portuguese Olympic Committee. He also served as assistant to the Portuguese chef de mission for the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. Still an active participant in his favourite sport, he continues to devote himself to the cause of Portuguese sport.

Dr. José Joaquim Fernandes Pontes

IOC member from 1941 to 1956, honorary member from 1956 till his death in 1961.

The first Secretary General of the COP serving from its creation in 1908 until 1914. He became President of the committee in 1922 and held this position for over 30 years. Doctor, journalist, Senator and Vice-President of the permanent Interallied Committee for War Victims, he always played an active role in sports affairs. As a participant, his preferences were wrestling, weightlifting and gymnastics. As an organiser he established many clubs, organised the first national competitions in fencing, water polo and motor racing, and served as President of the Portuguese Gymnastics Club and the Association of Physical Education Teachers.