

Uruguay and Olympism

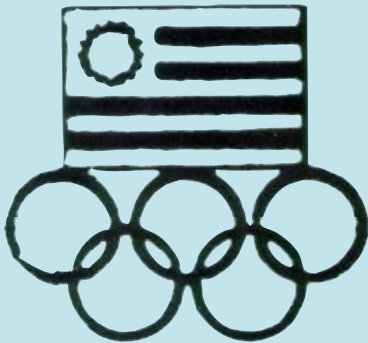
"Uruguayan sport was born with a strong Olympic inclination. The worth of the nation's athletes enabled them to mount the Olympic winner's podium as early as 1924. Steadfast adherence to the Olympic philosophy and principles has led to the honour of serving as host for the 81st IOC Session."

Professor Jose D. Vallarino Veracierto
February 1979

URUGUAY

186,926 sq. km.

2,763,964 inhabitants (latest census in 1975).



COMITE OLIMPICO URUGUAYO (COU)

Founded on 27th October 1923.

President in office : Mr. Jose D. Vallarino Veracierto *.

Secretary General in office : Mr. Alejandro Hughes *.

Address : 25 de Mayo 609, Casilla de Correo 161, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Telephone : 98 17 37 and 98 66 01.

Telex : COURU UY 982.

Telegram : Coum.

* See biographical notes.

Role of the COU

- To promote the Olympic ideal as the basis for sports orientation in Uruguay.
- To act as a link between national sport, the IOC and the PASO.
- To organise and lead Uruguayan delegations in the Olympic Games and the Pan-American Games.

Creation and evolution

The "Comité Olímpico del Uruguay" was constituted on 27th October 1923, having been convoked by Dr. Francisco Ghigliani* who, two years previously, had been elected an IOC member.

As President of the COU, Dr. Francisco Ghigliani* drew up Uruguay's first Olympic delegation which participated in the celebration of the VIIIth Olympiad in Paris (1924) ; he also undertook the task of creating sports federations and developing their activities.

In 1937, Joaquim Serratosa Cibils *, a brilliant former football player, was elected to the IOC. Until his death in 1958, he kept the dynamism in his country's Olympic movement. He was aided in his task by dedicated leaders such as Alfredo O. Inciarte *, who succeeded him on the IOC in 1963, and Hector Payssé Reyes *. The latter was President of the COU for nearly 40 years (1938-1976). His exceptional career was given deserved recognition by the IOC, which bestowed upon him the silver medal of the Olympic Order in 1976 at Montreal.

In 1973, Lord Killanin, President of the IOC, visited Uruguay where he was received by Mr. Payssé Reyes* and his closest associate, Mr. Jose D. Vallarino Veracierto *, who was at that time first Vice-President of the COU and Secretary of the PASO. Three years later, Mr. Veracierto acceded to the presidency of the COU and also became an IOC member.

On 9th October 1978, on behalf of his NOC, he forwarded to his colleagues the official invitation to the 81st IOC Session which was held from 3rd to 8th April 1979 in Montevideo. Together with his friends, the Secretary General of the COU, Mr. Alejandro Hughes * in particular, he devoted his efforts to the organisation of this Session, the first to take place in South America.

IOC members in Uruguay

1. Dr. Francisco Ghigliani*, from 1921 to 1937.
2. Joaquim Serratosa Cibils *, from 1937 to 1958.
3. Alfredo O. Inciarte *, from 1963 to 1975.
4. Jose D. Vallarino Veracierto *, since 1976.



*J. Serratosa
Cibils*



A.O. Inciarte



*J.D. Vallarino
Veracierto*

Successive Presidents of the COU

1923-1938 : Dr. Francisco Ghigliani *

1938-1976 : Hector Payssé Reyes *

Since 1976 : Jose D. Vallarino Veracierto*

URUGUAY AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

● Date of first participation : 1924.

This first participation did not go unnoticed as Uruguayan football players earned an Olympic title they were to defend successfully four years later. Since 1924, Uruguay has not missed a single celebration of the Olympiad. No representative of the COU has, however, participated in the Winter Games.



1968 : Mexico City - The Uruguayan delegation.

Representation of Uruguay at the Olympic Games from 1924 to 1976¹

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

X Sport included in the programme but in which no event was contested.

² Demonstration sport.

● Not included on the programme.



	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1924			●	5	●			7	15		
1928			●		●				17		
1932		1	●		●						
1936		8	9	7				5			
1948	6(1)	3	14	8		9		5			
1952	2(1)	3	12	2		7		2			
1956	1	2	12			5		1			
1960	1	5	12	3		5	3	2			
1964		2	12	1		8					
1968	3(1)	5		4		5		1			
1972	2(1)	3		1		5					
1976	1(1)	1		1		5					

The Uruguayan Olympic Champions



1924 : Paris.

Titles obtained at the Olympic Games

Name	Christian Name	sport	Year	Birth	Death
Mazall	Andrés	Football	1924	1902	
Nasazzi	José		1924	1901	1968
Arispe	Pedro	—	1924	1900	
Andrade	José Leandro	—	1924	1901	1967
Vidal	José	—	1924	1899	
Ghierra	Alfredo	—	1924	1894	1973
Urdinaran	Alfredo	—	1924	1900	
Scarone	Hector	—	1924	1900	1967
Petrone	Pedro	—	1924	1905	1964
Cea	Pedro	—	1924	1901	
Romano	Angel	—	1924	1894	
Tomasina	Umberto	—	1924	1899	
Naya	Juan	—	1924	1899	
Zibechl	Alfredo	—	1924	1895	
Urdinaran	Antonio	—	1924	1898	
Mazali	Antonio	—	1928	1902	
Nasazzi	José	—	1928	1901	1966
Arispe	Pedro	—	1928	1900	
Andrade	José Leandro	—	1928	1901	1957
Fernandez	Lorenzo	—	1928	1905	1973
Piriz	Juan	—	1928		
Gestido	Alvaro	—	1928	1902	
Urdinaran	Santos	—	1928	1900	
Castro	Hector	—	1928		
Petrone	Pedro	—	1928	1905	1964
Cea	Pedro	—	1928	1901	
Campolo	Antonio	—	1928		
Canavesi	Adhemar	—	1928		
Arremon	Juan	—	1928		
Borjas	René	—	1928		1932
Borjas	Hector	—	1928	1900	1967
Figuerola	Roberto	—	1928		

* The names in heavy print indicate that the champion in question will be mentioned again later on.

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

● Olympic medallists

Uruguayan athletes point with pride to this double Olympic title in the football tournament. This team's first appearance was indeed a masterful one as it ended in an overwhelming 7-0 victory over Yugoslavia in the 1924 preliminaries. Winning the 1928 tournament proved more difficult for Jose Nasazzi's players, as the final against Argentina had to be replayed, no decisive result having emerged from the first meeting between the two teams. Six players had the honour of competing in the two finals : Andrés Mazali,

Jose Nasazzi, Pedro Arispe, Jose Leandro Andrade, Hector Scarone and Pedro Cea. The ranks of Uruguayan rowers include a silver medallist in Eduardo Risso, who placed second in the 1948 single sculls competition. Mention must also be made of the nation's bronze medallists in this sport : Douglas Guillermo in single sculls (1932) and two honours for Juan Rodriguez in double sculls, in 1948 with William Jones and in 1952 with Miguel Seijas.

Bantamweight boxer Washington Rodriguez placed third in 1964 in Tokyo. Uruguay has also shone in another team sport, basketball, having captured the tournament's bronze medal in both 1952 and 1956.

1928 : Amsterdam.



PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE COU

● *The present statutes* were adopted on 6th May 1976.

● *Composition*

The COU comprises a representative from each affiliated national sports federation. These federations, whose sports are included on the Olympic or Pan-American Games programme are referred to as "active" federations, the only federations empowered to vote.

● *The General Assembly*, the supreme authority, is the legislative body and is responsible for calling elections. It meets annually in ordinary assembly in May,

● *The Management Committee*, the representative body, is responsible for the administration of the COU. This body is made up of the members of the Executive Committee, a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary General, an Assistant Secretary General, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, an accountant, the IOC members and the President in office of the National Commission for Physical Education.

● Present members of the COU Executive elected for the period 1978-1981

PT : Prof. Jose D. Vallarino Veracierto *, IOC member ; *1st VPT*: Col. Alberto N. Lerena ; *2nd VPT* : Mr. Gustavo Nicolich ; *SG* : Mr. Alejandro Hughes * ; *Assistant S.* : Dr. Walter Paternostro ; *T* : Col. Ruben G. Orozco ; *Assistant T* : Lt-Col. Juan Jose Herrero ; *accountant* : Mr. Walter Perez Soto ; *PT of the National Commission for Physical Education* : Gen. Yamadu Trinidad.

● *The refereeing and discipline board* is comprised of three experienced delegates, Messrs. Hector Payssé Reyes *, Raul Bove Ceriani, former Secretary General of the COU, and Alberico Pasadore.



● Federations affiliated to the COU

Olympic Federations...	Affiliation
Athletics	1923
Rowing	1932
Basketball	1936
Boxing	1946
Cycling	before 1968
Equestrian	1960
Fencing	1936
Football	1923
Judo	?
Swimming	1918
Modern pentathlon	before 1962
Shooting	?
Volleyball	1947
Yachting	?
... as well as federations for tennis, table tennis, bowls and pelote.	

● Financing of the COU

The "Olympic fund" was created by the law No. 12.762 of 23rd August 1960 in order to finance the preparation of Uruguayan athletes for the Olympic Games and the Pan-American Games. To this fund may be added income accruing from admissions to the country's casinos.

THE COU AND OLYMPISM

● IOC Session held in Uruguay

1979 : Session in Montevideo.

● Olympic awards obtained

Olympic Order

Hector Payssé Reyes*, 1976 edition, silver medal for his career as a sports leader spanning more than 40 years.

Olympic Cup

1925 - Awarded to the National Physical Education Committee of Uruguay for its work in teaching and its promotion of sport. This award was proposed by the then-future President of the IOC, Comte de Baillet-Latour following his visit to the country in 1923. The enterprise and the results achieved had earned his admiration, reads the 1923 Session minutes,

● Protection of the Olympic symbols

The law 12.762 of 23rd August 1960 regulates the use of the Olympic emblems.

Centennial Stadium in Montevideo.



Hector Payssé Reyes.

● Olympic day

The 1978 Olympic day was celebrated by the "Comite Olímpico Uruguayo". A solemn ceremony in Montevideo brought together the members of the COM's Management Committee under the presidency of Mr. Jose D. Vallarino Veracierto, IOC member, aided by his close assistant and friend, Mr. Alejandro Hughes, Secretary General of the NOC.

Colonel Alberto Lerena, first Vice-President, Mr. Gustavo Nicolich, second



From left to right: Messrs. Hughes, Vallarino Veracierto, Gustavo Nicolich, José Rívero.

Vice-President, Dr. Walter Paternostro, Assistant Secretary, Mr. Ruben G. Orozco, Treasurer, Lieutenant-Colonel Juan J. Herrero, Assistant Treasurer, and Mr. Hector Payssé Reyes*, honorary member, were all present along with General Yamandu Trinidad, President of the National Commission for Physical Education. Numerous delegates, Presidents, Secretaries and members of the following national sports federations took part at the ceremony.

SPORT IN URUGUAY

● State aid to the sports movement

The state encourages and supports the development and practice of sport through the National Commission for Physical Education and the National Education Council. Departmental and local authorities assume responsibility for developing the sports infrastructure.

● Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football, basketball, cycling, boxing.

● Sports experiencing the greatest development

Swimming, tennis.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

José Dalmiro Vallarino Veracierto

IOC member in Uruguay.

He was born on 14th February 1920 in Montevideo. After law and physical education studies and courses in Europe (England, France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain), he taught history. He is currently inspector for the National Council of Education. An all-round sportsman, he practised athletics: rowing, football, swimming and tennis, the last which he still plays.

For many years 1st Vice-President of the Uruguay Olympic Committee, he has served as the COU's President since 1976.

In 1943, at the age of 23, he became President of the Uruguayan University Sports Federation, and since that time has continued to devote his spare time to sports administration at the national level: federations of swimming, volleyball, rowing. President from 1955 to 1959 of the National Physical Education Council, President since 1973 of the Montevideo Rowing club, the oldest club in Uruguay (105 years), and at the international level within the PASO, of which he was secretary from 1967 to 1975. In addition, he has attended all Pan-American Games and all Olympic Games between 1948 and 1972 except those in 1952.

Alejandro H. Hughes

Secretary General of the COU since 1977.

A seaman, Mr. Hughes is one of his country's best navigators: he participated in the 1952 Montevideo-Florianapolis regatta and two years later crossed the Atlantic in a yacht, covering 7,000 miles between the English coast and Montevideo.

A delegate of the national yachting federation, he contributed to the establishment of the COU's statutes before assuming responsibility for the general secretariat.

Hector Pays & Reyes

President of the COU from 1938 to 1976 and holder of the Olympic Order (silver medal - 1976).

A lawyer and statesman, forty years of his life were dedicated to the development of sport in Uruguay and in South America in his capacity as President of the Pan-American Sports Association.

Dr. Francisco Ghigliani

IOC member from 1921 to 1937.

Elected as an IOC member at the Olympic Congress held in Lausanne, he founded the COU and served as its first President.

Joaquín Serratosá Cibils

IOC member from 1937 to his death in 1958.

He was one of Uruguay's most talented football players and also the founder of the Albion and Wanders clubs. In 1915, together with Louis Supervielle, he became the first table tennis doubles champion. In his youth, he was involved in swimming, but at a time when regular competitions were not yet organised. Upon Mr. Cibils's death, President Avery Brundage wrote to the COU in these terms: "Don Joaquín Serratosá Cibils was one of our most distinguished members and his influence was felt far beyond the boundaries of his own country. In his wide travels, he carried the friendly message of fair play, good sportsmanship and international goodwill to many lands."

Alfredo O. Inciarte

IOC member from 1963 until his death in 1975.

Born on 26th January 1900 in Montevideo. Studied law. Director of the People's Bank of Uruguay. One of the seven founders in 1941 of the Inter-american Conference on Commerce and Production. Served as President of the Uruguayan rowing federation and the national yachting club.

