

Somalia and Olympism

"Faithful to its cultural tradition of openness and heartfelt hospitality, its relations with other countries constantly prove its determined search for dialogue between nations and friendship between peoples. Somalia pays great tribute to Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the International Olympic Committee, who re-established the Olympic Games on the basis of humanitarian principles and the Olympic ideals, involving international brotherhood without discrimination among sportsmen. These ideals and principles exactly coincide with what our Islamic religion has been preaching for centuries. Thus we must apply more intensively the theory of Baron de Coubertin so that a national programme of physical training and competitive sport will build stronger, healthier human beings and create better citizens."

National Olympic Committee of Somalia, 1981



THE SOMALI NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (SNOC)

Founded in 1959.

Recognised by the IOC in 1972.

President in office: Col. Mire Aware Jama *.

Secretary General in office: M. Abdalla Mohamoud Siad *.

Address: P. O. Box 523, Mogadishu, Somalia.

Telephone: 28 042.

Telegrams: SOMOLYMPICS.

SOMALIA

637,660 sq km.

Approx. 4 500 000 inhabitants.



* See biographical notes.

Role of the SNOC

- To teach the Olympic principles.
- To collaborate with sports federations in order to ensure participation of Somali sportsmen in the Olympic Games, all African Games and Pan-Arab Games, and other international competitions.
- To improve the representation of Somali national federations at international congresses.

Creation

In 1959, with a view to being able to take part in the Olympic Games which were to be held in Rome the following year, a first Somali Olympic Committee was founded on 12th December. Mr. Ali Omar Seego, responsible for this foundation, was shortly afterwards appointed Ambassador in Brussels, and his successors were unable to follow through with the project, which had to be abandoned. In 1971, under the presidency of Mussa Rabileh Got, a new SNOC was created. The national athletics, basketball and football federations were members. In 1972, a few days before the opening of the Olympic Games in Munich, the SNOC obtained the affiliation of two other federations regularly affiliated to the corresponding IFs. The IOC then granted its recognition and the first Somali Olympic delegation was able to take part in the celebration of the Olympiad.

Successive Presidents of the SNOC

1971-1979: Mussa Rabileh Got.
1979-1980: Abdikassim Salad Hassan.
Since 1980: Col. Mire Aware Jama *.

SOMALIA AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- **Date of first participation:** 1972.

This first Olympic delegation was made up of six male athletes. The SNOC did not take part in the Olympic Games in 1976 and 1980, due to financial problems.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE SNOC

- *The present Statutes* of the SNOC were approved in 1972.

- **Composition**

The SNOC is composed of a President of each national association affiliated to an international federation, Directors of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Somalia and a representative actively engaged in amateur sport who has made great contributions to the national sports movement.

Colonel Mire Aware Jama, President, receives the Vice-Presidents, Dahir Warsame Yusuf and Mohamoud Hassan Nur.



- *The General Assembly*, the supreme body, meets annually.

- *The Executive Committee*, elected by the Assembly for four years, is composed of a President, 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents, a Secretary General, a Treasurer and twenty members.

- *Members of the present Committee*
PT: Col. Mire Aware Jama *; *VPTs:* Prof. Mohamoud Hassan Nur; *SG:* Abdalla Mohamoud Siad *; *T:* Ibrahim Hassan Ibrahim.

THE SNOC AND OLYMPISM

- *Olympic Day* has been celebrated on 7th March every year since 1972.

• Federations affiliated to the SNOC

	Creation	IF Affiliation	NOC Affiliation	Members	
				1972	1979
Athletics	1959	1971	1960	1151	20313
Basketball	1957	1960	1960	841	30921
Football	1952	1960	1953	1570	34120
Hockey	1957	1972	1970	425	1250
Swimming	1968	1972	1970	340	10154
Tennis	-	-	-	-	-
Table tennis	1973	-	-	-	-
Volleyball	1963	1972	1968	520	5481

SPORT IN SOMALIA

- *Other sports governing bodies*

The SNOC shares the responsibility for the sports movement with the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

- *State aid for the sports movement*

The State, which is responsible for national sports policies, devotes a large part of its budget to the development of sports activities. It subsidises the SNOC and gives financial and technical aid to the national sports federations.

- *Training of sports leaders*

An Institute of Physical Education and Sport has recently been opened, which provides facilities for the training of sports teachers and technicians.

The Secretary General, Ahmed Osman Yusuf, with Abdi Nur during the XIth Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden.





Match between Somalia and Uganda at Mogadishu.

- *Sports facilities*

Two football pitches with athletics tracks, with a seating capacity of 20,000 to 40,000 spectators. 28 football pitches with athletics tracks with a crowd capacity of 5,000 to 10,000.

3 youth centres

1 open-air swimming pool (10,000 spectators)

2 sports stadiums

45 outdoor basketball and volleyball courts (2,000 to 4,000 spectators)

3 open-air swimming pools without seats.

- *School sports*

A great effort has been made to allow the introduction of sport into schools.

- Most popular spectator sports

Football and basketball.

- Sports experiencing the greatest development

Basketball, tennis, table tennis and athletics.

- *Number of practising athletes*

It is estimated that 125,000 Somali men and women practise sport. There are 17 registered sports clubs.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Col. Mire Aware Jama

President of the SNOC since 1980.

Born in 1930. Master in political science (1976), he holds the position of Minister of Youth and Sport.

Abdalla Mohamoud Siad

Secretary General of the SNOC since 1984.

Born in 1935 Teacher of physical education (1957-1962), football referee for the FIFA (1972-1981), President of the National Handball Federation

