

FOUNDATION DATES OF THE GERMAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

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Foreword

The International Olympic Committee was able to celebrate its 100th birthday in Paris on 23 June 1994. Various National Olympic Committees will also be celebrating their centenaries in the coming years, but which dates are the basis of these centenary celebrations?

In the 1970's, the IOC asked the NOCs to write their history for publication in the *Olympic Review*. More than half of the existing NOCs, 78, to be exact, fulfilled that wish. However, this can only be regarded as an initial step of NOC history. Many articles only described the positive developments. Critical periods were overlooked and historical research endeavours were hardly mentioned. Users often criticized the fact that exact dates, such as in the biographies, were lacking. If one compares the individual articles, one notices that many try to present as early a foundation date as possible, thereby giving the impression that there was a continual development. Many depict the situation as if the committees had the same tasks and had to fulfill the same requirements as do today's NOCs.

The weaknesses of those works has been recognized for a long time and recently, the research department of the IOC gave one of its assistants the task of writing a second edition. In this way, as many of the old mistakes as possible could be corrected. The NOCs have been asked to give statistical information. The question must be asked: are these dates to be compared with those from the most reputed Olympic Historians? Misgivings arise when one discovers that, e.g., information about the Olympic Games of 1906 has not been taken up or accepted. No serious sport historian doubts that this event can be regarded as Olympic Games, such as the 1904 St. Louis Olympic Games, or those of 1908 in London. The IOC believes it can make a decision on this matter nowadays - a completely unhistorical and untenable course of action.

This problem was discussed at a meeting of the research department of the IOC with representatives of Olympic Archives from the whole world. When Karl Lennartz mentioned that there are at least eight dates mentioned for the founding of the German NOC, Bill Mallon asked him to put the facts for Germany together and to examine the correlations critically.

The following theses can be maintained:

1. No one thought about National Olympic Committees at the foundation of the IOC.
2. The committees' first task was to send their athletes to the respective Olympic Games.
3. Willibald Gebhardt mentioned permanent Olympic Committees for the first time at the Session of 1896 in Athens.
4. The first committees come into permanent existence a few years after the turn of the century.
5. Baron de Coubertin was initially against permanent Olympic Committees.
6. Until the 1920s, participation at the Olympic Games was not bound to the existence of a National Olympic Committee, but rather to that of an IOC member.
7. Only in the early 1930's did the IOC give its formal recognition to NOCs. The NOCs played a minor role in the statutes of the IOC until the Second World War.

During the compilation of the data mentioned below, it became evident that a connection between the political power constellation and the respective NOC must be taken into account. Above all, through the changes in the political map as a result of both World Wars and the collapse of the USSR, many state borders and the areas of competence of the NOCs were redefined, especially in Europe.

1871 to 1918

German Reich (Empire)

- 18 January 1871** Wilhelm I, King of Prussia, is proclaimed German Emperor in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles. This day is viewed as the day of the founding of the German Empire (Deutsches Reich).
- 16-23 June 1894** Congr s International de Paris pour le R tablissement des Jeux Olympiques. The Congress decides to establish Olympic Games which are to take place first in 1896 in Athens and in 1900 in Paris in connection with the World Exhibition. A Comit  International des Jeux Olympiques, called Comit  International Olympique from 1898 onwards is founded. This congress is later counted as the first IOC Session.
- 13 January 1895** On the initiative of Crown Prince Konstantine the Committee for the 1896 Olympic Games is finally formed in Athens.
- 11 June 1895** The Greek Organizing Committee sends out the first invitation to the Olympic Games to Germany (Central Committee for People's and Youth Games [Zentralausschu  f r Volks- und Jugendspiele]). Further invitations to the various sports organizations follow.
- January or February 1895** The Greek consul, Kl on Rangabe, asks Willibald Gebhardt in Berlin to give his support to Germany's participation in the Olympic Games,
- 13 December 1895** About 40 personalities invited by Gebhardt meet in the Hotel Zu den Vier Jahreszeiten and found a provisional Committee for Germany's participation at the Olympic Games in Athens 1896 (Komitee f r die Beteiligung Deutschlands an den Olympischen Spielen 1896 zu Athen). Gebhardt becomes secretary of the Committee. A few days later Prince Philipp Ernst zu Hohenlohe-Schillingsf rst, the son of the chancellor of the Reich, is elected President and Prince Albert zu Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Augustenburg is elected Vice-President of the Committee.
- 28 December 1895** Gebhardt writes a letter to Baron Pierre de Coubertin under the letterhead "Olympic Games of Athens 1896. Head Committee for Germany" informing him of the founding of the German Committee.
- 16 January 1896** Second meeting of the German Committee in Norddeutschen Hof in Berlin. This time there are 150 people present, including Emil von Schenkendorff, the chairman of the Central Committee for People's and Youth Games (CC). Gebhardt heads the meeting in place of Prince von Hohenlohe-Schillingsf rst and

first of all gives a long report about his work over the past month. After a heated discussion with von Schenkendorff, the Committee is finally formed by the members writing their names on a list.

4, 6, 9-10, 14 April 1896 Second IOC Session in Athens, for the first time with Willibald Gebhardt present. He is asked to give an official report of the 1896 Games and suggests Berlin as the host city for the Games of 1904. On 6 April 1896 they decide in the future to produce an IOC bulletin in the languages English, French and German. In addition to this, Gebhardt suggests that National Olympic Committees be founded and that these should be given support from the national governments.

After April 1896 Up until now no documents exist which say anything about a formal disbanding of the Committee for the participation of Germany at the Olympic Games of Athens 1896. There seems to be no final or closing report.

12 December 1899 In the house of the Commissioner of the Reich for the World Exhibition in Paris, Max Richter, a German Committee for the participation at the Olympic Games of 1900 in Paris (Komitee für die Beteiligung Deutschlands an den Olympischen Spielen 1900 zu Paris) is provisionally founded: Prince Aribert von Anhalt (President), Prince Eduard zu Salm-Horstmar (Vice-President), Julius Freiherr von Hünefeld (Treasurer), Willibald Gebhardt (Secretary) and Alex Hoenig (Deputy Secretary).

7 January 1900 Gebhardt informs Coubertin of the formation of the German Committee.

17 February 1900 Final formation of the Committee for Germany's participation at the Olympic Games of 1900.

11 February 1901 Gebhardt gives a report of his activities at the last main meeting of the Committee for Germany's participation at the Olympic Games of 1900 and it is decided that this report be published. Freiherr Julius von Hünefeld presents the financial report. The Committee finishes its activity after this meeting.

April, July 1902 Baron de Coubertin mentions National Olympic Committees in the Netherlands, France and Great Britain in the *Revue Olympique*. These committees are mainly working towards the participation of these countries at the next Olympic Games.

19 January 1903 First (unofficial) meeting of the German Committee for the Olympic Games in St. Louis 1904 are held in the premises of the General Order Commission in Berlin. Theodor Lewald, Deputy-Commissioner of the Reich for the World Exhibition in St. Louis is present.

8 April 1903 Constituent (second) meeting of the German Committee for the Olympic Games in St. Louis 1904, is held with Prince zu Salm-Horstmar becomes President, Freiherr von Hünefeld, Treasurer, and Gebhardt as Managing Director. Duke Egbert Hoyer von der Asseburg joins the committee later as Vice-President. Gebhardt announces the willingness of Lewald to give his support with a sum of 10,000 Marks. In view of the German application for 1908, he suggests the formation of a permanent Olympic Committee and nominates Prince zu Salm-Horstmar as a possible president. The prince, however, declines the offer.

- 25 May 1903** Gebhardt informs Baron de Coubertin of the foundation of the German Committee and the support of the German Reich government
- June 1903** In “L’organisation Olympique” in the *Revue Olympique* Baron de Coubertin writes positively about the National Olympic Committees. He believes it to be “advantageous that these committees remain a permanent organization and come together when necessary and also to meet between the Games.”
- 12 December 1903** At the fifth meeting of the German Committee for the Olympic Games in St. Louis 1904, Wilhelm Rolfs makes a proposal to change the name of the Committee to German Reich Committee for Olympic Games in St. Louis 1904. This is accepted unanimously. The minutes do not mention the reasons for this.
- 18 February 1904** On Gebhardt’s proposal German Reich Committee for Olympic Games in St. Louis 1904 discusses changing its name to a permanent organization under the name German Reich Committee for Olympic Games (Deutscher Reichsausschuß für Olympische Spiele). Gebhardt is commissioned to put forward a statute suggestion concerning this at the next meeting.
- 16 June 1914** The plenum of the 6th Olympic Congress votes on the proposal of the German members that only political nations as a unit can take part in the Olympic Games. This would have meant that no Bohemian and Finnish teams could have taken part. Logically the NOCs would have had to disband.
- 25 January 1917** Main meeting of the German Reich Committee for the Olympic Games. The most important point on the agenda is the changing of the name to German Reich Committee for Physical Exercise (Deutscher Reichsausschuß für Leibesübungen). Apart from a letter of protest from Willibald Gebhardt, who thinks holding the Games is possible even after the war, and concerns from the IOC member Graf Adalbert von Francken-Sierstorpff, all those present agree to the new name. The previous committee’s time in office under the President Ulrich von Oertzen was extended without an election until the end of the war

1918 to 1933

German Reich (Weimar Republic)

- 9 November 1918** Philipp Scheidemann announces the German Republic in Berlin after Emperor Wilhelm II abdicated on the same day. The German Reich changes as a result from a constitutional monarchy centered on the Emperor to a parliamentary Republic and keeps its names.
- 11 November 1918** Acceptance of the peace conditions in the forest of Compiègne through the German representative Duke Ulrich Brockdorff-Rantzau.
- 5-8 April 1919** 17th IOC Session in Lausanne. The IOC chooses Antwerp as the host of the VIth Olympiade. It decides that only athletes from European nations which are represented in the IOC can take part in the Games. After this, the nine

members present decide who is to remain a member and which countries that member represents. This list does not contain the previous members of the Axis powers (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey). By these means they are able to avoid inviting athletes from these countries to the Olympic Games. From then on the previous German IOC members Duke von Francken-Sierstorpff and Duke Adolf von Arnim-Muskau are no longer on the list of members. In the opinion of the IOC, invitations to the Olympic Games are no longer bound to the existence of an NOC. The German Reich Committee for Physical Exercise would have been unable and would not have been allowed to accept an invitation on the grounds of its statutes and the views of Germany at the Treaty of Versailles.

- 28 June 1919** The Versailles Peace Treaty comes into power (splitting up areas on the western, eastern and northern borders). With this, the area of responsibility of any new NOC which might be founded is severely limited.
- 2-7 June 1921** 7th Olympic Congress in Lausanne. First mention of NOCs in the *Olympic Charter (Règles Générales)*; it is covered within the definition of amateur status .
- 7-12 April 1923** 22nd IOC Session in Rome. A Charte des Jeux Olympiques is added to the protocol in which the expression Comités Nationaux is mentioned for the first time. According to this they must be used in accordance with the national associations as well as with the IOC member of the country. This rule is valid until after the Second World War.
- 14 April 1924** In *Sport Sunday*, a letter from Baron de Coubertin from *L'Echo des Sports* (Paris) concerning the participation of the Germans at the Olympic Games is translated. Coubertin underlines the Germans' unlimited right to participate. But according to IOC rules the host country has priority, even when the IOC - in the case of Germany - does not agree. The German IOC members had not been replaced. The choice of the two Germans already mentioned was without doubt.
- 23, 25-28 June, 7-12 July 1924** 23rd IOC Session in Paris. The question of German members is discussed. According to the minutes there is no official acceptance.
- 28 June 1924** At a representative day of the German Reich Committee for Physical Exercise (GRCPE) Lewald reports on an inquiry by the IOC on whether or not Germany was prepared to name members. Baron de Coubertin is of the opinion that Germany was never shut out; merely that it was no longer represented due to the deaths of its members. Duke von Francken-Sierstorpff and Duke von Arnim-Muskau are however still alive and have never written letters of resignation. Lewald also announces that the GRCPE has nominated himself and Oskar Ruperti for these positions and that the vote will take place in July.
- 30 July 1924** Baron de Coubertin informs the membership of the expected acceptance of Lewald and Ruperti into the IOC - not all written votes had been received by then - and at the same time sends his invitation for the Olympic Congress in Prague to be held in 1925 and for the Olympic Games of 1928.
- August 1924** Lewald accepts the position offered to him and also on Ruperti's behalf. He wants to visit Baron de Coubertin in September.

- 26 August 1924** The GRCPE announces that Lewald (8th German, No. 127) and Ruperti (9th German, No. 128) have been elected to the IOC. Baron de Coubertin hopes that both will take part in the Olympic Congress of 1925 in Prague and that German athletes will compete at the Olympic Games of 1928 in Amsterdam.
- 14 October 1924** In the *Pages for People's Health and People's Strength (Blätter für Volksgesundheit und Volkskraft)* under the heading "Announcements of the German Reich Committee for Physical Exercise" a list of the IOC members appears in which the names Lewald and Ruperti are clearly written.
- 8 November 1924** As a result of Lewald's and Ruperti's membership in the IOC, it is obvious that Germany intends to take part in the Olympic Games of 1928. At a committee meeting of the GRCPE the chairman of the German Turners (Deutsche Turnerschaft), Oskar Berger, asks if both men belong to the IOC as members of GRCPE or as private persons. According to the regulations of the IOC Lewald must answer, "as a private person."
- 8 November 1924** The meeting of the GRCPE representatives agrees to the participation in the Olympic Congress in Prague and discusses the topics "Olympic program" and "amateur status."
- 20 December 1924** In view of the continuing occupation of German border areas in the West, North and East, the executive committee of the German Turners (GT) decides that "the GT will not participate in any events in which the enemy states participate as long as any enemy is still to be found on German soil!" Berger asks Lewald and Carl Diem to discuss matters concerning the Olympic Games in a new body called the "German Olympic Board" rather than in the Executive Committee of the GRCPE.
- 14 January 1925** Diem informs the Executive Committee of the GRCPE that "the invitations of the International Olympic Committee to the Prague Congress have been sent."
- 23 January 1925** In a letter to Lewald, Berger renews his suggestion to form a special Olympic committee which the GRCPE should set up. Three days later he turns to the Executive Committee of the GT: he reports that Diem told him in a letter "that the GRCPE had always been the German Olympic Committee." He should have pointed out "that the statutes did not contain the slightest information about international contacts" [...] "If one does not agree to this demand then I believe that the GT will leave the GRCPE." The Executive Committee of the GT supports Berger's demands.
- 29 January 1925** Lewald notes in his answer to Berger: "No obstacle stands in the way of the formation of a special Olympic committee which I, by the way, always planned on doing."
- 14 March 1925** At the meeting of representatives of the GRCPE Lewald reports that no formal decision had been made regarding the participation at the Prague Congress and at the Games of 1928. Prague would be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting. He and Ruperti would definitely go to Prague.
- 23 April 1925** GRCPE writes a new statute in which it takes over power from other committees: "It takes on the whole representation of all the associations

attached to it which participate at world events.” The GT, which agrees to this extension of the statute, announces to the statute committee (Chairman Berger), to the Executive Committee and at the general meeting that “German participation is not secured at world events as long as Germany [is] unlawfully occupied.”

26-28 May 1925 21st IOC Session in Pague. Lewald is the first German member to participate in eleven years (Rupertis cannot attend).

January 1926 In the first brochure of the new *Bulletin Officiel du Comité International Olympique*, only the name and address of President Lewald is published under the addresses of the NOCs

27 February 1926 Members’ meeting of the GRCPE. The protocol states at the end: “The members’ meeting will finish at 5 o’clock. The negotiations of the Olympic Board will follow.” Lewald heads the new committee which corresponds to what we know today as a National Olympic Committee and which is a sub-committee of the GRCPE. Diem takes on the position of secretary.

1933 to 1945

German Reich (Third Reich)

12 April 1933 Extraordinary main meeting of the GRCPE with rendering of an account of the years 1917 to 1933 and referring to 1895 as the first committee for the participation of Germany at the Olympic Games. Lewald is forced to resign as chairman on the grounds of his Jewish ancestry and his democratic attitude but is named as an honorary member. A committee is formed to discuss the fate of the GRCPE. Heinrich Pauli (chairman of the German Rowing Association), Linnemann (of the German Football Association) and Neuendorff (sub-chairman of the GT) belong to this committee. This three-man committee is later interpreted as a lawful and competent committee by the Reich Sport Leader (Reichssportführer).

28 April 1933 The Reich Ministry of the Interior names the SA-group leader Hans von Tschammer und Osten as Reichs Sport Commissioner with the political instruction to coordinate the sports organizations. In first interviews he announces personnel changes in the German Olympic Committee (published 1-2 May). In proclamations (3 May), he sees the coordination of the sports organizations as his political duty as commissioner in the business area of the Reich Ministry of the Interior.

10 May 1933 Together with a confidence man from the NSDAP, the three-man commission of the GRCPE believes itself to be entitled to begin with the execution of the dissolution of the GRCPE before the register judge, and to hand over the liquidation capital to the Ministry of the Interior of the Reich. The dissolving organization is herewith subordinate to the Reich Sport Commissioner named by the Minister for the Interior.

21 June 1933 A writ from the Ministry for the Interior signed by state secretary Hans Pfundtner puts all the gymnastics and sports organizations and with them the German Olympic Board under the command of the Sport Commissioner of the

Reich in his position as ministerial director. Von Tschammer und Osten is appointed to this post. He therefore becomes chairman of the German Olympic Board.

13 July 1933 First meeting of the newly-formed Ring of the Reichsführer with a commitment from the Minister of the Interior, Frick, to “educate the youth in the spirit of National Socialism” and a catalogue of duties which corresponds to the old GRCPR statute. According to the Führer principle, von Tschammer und Osten is logically named as Reich Sport Leader on 19 July 1933. He gives his support so that the Ring of the Reichsführer plans on 23 January 1934 the foundation of the German Reichsbund for Physical Exercise (GRPE) for the 9 March 1934.

9 March 1934 Resolution to found the German Reichsbund for Physical Exercise on 23 January 1934, which can be viewed as the successor to the GRCPE. With this, the development to a National Socialist organization has begun.

11 March 1938 German troops begin their march into Austria. Austrian annexation to the German Reich is completed on 13 March. The area of responsibility of the German Olympic Board is extended as far as territory is concerned. The previous Austrian IOC member Theodor Schmidt, who at this time is taking part in the 38th IOC Session in Cairo and on the Nile, is no longer to be found in the list of IOC members. The Austrian NOC no longer formally exists, as its function is taken over by the German Olympic Board.

9 April 1938 IOC President Count de Baillet-Latour requests the statutes of the German Olympic Board. The director of the German Olympic Board, Arthur Jensch then, without naming the SA and SS leaders, reports on the structure pointing out the attached statutes of the German Reichsbund for Physical Exercise: “All sporting matters in Germany are under the care of the German Reichsbund for Physical Exercise under the supervision of the Reich sports leader.”

29 September 1938 Munich Pact between Hitler, Mussolini, Daladier and Chamberlain. Czechoslovakia must evacuate the German areas of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia and give them up to Germany. German troops then march into Sudeten German areas.

21 December 1938 Order from the Führer and the Chancellor of the Reich that the German Reichsbund for Physical Exercise change its name to National Socialist Reichsbund for Physical Exercise (NSRPE) as “an organization under the charge of the NSDAP.” This organization should be formed from all organizations which exist for the upkeep of physical exercise. The maintenance of international sporting contacts is solely the duty of the NSRPE. The German Olympic Board is now viewed as a committee of the NSRPE.

1 January 1939 The Sudetenland Province is incorporated into the NSRPE. The German Olympic Board thus receives an extension of its territory.

15 March 1939 German troops march into Czechoslovakia and form the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. As protectorates, Bohemia and Moravia retain a seemingly independent form of sports administration, including the IOC membership of the doyen of the Olympic Movement, Dr. Jirí Guth-Jarkovský.

- 6-9 June 1939** 38th IOC Session in London. The IOC President informs the session that GÜth-Jarkovský is now the delegate for the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and that there is no resistance to the question on the part of the Germans. The conditions of this solution were cleared up in the Reichs chancellory (6 June). However, GÜth-Jarkovský's trip to London was stopped by the administration of the protectorate.
- 9 June 1939** Diem notes during a session referring to a telephone message from Duke von der Schulenburg that Hitler had ordered that "that Czechs be forbidden to form an Olympic Committee and that they are to have no independent representation at the Olympic Games. This was the exact opposite of what he was supposed to have said to Reichenau on Saturday." IOC member Walter von Reichenau had informed the IOC of this. Concerning the vote on Garmisch for the 1940 Olympic Winter Games, Diem noted: "If the men had had an inkling that the Führer had forbidden the Czechs to compete at the Olympic Games then not only would there have been no vote for Garmisch, but we would have had to leave the room."
- 20 July 1939** In a discussion with the adjutant of the Reich sports leader, Duke von der Schulenburg, it is determined "regarding the participation of the protectorate in international sporting events" that the membership of GÜth-Jarkovský is valid until the Olympic Games of 1940. It is not certain if the scope of the German Olympic Board would have been extended or the protectorate's NOCs merely disbanded.
- 19-20 July 1940** After a preliminary discussion with von Tschammer und Osten and Karl von Halt (German IOC member) on 17 July, Diem visits the IOC President Count de Baillet-Latour in Brussels regarding a "transition (of the IOC) into German hands." Baillet-Latour agrees to the draft and suggests formulations in the paragraph about membership which, according to Diem will be "very useful for the continuation of the negotiations."
- 3 September 1940** Diem again discusses questions of a transformation of the IOC according to German ideas with the IOC President in Brussels.
- 18 November 1940** Von Tschammer und Osten, von Halt and Diem visit the IOC President Baillet-Latour in Brussels. On 3 December 1940 the Reich Sports Leader reports to the Reich Minister for the Exterior, Joachim von Ribbentrop, of the outcome of this meeting: "He [Baillet-Latour] agreed on the one hand to a reform of the International Olympic Committee, in which the wishes of the authoritarian states must be taken into consideration; for a start, a radical rejuvenation of the Committee and secondly, recognition of the principle that those representatives nominated by the authoritarian states be given membership. I have on my part asked him to initiate the reform himself in his function as President and to take over the leadership until a reorganization has taken place." Only after the end of the war is Baillet-Latour prepared to call an IOC Session which would be able to decide on the change in the statute.
- 3 September 1941** The province of Alsace is incorporated into the NSRPE and the German Olympic Board receives an extension of its territory.
- 9 June 1942** After the attempted assassination of the deputy Reich Protector of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, Reinhard Heydrich, on 27 May 1942, from which injuries he finally dies on 4 June 1942, the Bohemian village

Lidice is flattened and its inhabitants are murdered or abducted. After this date the so-called tolerance of Czech sports ends, including the apparent Olympic independence.

8 January 1943 Death of IOC founding member Jiri GÜth-Jarkovský in Prague. Whereas an obituary by Diem of the deceased Reich Sports Leader is published in edition 21 of the *Olympic Review (Olympische Rundschau)* of April 1943, there is not even a mention of the death of the IOC doyen, GÜth-Jarkovsky. Only in the *Bulletin Officiel No. 52* of the IOC is there a death announcement in the appendix. GÜth-Jarkovský was initially IOC member for Bohemia, then for Czechoslovakia and from 1939 for the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

12 November 1944 USA, Great Britain and the Soviet Union resolve to establish an Allied Control Council for Germany after the war.

19 January 1945 In view of massive political attacks on President J. Sigfrid Edström, Avery Brundage underlines the necessity of state support for sport and on the other hand views the ensuing state influence over sport as a huge dilemma. In the question of an Olympic invitation to “enemy nations” such as Germany and Japan, he views the sporting recognition as dependent on political and economic recognition.

4-11 February 1945 Josef Stalin, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill define the German areas of occupation at the Yalta Conference.

1 May 1945 One day after the arrival of the Ulbricht Group which has trained in Moskow, Walter Ulbricht announces in Bruchmühlen, the political center of the Red Army in Berlin for the city of Berlin “an antifascist-democratic rebuilding of the German administration.” Three days before, the Soviet Colonel-General Besarin had forbidden all off-shoots of the NSDAP, including the whole NSRPE network. German Communists and “socialist sport comrades” had been prepared for such duties in Moscow for the socialist new beginning in Germany so that already in July/August 1945 communal sport in the Soviet area of influence is possible with socialist aims.

1945 to 1949

German Zones of Occupation

7-8 May 1945 The German Wehrmacht surrenders unconditionally in Reims and in Berlin-Karlhorst. The government under Admiral Karl Dönitz is deprived of its power on 23 May 1945. With this the SCHAEF legislation No. 5 is valid in the Reich area. By this legislation all sports organizations are disbanded and their finances are seized.

26 June 1945 Charter of the United Nations founded on 25 April in San Francisco and disbanding of the League of Nations (18 April 1946) with distribution of sovreignties in Germany as United Nations members.

10 July 1945 French troops take over the occupation of the Saarland from the Americans and initiate their own administration in their protectorate. They also attempt to build up a French economic area. As a result, the territorial conditions for a separate Olympia development is made.

- 17 July - 2 August 1945** At the Potsdam Conference, Truman, Stalin and Churchill and Attlee define the final borders of the areas of occupation including the Eastern borders to Poland and allow Germany at the same time to remain as a unit under the sovereignty of the Control Council. A future peace treaty with the whole of Germany and the democratic re-education of the Germans with the development of parties and parliaments are points on the conference agenda. Measures in Sports education are part of the re-education program.
- 30 August 1945** Establishment of the Allied Control Council.
- 10 October 1945** Formal disbandment of the German Olympic Board on the basis of the Allied Control Law No. 2 which covers the whole area of the Reich and explicitly bans the National Socialist Reichsbund for Physical Exercise and therefore its committees such as the German Olympic Board.
- 1 January 1946** The directive No. 23 of the Allied Control Council allows sport on a local level again. The organization varies among the four zones of occupation. The area of the Saar and Eastern areas on the other side of the Oder/Neisse are therefore not affected by the directive. With the already visible political separation movements of the Saar (French area of interest), the Eastern Zone (Soviet socialist area of interest), and the beginning cooperation of the Western Zones (to begin with as British-American Bi-Zone), the territories are marked for three separate Olympic developments in Germany with special status for Berlin.
- 12 February 1946** The Saarland is taken out of the area of responsibility of the allied control. It comes under strong French influence, politically and financially. The inhabitants protest against this and the Federal Republic later makes an objection to this which succeeds.
- 26-28 November 1946** At the first Interzonal Sports Conference in Frankfurt six principles are written down, the first of which intends to “found an Olympic committee.”
- 13 December 1946** Diem applies to the American Military Government for permission to found a German Olympic Board. This is declined on 5 February 1947. One day later he presents his suggestion to the Allied Control Council but they do not give an answer.
- 15 October 1946** At the first post-war IOC session (39th IOC Session) from 3-6 September the exclusion of the German Committee is not discussed. In *the first new Bulletin du CIO* the NOC is called “Allemagne” in the list of NOCs, but has no name or address attached. In the second brochure of 16 December it reappears but after this no longer. The German IOC members always appear in the list however.
- 18-20 April 1947** The second German Sports Conference, at which the German Olympic Board should be established, does not take place as planned.
- 7 June 1947** A “provisional” German Olympic Board is founded at the second German Sports Conference in Frankfurt. The IOC member Duke Adolf Friedrich zu Mecklenburg. IOC President Edström is informed of this on the same day.

18-21 June 1947 At the 41st IOC Session the German foundation is announced but the NOC is not yet accepted. As a result a German team cannot participate at the Olympic Games of 1948.

23 October 1948 Foundation of the Working Group for German Sport in Bad Homburg which also wants to take over the “function of a National Olympic Committee” which is declined by Edström on 5 January 1949 on the grounds that a committee already exists under the leadership of the Duke zu Mecklenburg.

November 1948 Edström invites the Duke zu Mecklenburg to the 44th IOC Session in Rome because he expects the recognition of the German NOC. Due to resistance from some IOC members he had to cancel the invitation to the Duke.

19-20 April 1949 The Executive Committee of the IOC recommends to the international federations that Japanese and German federations be accepted.

24-28 April 1949 At the 44th IOC Session in Rome a new charter is decided upon in which for the first time the recognition of the NOCs by the IOC is mentioned. It is the official organization of a country which is responsible for Olympic matters. Since the 1930's there have been recognitions and refusals of NOCs.

28 April 1949 The Executive Committee of the IOC votes in Lausanne to recognize a German NOC only after the foundation of the West German state.

1949 to today
1949 to 1990

Federal Republic of Germany
German Democratic Republic

23 May 1949 The Parliamentary Council announces that the temporary Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany had come into force.

16-17 July 1949 A German Allied Sports Conference in Bad Schwalbach recommends the foundation of a German NOC after the Federal Republic of Germany has been constituted.

August/September 1949 With the elections to the first German Bundestag (Lower House of Parliament), the establishment of the Bundesrat (Upper House), the election of the State President by the Federal Assembly and the election of the State Chancellor, the Federal Republic of Germany begins.

24 September 1949 On the invitation of the Duke zu Mecklenburg a German National Olympic Committee is formed within the framework of a national celebration of German youth in Bonn. Duke zu Mecklenburg, who is elected president, reads out a telegram from the IOC President Edström at the beginning of the celebration. Zu Mecklenburg informs Edström of the successful formation of an NOC after the meeting.

- 7 October 1949** The Soviet Union announces the constitution of the German Democratic Republic.
- 24 November 1949** The Duke zu Mecklenburg and the secretary, Diem, apply for the recognition of the German NOC at the next IOC Session in Copenhagen in May 1950. The Duke was formally invited as an IOC member, but Edström asked him not to come.
- 14-17 May 1950** The Olympic Committee of the Federal Republic of West Germany is provisionally accepted at the 45th IOC Session in Copenhagen after a supporting letter from the High Commissioner in the FRG, Sir Hugh Robertson, is read out by Lord David Burghley. A decision as to the participation of the Germans at the 1952 Games is to be made later.
At this session the foundation of the NOC for the Saarland is recognized founded in spring 1950.
- 28-29 August 1950** After a delegation of the German NOC expresses its regret over the horrors of the NS period in a formal letter, the Executive Committee of the next Session in 1951 in Vienna recommends that the German NOC be finally recognized and that German athletes be allowed to compete at the Helsinki Games but not at the Winter Games in Oslo.
- 22 April 1951** Foundation of a NOC for the German Democratic Republic in East Berlin which applies for acceptance at the IOC Session in Vienna.
- 6-10 May 1951** The NOC of the FRG is finally recognized at the 46th IOC Session in Vienna. The application of the GDR NOC is however rejected and both organizations are requested to negotiate about sending an All-German Team to the Games in Helsinki. The two NOCs cannot come to an agreement.
- 14-22 February 1952** The Norwegian Organizing Committee gives its consent to the participation of Germans at the 6th Olympic Winter Games in Oslo. This is the first time since the end of the Second World War that a German team takes part in the Games.
- 19 July - 3 August 1952** At the Games of the XVth Olympiad in Helsinki a German team and a team from the Saarland compete.
- 5 May 1955** After the ratification of the Paris Treaties the Federal Republic of Germany receives full sovereignty after the occupation statute is lifted.
- 13-18 June 1955** The 50th IOC Session in Paris provisionally recognizes the NOC of the GDR on the condition that at the Games of 1956 a united German team goes to the start.
- 23 October 1955** The intended Europeanization of the Saarland in the German-French Saar Statute of 23 October 1954 is rejected in a referendum and as a result, a German-French agreement determines a few days later, that the area is affiliated to the Federal Republic of Germany.

- 22-24 January 1956** At the 52nd IOC Session in Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956 the application of The Saar to be allowed to compete as part of the All-German Team is considered.
- 26 January - 5 February 1956** The All-German Team starts at the 7th Olympic Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, then at the 8th Olympic Winter Games in Squaw Valley in 1960 and later at the 9th Olympic Winter Games of 1964 in Innsbruck.
- 3-4 October 1956** The Executive Committee of the IOC receives a piece of information about the forthcoming disbanding of the NOC of the Saarland and their wish to compete in the German team at the Melbourne Games. The Executive Committee decides that this can only apply to citizens of the Saarland.
- 22 November - 8 December 1956** An All-German Team starts at the Games of the XVIth Olympiad in 1956 in Melbourne, then in 1960 at the Games of the XVIIth Olympiad in Rome and 1964 at the Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad in Tokyo.
Therese Zenz, from the Saarland, is part of the German team and wins a silver medal in kayak singles.
- 1 January 1957** The Saarland becomes a Federal State of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- February 1957** Formal disbanding of the Olympic Committee of the Saarland.
- 6-9 October 1965** The 64th IOC Session in Madrid recognizes the NOC of the GDR on the condition that the two German teams compete under the same flag with the same national anthem and the same emblem at the 10th Olympic Winter Games of 1968 in Grenoble and at the Games of the XVIIIth Olympiade of 1968 in Mexico City
- 7-11 October 1968** The 68th IOC Session in Mexico City votes as of 1 November 1968 to allow the NOC of the GDR to function independently.
- 3-13 February 1972** For the first time, a team from the GDR takes part in the 11th Olympic Winter Games of Grenoble under its own flag and emblem and with its own anthem.
- 3 October 1990** The sovereignty of the NOC of the GDR ends with the breakup of the GDR and with the unification with the Federal Republic of Germany.
- 17 November 1990** The NOC of the Federal Republic of Germany formally absorbs the NOC of the former GDR.