

The National Olympic Committees

Under that rubric we wish to publish short Histories of the various National Olympic Committees. We would be happy to publish them and beg all National Olympic Committees to let us have a brief summary of their history, with the year of their foundation.

JAPAN (1910)

(The Japanese Olympic Committee)

It was in the spring of 1908 that Japan was first invited to participate in the Olympic Games. The invitation was made through the French Embassy in Tokyo to the late Prof. Jigoro Kano, founder of the Kodokan Judo School and President of Tokyo Higher Normal School (now known as Tokyo Education University) who had been encouraging his students to take interest in sports, especially in long-distance running and swimming.

In 1909 Prof. Kano was elected a member of the International Olympic Committee and in July the following year, in accordance with the policy of International Olympic Committee, Japan organized the National Olympic Committee.

In 1912 in Stockholm, Japan sent her first delegates to the Games of the Vth. Olympiad — two officials and two track and field competitors.

At present 34 National Bodies are members of the Japanese Olympic Committee.

GREAT BRITAIN (1905)

(The British Olympic Association)

The British Olympic Association was founded on May 24th. 1905, at a meeting held at the House of Commons, and the late Lord Desborough was elected Chairman. The Association was first instrumental in

sending a British team to the Athens Games in 1906 — sort of Olympic Games organized in Greece soon to be abandoned and not recognized as officials.

In the summer of 1906 it became clear that the Games of the IVth. Olympiad, 1908, could not be held in Rome and the question arose of holding them in London. At this time there were only a few International Federations in existence, and no International Code of Rules. These accordingly were later drawn up by the Governing Bodies and published in book form by the British Olympic Association.

The 1908 Games were held in London in the White City Exhibition grounds on a track one-third of a mile circuit, and with the swimming pool inside the track in front of the main stand.

Ever since, the British Olympic Association has sent his athletes to the Olympic Games. It has also organized with success the Games of the XIVth. Olympiad in London in 1948, having had only two years for their preparation. Lord Burghley, actual Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee was Chairman, and Mr. E. J. Holt, who was technical director of the Melbourne Games, was Director of Organization.

It has to be mentioned that in spite of having no National Olympic Committee yet, Great Britain entered as individuals 8 athletes in the Games of 1896, 72 in Paris 1900, one in St. Louis 1904. It was the first Nation who entered (2) for the first time in the 1900 Games, with France, who sent four.

The actual Committee, placed under the Patronage of H. M. The Queen Elizabeth II, is presided by The Duke of Beaufort, while the Chairman of the Council is The Marquess of Exeter (Lord Burghley). At present 33 National Federations are members of the British Olympic Association.