

Senegal and Olympism



"It is not only the affinity of free people but also the affinity of body and mind of which the harmonious balance makes a complete man. For sport not only demands the vigour and beauty of the body; it demands willpower and shrewdness which are the strength and beauty of the mind, this "sporting spirit" being the union of hearts.

"This is what the Olympic Games meant to the Ancient Greeks.

"Africa has been fully aware of such events. The tradition of the Olympic Games continues in Senegal even where the athlete is at the same time artist: dancer and poet."

Leopold Sedar Senghor, 1963

SENEGAL

123,226 sq. miles.
3,909,000 inhabitants.

SENEGALESE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

- Founded on 31st August 1961.
- Recognised by the IOC on 18th October 1963 during the 60th Session in Baden-Baden.
- *President*: Mr. Henri Joseph Diemé*.
- *Secretary General*: Mr. Papa Gallo Thiam*.
- Address: 1, rue de Boufflers, Dakar.
- Telephone: 204-64 (direct).

Role of the SOC

The SOC assures the representation of Senegal at the Olympic Games. It conforms with the rules and directives laid down by the IOC, as much in the defence of the Olympic spirit as in the preservation of the use of Olympic terms and emblems.

It is its duty each year to organise an Olympic Day. It has the final say in disputes which may arise between the federations on Olympic questions.

* See biographical notes.

Creation

Founded on 31st August 1961, a few months before the start of the Second Friendship Games in Abidjan, which some view as the first step towards the organisation of the African Games, since they brought together the French-speaking African States. The first large-scale activity of the young SOC was to prepare the representation of Senegal at these Games. In spite of short notice, it was successful, the Senegalese team proving itself the best of the African teams present. Before contemplating its participation in the Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad, the SOC took an active part in the organisation of the 1963 Friendship Games in Dakar. The Secretary General at these Games was none other than Mr. Keba M'Baye, elected member of the IOC in Varna.

1st Board of the SOC

PT: Amadou Barry*; *VPT*: Joseph Gomis, President of the Dakar Municipal Council; Demba Diop; *SG*: Oumar Diouf; *Asst. SG*: Latif Gueye; *T*: Alioune Fall; *Asst. T*: Papa Gallo Thiam*; *M*: Keba M'Baye*, Iba Mar Diop*.



Amadou Barry



Keba M'Baye



Amadou Gakou.

Successive Presidents of the SOC

I. Mr. Amadou Barry* (18th October 1963 until his death on 22nd March 1969).

II. Mr. Henri Joseph Diemé* (since 22nd March 1969).

Members of the IOC for Senegal

I. Mr. Amadou Barry* elected to the IOC in 1965. Died on 22nd March 1969.

II. Mr. Keba M. Baye*, first Vice-President of the SOC, since 1973.

The SOC and the Olympic Games

- *Date of first participation:* 1964 in Tokyo.

- *Senegalese Olympic champions*

Although up until now representatives of Senegal have not reached the victory stand, the results as a whole are encouraging. The performance of the athlete Amadou Gakou (4th in the 400m. in Mexico) is to be noted.



1968, Mexico: the Senegalese delegation.

Senegalese representation at the Olympic Games from 1964 to 1972¹

	Athletics	Basketball	Boxing	Wrestling	Judo	Total
1964	12	—	—	—	—	12
1968	9	12	—	—	—	21
1972	12	12	4	4	5	37

¹ No woman has yet taken part for Senegal. The SOC has never participated in the Winter Games.



1972: The Senegalese Olympic Committee

First row, from left to right: *Commander Wally Faye, representing the President of the Senegalese Equestrian Sports Federation, Mr. Alioune Diop, President of the Senegalese Boxing Federation and Assistant Treasurer General of the Senegalese Olympic Committee, Mr. Rito Alcantara, co-opted member, Mr. Abdoulaye Sar, Secretary General of the Senegalese Olympic Committee, Mr. Henri Joseph Dieme, President of the Senegalese Olympic Committee, Commander Mamadou Mansour Seck, President of the Senegalese Fencing Federation.* Second row, from left to right: *Captain Alassane Gueye, Sports Officer in the Senegalese Army, Mr. Papa Gallo Thiam, President of the Senegalese Athletics Federation and Secretary General of the Senegalese Olympic Committee, Mr. Serigne Lamine Diop, President of the Senegalese Basketball Federation, Mr. Mody Sy, President of the Senegalese Volleyball Federation, Mr. Momar Dieng, President of the Senegalese Judo Federation and associate branches of sport, Mr. Keba M'Baye, magistrate and first Vice-President of the Senegalese Olympic Committee.*

Present organisation of the SOC

The statutes of the Senegalese Olympic Committee were unanimously adopted by the constitutional general assembly on 22nd August 1961.

● *Composition*

The Senegalese Olympic Committee is constituted in the same way as all other Olympic Committees, according to Olympic tradition and rules. It includes the presidents of sports federations recognised by the International Federations and whose sports appear on the Olympic programme (these representatives from the voting majority of the NOC), the IOC member for Senegal, two

Senegalese personalities who have served or who are serving the sports cause in Senegal, a doctor of medicine, a magistrate, the President of the Organising Board for School and University Sport, the Sports Officer of the Senegalese Army and the representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, all of which have a consultative voice.

Members of the present Executive Board

PT: Mr. Henri Joseph Diemé*; *SG:* Mr. Papa Gallo Thiam*;
VPTs: Mr. Keba M'Baye* (1st VPT);
 Mr. Iba Mar Diop (2nd VPT);
T: Mr. Ousseynou Camara; *Asst. T-G:* Mr. Alioune Diop.

- *General assembly*

The regular general assembly of SOC members meets compulsorily every four years during the three months following the close of the Olympic Games. It elects the board for the duration of the Olympiad and hears the reports of the secretary, treasurer and the accounts commission.

- At the meeting of the first quarter each year, a statement of financial management for the previous year is presented to the members.
- If during the course of the Olympiad, two thirds of the SOC members request it, a special general assembly may be called.

Decisions are taken at general assemblies as at regular meetings; in the first ballot by an absolute majority, in the following ballots by a relative majority.

- *The Board*

This is composed of a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary general, a treasurer general, an assistant secretary general and an assistant treasurer. If, during an Olympiad, a federation

does not renew the mandate of one of the SOC board members, this member may retain his position on the board until the end of the Olympiad. His successor is selected by the federation and takes up office in the SOC, his mandate allowing him a casting vote.

The SOC usually meets at least once every three months and is summoned by the president or secretary general.

- *The NOC has some specialised commissions:*

A commission of equipment and finance, an organising commission and a medical commission.

- **Financing of the SOC**

Expenses for management and preparation for and participation in the Olympic Games are covered by official subsidies or by other legally-authorised resources which are accepted by the general assembly in compliance with the IOC rules, such as contributions and profits from the Olympic Week.

Federations affiliated to the Senegalese Olympic Committee

	Dates of creation	Dates of affiliation	No. of members '61	No. of members '66	No. of members '72
Athletics	?	1961	405	?	?
Basketball	?	1961	527	?	?
Boxing	?	1961	530	?	?
Cycling	1960	1961	85	?	?
Equestrian	?	1961	428	?	?
Fencing	?	1961	20	?	?
Football	1960	1962	3480	3904	3629
Handball	?	1961	1028	?	?
Judo	?	1961	1500	?	?
Swimming	?	1961	189	?	?
Volleyball	?	1961	350	300	250

THE SOC AND OLYMPISM

- *The Olympic Day*

This has been celebrated each year since 1971 in the form of sports competitions.

- *The International Olympic Academy*

Two Senegalese students took part in the 1969 Session.

- *Sports installations*



The Friendship Stadium and the stadium in Dakar.

Sports in Senegal

- *Other leading organisations*

The Senegalese Olympic Committee shares the responsibility and direction of the sports movement in Senegal with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Union of School and University Sports Associations in Senegal (UASSU).

- *State aid to the sports movement*

The State gives financial aid to the SOC and to the federations in the form of subsidies and to the sportsmen in the form of reimbursed salaries, pocket money and grants for periods of training during studies.

The part of the budget devoted to sport amounts to 30,000,000 CA francs (300,000 S.Frs).

- *Sport at School*

Sport is included in school curricula.

1 Olympic stadium with a 400 m tartan race track in Dakar (10,000 seats).

1 all-sports stadium seating 15,000, the Friendship Stadium in Dakar, built in 1963.

2 sports halls for basketball, handball and volleyball in Dakar.

1 swimming bath with a 50 m pool in Dakar.

- *Number of active sportsmen*

0.8% of the population.

- *Sport experiencing the greatest development*

Football.

- *Most popular spectator sports*

Football.



Mr. Henri Joseph Diemé



Dr. Iba Mar. Diop



Mr. Papa Gallo Thiam

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Amadou Barry

IOC member for Senegal from 1965 to 1969. Born in 1904 in St-Louis, Senegal, one could perhaps say the founder of the Olympic Movement in Senegal. His efficient work resulted in his being called to a place in the IOC from 1965 to 1969.

After being director of his country's railway network, he was elected mayor and deputy of his town, Gorée. His death on 22nd March 1969 left a great gap in the sports life of Senegal.

Henry Joseph Diemé

President of the Senegalese Olympic Committee since 1969, having been a member from its foundation and Vice-President from 1962. Born on 16th November 1902 in St-Louis, Senegal, Mr. Diemé has made noteworthy contributions to the development of athletics, cycling and football in Senegal. He was President of the national federation of the latter sport from 1964 to 1969. Now over seventy years old, he continues to practise tennis regularly and passionately.

Dr. Iba Mar Diop

A doctor, founder-member of the SOC and its Vice-President since 1969, Dr. Diop is a successful teacher and coordinator of sports medicine at the Dakar Department of Medicine.

Keba M'Baye

IOC member for Senegal since 1973 (see *Olympic Review No. 72-73*, page 480), he has been President of the Supreme Court of Senegal since 1964, and is recognised as one of the most eminent jurists of his time.

Senegalese sport has very quickly benefitted from the qualities of this figure, since Mr. Keba M'Baye took part in the creation of the SOC. In 1963, he held the authoritative post of Secretary General of the Friendship Games. He continues to be Vice-President of the SOC, which is very proud of his presence.

Papa Gallo Thiam

Secretary General of the SOC since 1973, having previously been assistant Secretary General. This former athlete and several times French record holder in high jump, combines his attributes as international athlete with those of a most ardent administrator. He was leader of the Senegalese delegation in Munich. He took over the post of Secretary General, following Messrs. Oumar Diouf, Bachouri Cisse and Abdoulaye Sar in this post.