

# Tunisia and Olympism

*"We are going to increase our enthusiasm and vigilance so that the Olympic ideal, so masterly taught by Pierre de Coubertin, may triumph in Tunisia, in Africa and in the whole world, and so that, through sport, present and future generations may blossom out physically and morally in a world reconciled with his values."*

Mohamed Mzali, 8th November 1965

## TUNISIA

63,360 sq. miles (155,830 sq. km.)

5,445,700 inhabitants,



## TUNISIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (TOC)

Founded on 27th May 1957.

Recognised by the IOC on 23rd September 1957.

*President in office:* Mohamed Mzali\*.

*Secretary General in office:* Slaheddine Baly\*.

*Address:* 2 bis, Rue Pierre de Coubertin, Tunis.

*Telephone:* 25 86 63.

\* See biographical notes.

## Role of the TOC

To preserve and spread the Olympic spirit and amateurism as expressed by the IOC;

- in conjunction with the competent authorities, to be responsible for Tunisia's representation at the Olympic Games;
- to celebrate annually the National Olympic Day;
- to make sure that the athletes or its members fulfil the amateur code as set forth by the IOC and the IFs.

## Creation

After Independence (20th March 1956) the Tunisian Government replaced the Sports Leagues dependent on the French Sports Federations by National Tunisian Federations.

Shortly afterwards the Tunisian Athletics Federation, extremely interested in the creation of an NOC, took the initiative in calling the Federations together in order to achieve this project. The first Vice-President/Secretary General of this Federation, Mr. Mustapha Traya, also Secretary of the Supreme Sports Council, made the customary approaches to the chancellery of the IOC.

There was a succession of meetings in the following year. A final agreement was reached on 20th May, and seven days later the representatives of 17 Federations<sup>1</sup>, under the chairmanship

<sup>1</sup> **Federations present:** aeronautics, athletics, baseball, basketball, boules, boxing, cycling, fencing, football, gymnastics, weightlifting, handball, swimming, modern pentathlon, aquatic sports, tennis and volleyball.



*Mr. Habib Bourguiba, President of the Tunisian Republic, talking to Mr. Mohamed Mzali (right).*

of the senior member, Dr. Chedly Zouiten\*, adopted the statutes of the NOC and elected the first Executive Board.

The NOC was recognised by the IOC at its 1957 Session at Sofia. Thus Tunisian sport entered the international sphere.

### **First Executive Board**

*PT:* Mr. Mohamed Ben Abdelkader\*; *VPTs:* Messrs. Abdelmelek Ben Achour, Mahmoud Bedir, Mégid Ben Amor; *SG:* Mr. Mustapha Traya; *T:* Mr. Mongi Khaznadar.

Since 1958 the headquarters of the Tunisian Olympic Committee have been at 2 bis of the former rue de Strasbourg, renamed upon the proposal of Mr. Mohamed Mzali, then Vice-President of the Municipality of Tunis, "Rue Pierre de Coubertin", a name every NOC envies. The name-plate was fixed on the 1964 National Olympic Day.

### **IOC members for Tunisia**

Mr. Mohamed Mzali\* since 1965.

\* See biographical notes.

### **Successive Presidents of the TOC**

1957-1960: Mr. Mohamed Ben Abdelkader\*.

1960-1962: Dr. Chedly Zouiten\*.

1962 onwards: Mr. Mohamed Mzali\*.

Col. Slaheddine Baly\* has been Secretary General since 1960, succeeding Mr. Mustapha Traya (1957-1959) and Col. Hassine Hamouda (1959-1960). The latter acted as chef de mission of the first Tunisian Olympic delegation in 1960. Mr. Fouad Mbazaa\*, Minister of Youth and Sports, was co-opted in 1972 as member of the Tunisian Olympic Committee, well before becoming Minister of Youth and Sports, on account of his services to sport.

### **TUNISIA AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES**

#### **Date of first participation: 1960**

Since then Tunisian athletes have been faithful to the four-yearly Olympic rendez-vous except for the Winter Games, to which no athlete has ever been sent.

*1964 - Tokyo: Colonel Slaheddine Baly, Secretary General of the TOC, ensign for the Tunisian delegation.*



## Tunisian representation at the Olympic Games from 1960 to 1972<sup>1</sup>

	Athletics	Boxing	Cycling	Fencing	Football	Handball	Judo	Wrestling	Modern pentathlon	Shooting	Volleyball	Total
1960	9	5	4	4	13	●	●	0	3	2	●	40
1964	6	2	0	0	0	●	1	0	0	0	0	9
1968	3	4	0	0	0	●	●	0	0	0	0	7
1972	6	5	0	0	0	17	0	2	0	0	14	44

<sup>1</sup> No female athlete is included in these teams.

● Not on the programme.

### Tunisian Olympic Champions

The 1968 Olympic champion in the 5,000 metres, Mohamed Gamoudi, born in 1938, entered Tunisian sports history—he was Tunisia's first Olympic medallist when he came second in the 10,000 metres in 1964 in Tokyo, a few days before his compatriot, Habib



*Mohamed Gamoudi*



*Habib Galhia*

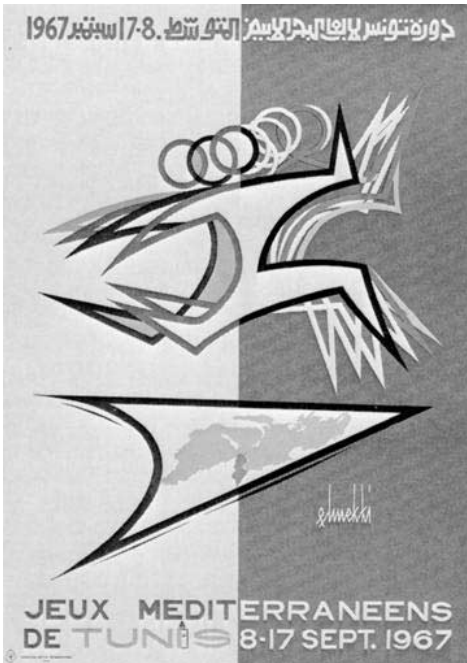
Galhia, the light-welterweight boxer, took the bronze medal; four years later Mr. Gamoudi finished third in the 10,000 metres in Mexico before taking his third Olympic medal, the gold, in the 5,000 metres.

### Participation in other events

In accordance with the principle of "presence" adopted in the country's relations with the outside world, and taking into account the fact that there is "no progress without participation", Tunisia has taken part in many friendly and official international meetings such as the Mediterranean Games in Beirut (1959) and Naples (1963), the Friendship Games in Dakar (1963), the 1st and 2nd African Games at Brazzaville (1965) and Lagos (1973), and the first Maugrabin University Games in Algiers (1968).

### Organisation of games

Tunisia not only organised the 5th Mediterranean Games in September 1967 but also a world military boxing championship (CISM) in 1965, the 3rd African basketball championships (April 1965), the 5th African Nations' football cup (1965), the African volleyball championships (1967), the pre-Olympic (Africa group) handball tournament in March 1972, the first Pan African festival of youth and sports (July 1973), the 2nd Maugrabin University Games (July



1970), the 5th African ladies' basketball championships (December 1974) and two cross-country world championships in 1969 and 1972.



*Tunis 1967: opening of the Mediterranean Games - Mr. Mohamed Mzali accompanied by Sheik Gabriel Gemayel, President of the International Committee for the Mediterranean Games and IOC member for the Lebanon; in the background from left to right are the Vice-Presidents of the ICMG, Mr. Epaminondas Petralias (Greece), Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC member for Spain and Mr. Ahmed D. Touny, IOC member for Egypt.*

## PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE TOC

The extraordinary assembly of 2nd December 1960 adopted the statutes at present in force.

### ● Composition

The TOC includes a representative of each national federation properly affiliated to an IF recognised by the IOC, i.e. 22 members, plus one member of the IOC and six co-opted members.

### ● Meetings

A plenary meeting of the members is held in principle every three months. Resolutions are adopted by an absolute majority of the voters, each member having one vote, and by a relative majority in the following round.

### ● The Executive Board

The Board is composed of seven members elected every four years within the three months following the close of the Olympic Games. At its monthly meetings it takes care of the administration of the TOC subject to the assembly's ratifications.

### ● Members of the present Executive Board:

*PT:* Mr. Mohamed Mzali\*, member of the IOC Executive Board; *VPTs:* Lt. Col. Mohamed Salah Mokeddem (Presi-



*Messrs. Mohamed Mzali, Fouad Mbazaa and Colonel Slaheddine Baly.*

dent of the Tunisian Fencing Federation); Mr. Amor Msadek (President of the Tunisian Boxing Federation); Dr. Ridha Mrad (President of the Tunisian Athletics Federation); *SG*: Mr. Slaheddine Baly\* (President of the Tunisian Aquatic Sports Federation); *Asst. SG*: Mr. Moncef Halouani (President of the Tunisian Gymnastics Federation); *TG*: Mr. Abdelhamid M'layeh (President of the Tunisian Handball Federation); *Administrative Secretary*: Mr. Khemais Boughezala from 1962 onwards.

### ● Co-opted members

Mr. Fouad Mbazaa\*, Minister of Youth and Sports; Mr. Mahmoud Chehata, Director of Physical Education and Sports; Colonel Hassine Hamouda, former Secretary General of the TOC; Mr. Adel Saada, former Vice-President of the TOC and Secretary General of the Tunisian Athletics Federation; Mr.

Hassine Harrouch, former President of the Tunisian Basketball Federation and former Treasurer General of the TOC; Mr. Habib Ben Ammar, former Vice-President of the TOC and President of the Tunisian Equestrian and Shooting Federations.

### ● Financing of the TOC

The resources are ensured by members' subscriptions (5 dinars p.a. since 1960); a modest tax levied by the affiliated federations on entry tickets to the stadia (Olympic stamp of 0,d 010 millimes), a symbolic amount also accepted since 1960 by all the federations; liberalities; donations; bequests; proceeds of public collections authorised in accordance with the legislation in force; and a government grant enabling the TOC to take on the cost of Tunisia's participation in the Olympic Games and Regional Games.

### Federations affiliated to the TOC

Federations	Year of affiliation	Recognised by IF in	1960	Members in 1968	1973
Athletics	1957	1957	428	1,333	1,843
Basketball	1957	1956	1,590	1,840	2,290
Boxing	1957	1957	276	321	285
Cycling	1957	1960	72	63	46
Equestrian	1960	1960	40	60	81
Fencing	1957	1956	216	153	410
Football	1957	1958	5,032	10,695	10,721
Gymnastics	1957	1959	433	452	376
Weightlifting	1957	1967	260	324	439
Handball	1957	1962	1,350	4,020	4,105
Judo	1961	1962	210	460	465
Wrestling	1966	1966	180	269	370
Swimming	1957	1956	380	962	1,048
Modern pentathlon	1957	1960	30	50	110
Shooting	1960	1960	30	35	30
Volleyball	1957	1957	850	1,450	2,013
Aquatic sports	1957	1960	40	130	220
Rugby	1970	1972	—	—	271
Lawn Tennis	1957	1960	29	215	195
Table-tennis	1957	1968	30	161	290
Boules and Pétanques	1957	1960	150	593	602
Chess	1956	1957	500	739	887
Aeronautics	1959	1966	33	27	29

## THE TOC AND OLYMPISM

### ● IOC meeting in Tunisia

While no IOC Session has so far been held in Tunis, the Executive Board was due to meet there from 20th to 22nd February 1975.

### ● Olympic Day

A law signed on 8th May 1959 by the Head of State, President Habib Bourguiba, foresees a National Olympic Day fixed on the third Sunday in May. Since then the celebration of this day has consisted of a ceremonial placing Tunisia among the nations giving Olympism its true value. As Colonel Baly\*, Secretary General of the TOC, states, *"Beyond the competitions, the efforts made and their results, the celebration of the national Olympic day is incontestably a method of instruction, education and promotion of man."*



In addition, on the same date the TOC was authorised to appeal to public generosity in support of Tunisian representation in the Olympic and Regional Games.

### ● International Olympic Academy

Apart from the participation of two students (one male, one female) at the 6th Session in 1966, the TOC has so far only slightly collaborated with the IOA.

### ● Protection of the Olympic emblems

A law signed on 7th November 1959 and published in the Tunisian Republic's Official Gazette of 17th-20th November forbids the use of the Olympic terms and emblems as well as their permanent or temporary display. A decree published a few days later stated that the TOC alone was entitled to use them.

### ● Publication of the TOC

The first edition of the Tunisian NOC's newsletter appeared in May 1974.

### ● Tunisian Olympic Bibliography

Among the Olympic and sports works published in Tunisia let us mention the brochure *"The role of sport in the battle against under-development"* presenting an important speech by President Habib Bourguiba in which he retraces the Olympic ideal (published by the Department of State for Information, Tunis, 1960).

The TOC has also collaborated to varying degrees on sports publications, particularly on "l'Almanach des Sports" and a book on the Olympic champion Gamoudi.

## TUNISIANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

Mr. Mahmoud Chehata, Vice-President of the SCSA; Mr. Ahmed Zouiten\*, member of the CCA of the FIFA; Mr. Taieb Houichi, Vice-President of the AIBA and President of the African Boxing Board; Mr. Slaheddine Baly\*, head of the liaison office for Africa, ex officio member of the Conseil International du Sport Militaire; Mr. Hassine Hamouda, Secretary General of the African Boxing Union and member of the World Boxing Council (WBC); Mr. Chedly Zouiten\*, President of the African and Madagascan Volleyball Confederation; Mr. Hassine Harrouch, Vice-President of the AFABA; Mr. Abderazak Ben Zakour, Commission member of the FIE.

## SPORT IN TUNISIA

### ● State aid for the sports movement

Created in the wake of independence by a decree of 21st June 1956, the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports was given a two-fold mission—the establishment of a structured and completely Tunisified administration, and the conception and application of every measure able to develop and popularise sport and make it the instrument of a “permanent and integral education” of youth.

The conception of sport in Tunisia is such that the Tunisian Government's sports policy is particularly oriented towards the educational aspect. For this reason major interest is given to young people who represent over 50% of the country's total population, and the policy of “sport for all” has been adopted without however neglecting “elite” sport, i.e. the most talented athletes in every discipline who one day will be called to represent Tunisia on an international level.

All this has encouraged the sports authorities to build and enlarge their sports installations—sports complexes, stadia, swimming pools, indoor halls, etc.

### ● Other leading sports bodies

Within the framework of the national sports policy and with the assistance of the guardian administration, the sports associations and federations are responsible for propagating sport and organising every form of sports activity.

### ● Sport in school

Sports activities are organised according to an annual initiation and competition programme through the sports associations created in every teaching establishment (primary, intermediary, technical, secondary and higher). School and university sports are considered as the basis and foundation of the complete edifice of Tunisian sport.

	<i>Hours per week Competition Initiation</i>		
Primary	3 h.	2 h.	3 h.
Intermediary	2 h.	2 h.	3 h.
Technical	2 h.	2 h.	3 h.
Secondary	3 h.	2 h.	3 h.
Higher	2 h.	—	3 h.

### ● The formation of sports leaders

All physical education and sports teachers attend the *National Sports Institute* (INS). Founded on 10th January 1957, the INS, having a continental vocation, has continually grown to become one of the leading sports colleges in Africa today. It is composed of four sections:

1. training school for assistant physical education teachers, for future inter-

mediate, technical and secondary schools;

2. training school for physical education teachers for primary schools;
3. national school for trainers (sports administrators);
4. trainers' instruction school (elite).

In addition the Direction of Physical Education and Sport, in collaboration with the National Federations, takes care of the instruction and training of administrators, trainers and judges at every level (periodic courses).

### ● Sports installations in Tunisia

A national installations plan for youth and sports, drawn up in 1960, has enabled the whole country to be provided with a vast network of sports installations. Within the framework of Tunisia's ten-year development plan (1962-1972), 7 million dinars (45 million Swiss francs) have been allocated for national sports infrastructure.

The *Cité Nationale Sportive de Tunis* has a sports palace (6,500 seats), a 45,000 seat stadium, and a 5,000 seat aquatic stadium (Olympic pool, diving pool, three indoor pools).

### *Municipal statistics*

	1956	1965	1972
Athletics grounds	7	33	42
Football grounds	49	101	126
Gymnasia	9	33	65
Swimmings pools	6	14	21
Basketball, volleyball, handball pitches	90	206	322

### ● Number of practising athletes

The number of civil sports association members has increased from 11,461 in 1956 to 16,250 in 1965 and 26,441 in 1973, while that of school and university sports association members from 2,282 in 1956 to 16,759 in 1965 and 27,897 in 1973.

### ● Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football, volleyball, handball, boxing and basketball.

### ● Sports experiencing the greatest developments

Football and handball.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

### Mohamed Ben Abdelkader

First President of the Tunisian Olympic Committee from 1957 to 1960. Born in Tunis on 13th February 1912. Administrator, former Secretary General of the Tunisian Officials' Federation, former President of the Tunisian Boxing Federation, he became President of the TOC from its creation and was responsible for Tunisia's first participation in the Olympic Games in 1960.



*The sports palace in Tunis*

## **Dr. Chedly Zouiten**

Dental surgeon, President of Tunisia's Senior Club, President of the first Tunisian Football Federation, President of the TOC from 1960 to 1962 (died 3rd August 1963).

## **Slaheddine Baly**

Secretary General of the Tunisian Olympic Committee from 1960 to date, during which time he has also occupied various functions within several national federations (equestrian sports, boxing, modern pentathlon, aquatic sports). He was Treasurer of the Organising Committee for the Mediterranean Games at Tunis in 1967.

## **Mohamed Mzali**

Member of the IOC for Tunisia since 1965, President of the Tunisian Olympic Committee since 1962. Born on 23rd December 1925 at Monastir. After philosophical studies he turned at an early age towards a political career. Rapidly becoming a Member of Parliament in 1959, he was called to higher functions—director-general of radio and television, Minister of National Defense, of Youth and Sport, of National Education, and since 1973 of Public Health. A humanist he is still founder-director of *Al Fikr* (Thought), the cultural review created 20 years ago (October 1955), and President of the Tunisian Writers' Union. In turn responsible for sport in the city of Tunis (1960), President of the Tunisian Football Federation (1962), Director of Youth and Sports (1959-1964), he has unceasingly upheld an educational sports policy. Unanimously elected President of the Tunisian NOC in 1962,

re-elected in December 1972, the IOC summoned him in 1965 and he became its first member for Tunisia. His contribution has been undeniable in the Session as well as in the Press Commission (1967-1972) and the Information and Culture Commission (1973). Mr. Mzali was elected to the IOC Executive Board in 1973 for a term of four years. He was President of the Organising Committee for the Mediterranean Games in Tunis in 1967.

## **Fouad Mbazaa**

Minister of Youth and Sport. Born on 16th June 1933 in Tunis. Finishing his secondary studies at the Sadiki College he went to France where he graduated in law and economic sciences.

Returning to Tunis he was appointed Cabinet attaché to the Secretariat of State for Public Health, after which he occupied the position of Cabinet head for the Secretariat of State for Agriculture. In November 1964 he became Director of Youth and Sports until July 1965 when he was appointed to the "Sûreté Nationale". In October 1967 Mr. Mbazaa was re-appointed Director of Youth and Sports. In September 1969 he became Governor-Mayor of Tunis, and since November 1973 he has been Minister of Youth and Sports. From 1961 to 1964 he was a member of the Supreme Committee for Youth. He was President of the Tunisian Football Federation from 1964 to 1965, and in 1972 was co-opted as a member of the Tunisian Olympic Committee.



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