

Iraq and Olympism

“The Iraqi National Olympic Committee has taken up the responsibility of promoting and spreading the Olympic movement and principles all over the country since 1948 and has always exerted every effort towards this goal. The Committee fully believes that the most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part... just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle and that the essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.”

Iraqi National Olympic Committee, 1975

IRAQ

162,240 square miles.

9,477,146 inhabitants.



IRAQI NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (INOC)

Founded in 1948.

Recognised by the IOC in 1948.

President in office: Mr. Naeem Haddad*.

Secretary General in office: Major General Adil Sulaiman*.

Address: P.O. Box 441, Baghdad, Iraq.

Telephone: 98717, 96838 and 97454.

Cable: IROC, Baghdad.

* See biographical notes.

Role of the INOC

Appointed by a law of the Republic of Iraq as the highest sports organisation in the country, the INOC has the following tasks:

- control of the national civil sports movement;
- promotion of the Olympic movement and protection of the principles and foundations of Olympism and amateurism;
- encouragement of all the national sports federations by giving them moral, material and technical assistance.

Creation

The representatives of six national federations (athletics, basketball, boxing, football, weightlifting and wrestling), under the leadership of Ubaid Abdullah al-Mudhayifi who was made President, set up an NOC at the beginning of 1948 in order to assure the participation of Iraqi sportsmen at the Olympic Games in London.

Successive Presidents of the INOC

1948-1958: Ubaid Abdullah al-Mudhayifi.

1956-1962: Akram Fahmi.

1962-1970: Ismail Irzouki.

1970-1973: Saleh Mehdi Ammash.

1973-1974: Adnan Ayyoub Sabri al-Izzi.

Since 1974: Naeem Haddad*.

IRAQ AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Date of first participation: 1948.

Iraqi Olympic Medallists

The lightweight weightlifter Abdul Wahid Aziz (3rd at Rome in 1960) appears in the sports history of his country as the most successful Olympic participant.



1960 - Abdul Wahid Aziz

Representation of Iraq at the Olympic Games from 1948 to 1952*

	Athletics	Basketball	Boxing	Cycling	Weightlifting	Wrestling	Total
1948	2	10	—	—	—	—	12
1960	11	—	2	2	5	1	21
1964	4	—	2	—	7	—	13
1968	—	—	—	1	1	1	3
1972	—	—	—	—	—	—	0

* The NOC has not entered any Iraqi sportswomen in the Olympic Games nor a team for the Winter Games.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE INOC

● Composition

The INOC is made up of the Presidents of the national sports federations and an elected representative from each of the following five Ministries: Youth, Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Defence and the Interior.



1964 - Tokyo: the Iraqi delegation

● Meetings

The assembly meets in September every year to review the activities of the Executive Board, to adopt the budget, etc.

● *The Executive Board*, elected by the assembly from its own members, consists of thirteen members; these elect a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary General, an Assistant Secretary General and a Treasurer. An ordinary meeting is held every month.

● Present members of the Executive Board:

PT: Mr. Naeem Haddad*; *First VPT:* Mr. Akram Fahmi; *Second VPT:* (Vacant - to be elected soon); *SG:* Ret. Major General Adil Sulaiman*; *T:* Mr. Shawqi Abboud Ahmed; *Members:* Mr.



1975 - Members of the Executive Board: Messrs. Ismail al-Hadithi, Hameed al-Hamdani, Major General Adil Sulaiman (Secretary General), Messrs. Naeem Haddad (President), Suhail M. Saleh, Shawqi Abboud Ahmed, Salman Mehdi al-Ubaidi (from left to right).

Suhail Mohammed Saleh, Mr. Hameed al-Hamdani, Brig. Fahmi al-Qaimaqchi, Brig. Nash'at Mahir al-Salman, Dr. Ameer Ismail Haqqi, Mr. Salman Mehdi al-Ubaidi, Mr. Ismail al-Hadithi, (one more member post vacant - to be elected soon).

● **Financing of the INOC**

The State provides the greatest financial contribution. Gifts and donations approved by the Executive Board complete the budget.

* See biographical notes.

● **Federations affiliated to the INOC**

<i>14 Olympic federations...</i>	<i>Dates of affiliation to the NOC</i>	<i>IF</i>	<i>Members in 1972</i>
Athletics	1948	1951	
Basketball	1948	1948	
Boxing	1948	1957	
Cycling	1956	1970	
Equestrian	1974	1974	
Fencing	1974		
Football	1948	1950	
Gymnastics	1974	1974	
Handball	1948	1974	
Shooting	1974	1974	
Swimming	1957	1960	
Weightlifting and Body-building	1948	1952	
Wrestling	1948	1956	
Volleyball	1965	1959	

... and the federations of table tennis, tennis and badminton.

THE INOC AND OLYMPISM

● **Olympic Day**

This has not yet been celebrated, but it is being taken into consideration.

● **International Olympic Academy**

Five Iraqis took part in the discussions of the International Olympic Academy Sessions of 1971 and 1974.

● **Protection of the Olympic emblems**

An NOC circular forbids the use of these emblems by all commercial businesses. Sports institutions, however, must first obtain the NOC's approval.

The Ministry for Trade and the Economy is at present studying a bill to assure juridical protection.

- **Publications of the NOC**

Since 1971, the NOC has been publishing a bulletin in Arabic, which is circulated throughout the country.

SPORT IN IRAQ

- **State aid for the sports movement**

Through its subsidy to the NOC, which shares it with the national federations, the State plays a major role in the sports activities of the nation.

- **The formation of sports leaders**

The College of Physical Education, and the Ministry of Youth and the Armed Forces, are the main sources where sports leaders and trainers receive their education and are helped to utilise their knowledge and efforts in various sports fields and to offer their directives to the new generation.

- **Sport at school**

Various sports and games are exercised widely in elementary, intermediate and secondary schools, as well as in the universities, such as football, basketball, volleyball, track and field, gymnastics, handball and fencing. A member has been selected from the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for sport in the above schools, and from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, which is responsible for sport in the universities, as representatives on the Executive Board for coordination purposes. The two ministries help tremendously in spreading Olympism among the students.

- **Sports installations**

There are ten stadia in the country (two of them are being fitted with tartan tracks), four 50 m. swimming pools, two gymnasia are currently under construction (each with a capacity of 3000). Special designs were laid out for the construction

of closed halls and swimming pools by the Ministry of Youth for use by all Sports Federations and the general public. The design for a complete sports city is also being prepared by the Armed Forces.

- **Sports which draw the biggest crowds**

Football and wrestling.

- **Sports experiencing the greatest developments**

Weightlifting and basketball.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Naeem Haddad

President of the Iraqi NOC since 1974. Born in 1933, Mr. Haddad was brought up to be very energetic and highly interested in sports and youth affairs. Upon taking his new responsibility, he made assurances to promote the Olympic movement in general and use his efforts to the best of his ability for the expansion of sports activities and spirit among the youth and younger generation in particular. Mr. Haddad has recently been appointed Minister of Youth in Iraq.

Major General Adil Sulaiman

Secretary General of the Iraqi NOC since 1973. Born in 1919, he devoted the greater part of his military career to the promotion of sport. Very quickly, his qualities as an organiser and leader brought him various responsibilities: President of the Football Federation in Basrah (1955), Vice-President of the Athletics Federation (1959), Chief of the Iraqi delegation to the CISM (1963), Director of the Army Physical Training School (1963), Director of Army Sports (1970). Member of the Iraqi NOC since 1961, he became Vice-President (1963) and Treasurer (1970).



CITIUS-ALTIUS-FORTIUS