

Liechtenstein and Olympism

"Let us emphasise the fact that the Olympic Games constitute a unique international festival enabling the whole world to meet peacefully every four years."

Baron Eduard von Falz-Fein, 1959

LIECHTENSTEIN (Principality of)

160 sq.km.

24,000 inhabitants as at 1st May 1976, of whom 13,000 are citizens of the country.



OLYMPISCHES KOMITEE FÜR DAS FÜRSTENTUM LIECHTENSTEIN

(Olympic Committee of the Principality of Liechtenstein) - LOC

Founded in 1935.

Recognised by the IOC in 1935.

President in office: Dr. Peter Ritter*.

Secretary General in office: Baron Eduard von Falz-Fein*.

Address: Städtle 22, 9490 Vaduz.

Telephone: (025) 2 14 44.

Cable address: Olympisches Komitee, Vaduz.

Telex: 77815.

Role of the LOC

- To control, represent and spread the Olympic movement in Liechtenstein.
- To take part in the sports development of the inhabitants of the Principality in co-operation with all the sports bodies.
- To ensure the participation of a delegation at the Olympic Games, the Winter Games and other events of an Olympic nature.

Creation

Sport first made its appearance in the Principality with the foundation of a gymnastics club in 1886. The local newspaper reported on it as follows: *"A gymnastics society has just been founded. Its aim is to form, through appropriate exercises, an agile team capable of becoming an efficient body of firemen."* Much later, in 1920, when football was widely practised but lacking organisation, a more structured club developed. A few more years were to go by before football clubs and other sports clubs became widespread. In 1935 a National Olympic Committee was founded so that the Principality could participate the following year in the Winter Games at Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the celebration of the XIth Olympiad in Berlin. This creation was the work of Alexander Frick and Baron Woldemar von Falz-Fein, supported by his nephew Eduard, the present Secretary General of the LOC.

* See biographical notes.



HSH Prince Regnant
Franz-Joseph II



Hans Ritter



Dr Peter Ritter

LIECHTENSTEIN AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Date of first participation: 1936 (at Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Berlin).

In the recent book “*Skisport in Liechtenstein*”, the authors Peter Goop and Klaus Schulz state on page 180:

The federations of football, cycling, gymnastics, skiing, luge and bobsleigh, shooting and athletics took part right from the start in this Olympic adventure.

The reigning family showed interest in the creation and life of the Committee, particularly the future Prince Regnant Franz-Joseph II * who was to enter the IOC in 1936 and give his firm and faithful support to both national and universal Olympism. For almost a quarter of a century Hans Ritter presided over the destinies of the NOC, and Dr. Peter Ritter* has in his turn fulfilled this office with vitality and equal success since 1971.

IOC members for Liechtenstein

H.S.H. Prince Regnant Franz-Joseph II of Liechtenstein* since 1936.

Successive Presidents of the LOC

1935: Alexander Frick.

1936-1960: Hans Ritter.

1961-1970: Xaver Frick.

Since 1971: Dr. Peter Ritter*.

“In the mid-thirties some Liechtenstein pioneers began to become acquainted with a new form of sport which they had seen on Swiss frontier guards: skiing. At that time the Alps were not accessible, all the more since one still believed in ghosts haunting the valleys during the winter months. The first attempts at skiing soon attracted the attention of Baron Eduard von Falz-Fein who, thanks to his initiative, may be regarded as one of the founders of sport in Liechtenstein. It was his idea in 1935 to send Liechtenstein competitors to the Olympic Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. This however required the foundation of a National Olympic Committee, which was less of a problem for Baron Falz-Fein than the selection of the competitors. He set out for Triesenberg and asked the mayor whether he knew of some good skiers. The mayor proposed two young men who surpassed all other ski-runners at that time. These two—Hubert Nägele and Franz Schädler—were finally sent to Garmisch-Partenkirchen in order to represent Liechtenstein, in which they brilliantly succeeded.”



Franz Schädler and Hubert Nägele.

Representation of Liechtenstein at the Winter Games from 1936 to 1976¹

| | Bobsleigh | Luge | Skiing | Total |
|------|-----------|------|--------|-------|
| 1936 | 2 | ● | 2 | 4 |
| 1948 | | ● | 10 | 10 |
| 1952 | | ● | | 0 |
| 1956 | 2 | ● | 6 | 8 |
| 1960 | ● | ● | 3 | 3 |
| 1964 | | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 1968 | | 3 | 6(1) | 9(1) |
| 1972 | | 1 | 3(1) | 4(1) |
| 1976 | | 3 | 6(3) | 9(3) |

Representation of Liechtenstein at the Olympic Games from 1936 to 1976¹

| | Athletics | Cycling | Gymnastics | Judo | Shooting | Total |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|------------|------|----------|-------|
| 1936 | 2 | 1 | | | 3 | 6 |
| 1948 | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 1952 | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| 1956 | | | | | | 0 |
| 1960 | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 5 |
| 1964 | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 1968 | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| 1972 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| 1976 ² | 3 | | | 3 | | 6 |

● Olympic medallists

At Innsbruck in 1976 the alpine skiers Hanny Wenzel and Willy Frommelt both won the bronze medal in the special slalom.

¹ The figures in brackets, represent the number of women included in the first figure.

² Estimate.

● Not included on the programme.



Willy Frommelt and Hanny Wenzel.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE LOC

- *Composition*

The LOC is composed of the IOC member for Liechtenstein, the delegates of each national sports federation affiliated to an International Federation recognised by the IOC and the LOC, the members of the NOC's executive council and five (at the most) members.

- *The general assembly is annual.*

- *The executive council, elected for four years by the general assembly, meets about ten times a year.*

- *Present members of the executive council: PT: Dr. Peter Ritter*; VPT and SG: Baron Eduard von Falz-Fein*; T: Mr. Ernst Gassner; M: Messrs. Rudolf Schädler (skiing), Gebhard Hoch (football), Bruno Meyerhans (judo), Louis Oehri (cycling), Rudi Matt (athletics and gymnastics), Leo Hoch (shooting) and Franz Schädler (luge).*

- **Financing of the LOC**

The LOC's income is composed of a governmental subsidy, gifts and bequests received to help the activities of the NOC.

Olympic federations affiliated to the LOC

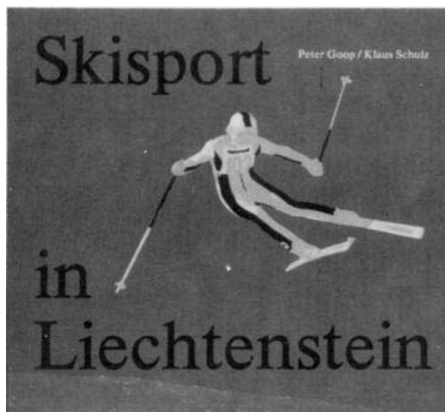
| | Creation | Affiliation to the IF | Members in 1976 |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Athletics and gymnastics | 1936 | 1936 | 1073 |
| Cycling | 1965 | 1972 | 180 |
| Equestrian | 1967 | — | 55 |
| Football | 1936 | — | 1180 |
| Judo | 1973 | — | 355 |
| Luge | 1950 | 1952 | 53 |
| Skiing | 1936 | 1949 | 1075 |
| Shooting | 1974 | — | 429 |

THE LOC AND OLYMPISM

- *The protection of the Olympic emblems is ensured by a law passed by the Diet in 1964.*

- **Olympic bibliography**

Although the NOC has not as yet brought out any publications, let us however note the appearance in 1976 of a book retracing the history of the participation of Liechtenstein's skiers in the Winter Games. Written in German by Peter Goop and Klaus Schulz, this book is called "Skisport in Liechtenstein" (published by Atelier Oehri, Vaduz).



- **International Olympic Academy**

So far the LOC has not participated.

LIECHTENSTEIN AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

Baron Eduard von Falz-Fein* has been Treasurer of the Fédération Internationale de Luge de Course since 1968, while Mr. Rudolf Schädler takes an active part in the work of the Fédération Internationale de Ski.



Baron Eduard von Falz-Fein

SPORT IN LIECHTENSTEIN

● Other sports governing bodies

The "*Landessportverband*" (National Sports Association), founded in 1935, groups together and governs all the federations.

The "*Sportbeirat*" (Sports Advisory Board), founded in 1964, is composed of five members appointed by the government, of which two must be officials of the Landessportverband. The tasks of this body are to:

- advise the government on sports matters;
- advise the leaders of the sports societies;
- administer the sports fund;
- control the money made available by the government.

The sports fund amounts to Fr. 400,000 (1976) and has been fixed by the Diet. This sum is distributed as follows:

- Fr. 50,000.— : school sport;
- Fr. 95,000.— : youth and sport;
- Fr. 155,000.— : national sports federations;
- Fr. 26,000.— : NOC (in the Olympic year, half in other years);
- Fr. 33,000.— : Landessportverband (National Sports Association);
- Fr. 14,000.— : competition sport;
- Fr. 27,000.— : miscellaneous.

In the past the government used to grant subsidies but they were more modest.

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* *

The "*Sporthilfe*" (Sport Aid) will be created by the end of 1976 on the same basis as in neighbouring countries.

● State aid for the sports movement

For a long time the government has subsidised the sports grounds and their installations. First of all the percentage was 30% and now it is 50% if the sports installations are also used for school sport. The subsidies are given to the communes which, according to law, are responsible for sports equipment. The amount of money devoted to sport by the government appears to be one of the highest in the world in relation to the number of inhabitants.

● *The training of sports leaders* is undertaken solely by the federations.

● Sport at school

Schoolchildren under ten practise gymnastics for two hours a week and those over ten for three hours.

● Sports installations

Since 1938 the capital Vaduz has had a football ground and an athletics centre. In recent years sports grounds and gymnastics halls have been installed in most communes. All the municipal football clubs now have a ground. The Schaan, Triesen, Balzers and Eschen grounds are bordered by a 400 m. track. Other football grounds were installed at Ruggell, Schellenberg and Mauren in 1975. Since 1976 four "sport for all" tracks and three mini-golf courses have come into existence. The Principality also has an indoor swimming pool at Balzers, Eschen and Schaan, a small-bore shooting range at Vaduz and a hunting rifle range at Steg, a riding track and five tennis courts. The Malbun winter sports centre (altitude: 1,600 m.) has several ski-lifts to 2200 m.



From left to right: HSH Prince Regnant Franz-Josef II of Liechtenstein, the head of the government Dr. Walter Kieber, Willy Frommelt and Hanny Wenzel, both 3rd in the special slaloms at the XIth Winter Games, and Mr. Rudolph Schädler, President of the Ski Federation and member of the Liechtenstein NOC.

- **Sport drawing the biggest crowds**
Football.

- **Sport experiencing the greatest development**

Skiing.

- **Percentage of practising sportsmen**

In 1976, 70 clubs and 21 federations altogether have 7646 members—considerable figures in relation to the population of the Principality.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Dr. Peter Ritter

President of the Liechtenstein Olympic Committee since 1971 and member of the IOC Olympic Solidarity Commission since 1975.

Born on 10th April 1938, barrister at the Court of Vaduz, he presided the governmental sports board from 1967 to 1969 before administering the Principality's NOC.

H.S.H. Prince Regnant Franz-Joseph II of Liechtenstein

Member of the IOC since 1936.

Born on 16th August 1906, Crown Prince, he encouraged the creation of the NOC of the Principality of Liechtenstein and became member of the IOC in 1936. Prince Regnant since 25th July 1938, he applied himself to protecting and developing the sports movement in the Principality. A regular participant at IOC meetings, the Prince and his wife, Princess Gina of Liechtenstein, are one of the most dedicated and esteemed couples in Olympic circles.

Baron Eduard von Falz-Fein

Co-founder of the Liechtenstein NOC in 1935, and at present its Vice-President and Secretary General. Treasurer of the Fédération Internationale de Luge.

Born on 14th September 1912, skiing enthusiast, pioneer in the development of this sport in Liechtenstein, President of the cycling federation from 1945 to 1974. Cousin of Mr. Erik von Frenckell, IOC member for Finland, he married the daughter of another IOC member, the late Sir Noël Curtis Bennett.