

# Chile and Olympism

*"The ashes of the Games of Olympia burnt on in the heart of a distinguished man, baron Pierre de Coubertin. The grandeur of his inspiration was kindled among sportsmen by the finality of his maxim, "Peace, Concord, Liberty", disseminated, as if sacrosanct, to the ennoblement of sport."*

Ernesto Goycolea Cortés  
Honorary Vice-President of the COCH

## CHILE

756,945 sq. km.

11,000,000 inhabitants (approximately).



## COMITE OLIMPICO DE CHILE

Founded about 1912.

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\* See biographical notes.

## Role of the COCH

- To spread and protect the Olympic movement out of respect for the Olympic Charter and to foster the development of the Olympic spirit.
- To ensure the participation of Chile in the Olympic and Pan-American Games.
- To collaborate with all amateur sports bodies.
- To protect the Olympic emblems.

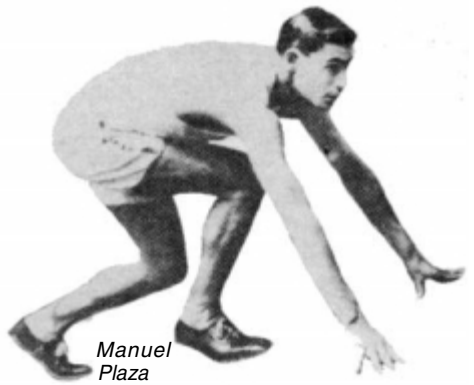
## CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Despite the fact that Luis Subercaseaux, the only representative of South America present at the first Olympic Games of the modern era, was from Chile, the true creation of the Chilean Olympic movement occurred around 1910-11. At the outset of 1911, a few months before the celebration of the Vth Olympiad (Stockholm, 1912), the Chilean National Sports Federation assigned to Professor O. N. Garcia I the responsibility of approaching the IOC with a view to participation by Chile. A few weeks later, in February 1912, he received an invitation to become an IOC member, and accepted. Due largely to his efforts a delegation of 14 competitors went to Stockholm.

It is only since 1942 that the existence of a National Olympic Committee has

been recognised by the government of Chile. By decree N° 144 of 21st January 1942, the Minister of Justice granted legal personality to, and approved the constitution of, a National Sports Council (NSC). Article 17 provided that *"the NSC, without prejudice to the autonomy of the various federations, shall act in the capacity of Chilean Olympic Committee in its international dealings and with regard to the IOC"*.

Later, in article 7 of law N° 17.276 of 7th January 1970, the COCH was recognised by the Supreme Government. In 1975, by virtue of decree N° 253 of 1st April, the COCH became a separate body, entirely independent of the NSC.



Manuel Plaza



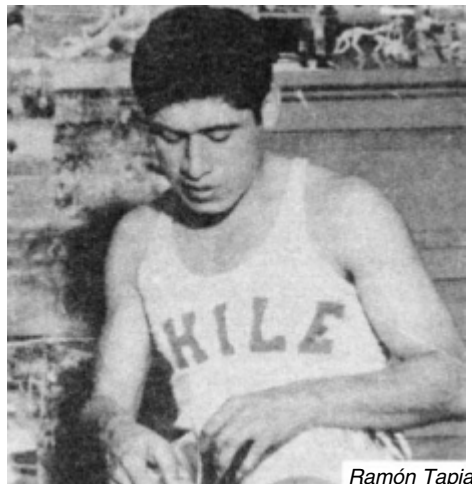
Alejandro Rivera Bascur,  
IOC member



Gustavo Benko Kapuvary,  
President of the COCH

### Successive Presidents of the COCH

- 1934-1936 : Enrique O. Barboza Baeza\*.  
 1936-1937: Jorge Lawrence.  
 1938-1946: Alfredo Rioja Ruiz.  
 1947-1961: Alejandro Rivera Bascur\*.  
 1961-1963: Alfredo Achondo Godoy.  
 1963-1965: Alberto Labra.  
 1965-1973: Sabino Aguad Kunkar.  
 1974-1978: Armando Gellona Ansaldo.  
 1978-1979: Isaac Froimovich (by appointment).  
 1979-1980: Enrique Fontecilla Rojas.  
 Since 1980 : Gustavo Benko Kapuvary\*.



Ramón Tapia

### IOC members in Chile

1. Professor O. N. Garcia\* , from 1912 to 1919.
2. Carlos Silva Vildósola, from 1920 to 1922.
3. Jorge Matte Gormaz, from 1923 to 1928.
4. Alfredo Ewing, from 1929 to 1933.
5. Enrique O. Barbosa Baeza\*, from 1948 to 1952.
6. Alejandro Rivera Bascur\*, since 1955.

## CHILE AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES



1964 - Tokyo :  
The COCH delegation

- **Date of first participation :**  
1896.

From 1912 onwards, Chile has been represented by a delegation of between 6 and 65 competitors at every celebration of the Olympiad except those of 1932, in Los Angeles and 1980, in Moscow. Chile first took part in the Winter Games in 1948.

- **Chilean Olympic Honours**

To date, there has never been an Olympic champion from Chile. Despite this, however, the country has been represented on the winners' stand on several occasions :

- In 1928, by *Miguel Plaza*, 2nd in the marathon.
- In 1952, *Oscar Cristi*, riding "Bambi", was second in both the individual and team jumping events. The other members of the team were *César Mendoza*, on "Pillan" and *Ricardo Echevarria* on "Lindo Real".
- In 1956, in addition to the exploit of *Marlène Ahrons*, who finished second in the women's javelin, Chilean boxers gave brilliant performances. *Ramon Tapia* was only beaten in the final of the middleweight event whilst the bantamweight competitor *Claudio Barriento* and the light heavyweight entry *Carlos Lucas* both won through to their respective semi-finals.

- **Representation of Chile at the Winter Games from 1948 to 1980<sup>1</sup>**

Chilean delegations have been composed exclusively of skiers.

1948	4	1968	6 (2)
1952	3	1972	0
1956	3	1976	6
1960	5	1980	0
1964	5		

<sup>1</sup> The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.



*Maelene Ahrons*

# Representation of Chile at the Olympic Games from 1896 to 1980<sup>1</sup>

	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1896	1	x	●	●	●		x		●		
1900			●	●	●				0 <sup>2</sup>		
1904			0 <sup>2</sup>		●		●		●		
1908			●		●		●				●
1912	6		●	●	●	4	2				●
1920	2		●		●						
1924	3		●	4	●	3		1			
1928	8		●	4	●	5		6	15		
1932			●		●						
1936	10(1)		7	4		4		7			
1948	15(4)		13	5		4		6			
1952	13(2)	1	13			4	9		11		
1956	6(1)	3	11	3		2					
1960	4(1)			3							
1964	4	3		4			1	3			
1968	8(2)			6			3				
1972	2(1)	1		3			3(1)				
1976	1					2		1			
1980											

<sup>1</sup> The figures on brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.

● Not included on the programme.

x Sport included in the programme but in which no event was contested.

<sup>2</sup> Demonstration sport.

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	Handball	Hockey	Judo	Wrestling	Swimming	Modern Pentathlon	Shooting	Archery	Volleyball	Yachting	Total
1896	●	●	●			●		●	●	x	1
1900	●	●	●	●		●			●		0
1904	●	●	●			●	●		●	●	0
1908	●		●			●			●		0
1912	●	●	●				2	●	●		14
1920	●		●						●		2
1924	●	●	●					●	●		11
1928	●		●		2		●	●	●		40
1932	●		●					●	●		0
1936	0 <sup>2</sup>		●		4		3	●	●	1	40(1)
1948	●		●		9	2	4	●	●		55(4)
1952	●		●		1	3	2	●	●		57(2)
1956	●		●		1	3	3	●	●		32(1)
1960	●		●				2	●			9(1)
1964	●					1	3	●			15
1968	●		●				4	●			21(2)
1972							2				11(2)
1976							3				7
1980											0

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## PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE COCH

- *The current constitution* came into force in 1975. It was ratified by the IOC in 1977.

- *composition*

The COCH brings together delegates from 33 national sports federations, 19 of which represent sports on the Olympic programme.

- *The General Assembly* of federation presidents or delegates from member-associations and the IOC member in Chile is convened roughly every two months. It lays down regulations and acts as a supervisory body. Every four years, in the month of January, it elects the members of the Executive Board, the audit commission and arbitration board.

- *The Executive Board* governs, subject to the control of the General Assembly, the sports, administrative and social activities of the COCH. It is made up of eight members. The IOC member in Chile is an ex-officio member and the remaining seven are elected by the General Assembly.

- **Present members of the Executive Board**

*PT* : Gustavo Benko Kapuvary\* ; *VPTs* : Jose Betti Cotal, Jorge Espinosa Ullvoa ; *SG* : Luis H. Villagra Reveco; *T* : Victor

Penso Lazzerini ; *Dir* : Hernán Berti Zentilli and Hernán Haddad and the IOC member in Chile, Mr. Alejandro Rivera Bascur\*.

- *The Arbitration Board* is made up of three elected members. This tribunal is competent to hear all submissions concerning the application of provisions contained in the constitution.

- **COCH Commissions**

Apart from the commissions for finance, international relations, eligibility and rules and regulations, two other commissions are of paramount importance in the structure of the COCH. They are :

- a) *The technical commission* which is the fulcrum and driving force behind the activities of the Committee. The current chairman is Mr. Gustavo Benko Kapuvary. Its function is to inform the Executive Board of all the technical matters necessary for the establishment of activities programmes. It co-ordinates the activities of the various federations in order to promote the development of sport in general. The commission, in consultation with the national federations, draws up the programme for Chile's participation in international competitions. It maintains an index of all sportsmen and women in the country who are up to Olympic standard, etc...
- b) *The audit commission* is made up of three regular and two alternate members. It supervises the use of funds and draws up the financial report presented each year at the general meeting by the Executive Board.

- *The Health Department* enables dentists and specialist doctors to treat sportsmen and women from the 33 affiliated federations and to study nutrition, physiology and psychology in the realm of sport.

## • Federations affiliated to the COCH

Federations governing Olympic sports	Creation	Date IF affiliation	Members			
			1946	1960	1374	1976
Athletics	1913	1913	3 000	5 000	8 000	11 000
Rowing		1948			225	
Basketball		1935	25 000	50 000	65 000	80 000
Boxing		1948			3 000	
Cycling					1 050	
Equestrian	1934	1935	920	1 255	1 450	1 700
Fencing	1932	1936	85	120	170	240
Football	1895	1913	118 270	230 420	316 000	343 695
Gymnastics	1966	1961		600	600	840
Field hockey		1968			870	
Judo			50	1 000	3 000	10 000
Swimming		1920			1 650	
Modern pentathlon and biathlon		av. 1962				
Skiing	1943	1949	1 400	8 000	3 000	15 000
Shooting					850	
Archery						
Volleyball		1959			5 250	
Weightlifting						
Yachting						

and the following non-Olympic federations : mountaineering, auto sport, baseball, bowls, hunting and fishing, underwater sports, golf, motorcycling, polo, rodeo, roller skating, rugby, tennis and table tennis.

## • Assets of the COCH

The COCH has at its disposal :

- A head office housing the administrative, technical and medical services and employing about one hundred persons.
- A spacious, comfortable sports pavilion capable of receiving 50 persons, be they delegations from the provinces or abroad, top-level sportsmen or officials.
- A large building housing, free of charge, the head offices of numerous national sports federations and also two gymnasia open for daily sports activities and seating a large number of spectators.

## • Financing of the COCH

Financing is provided by a percentage of the profits of sports forecasting competitions (Polla Gol) based on football matches held once or twice a week. The sums thus raised are distributed by the head office of the Department of Sport and Recreation.

## • Organisation of International Competitions

Chilean sports officials have shown their organising abilities by staging the football world cup (1962), the Alpine skiing world championships (Portillo, 1965) and the basketball world championships for men (1954) and for women (1960), etc.

## THE COCH AND OLYMPISM

- **Olympic Day**

For several years now, Olympic day has been celebrated regularly throughout the country with various social and sports events.

- **Protection of the Olympic emblems**

By virtue of Article 7 of the law of 7th January 1970, the use of the Olympic emblems is the exclusive right of the COCH, throughout the territory of the Republic.

- **International Olympic Academy**

The COCH lends its support to the IOA. The Director of the COCH, Hernán Muñoz Segura, attended the IOA Session in 1960 and two members of the Executive Board-Guillermo van Schouwen and Enrique Riofrio took part in 1977 and 1978 respectively.

In 1980, Mr. Gusto Benko Kapuvary\*, then First Vice-President of the COCH and President of the Technical Commission, went to Olympia.

In 1981, the COCH sent the President of the National Field Hockey Federation and two Physical Education Instructors to the IOA.

- **The National Olympic Academy**

Following the IOA's example, a National Olympic Academy was created in Chile. Its first was attended by representatives of 29 American countries, including 18 NOC presidents, as well as two IOC members, Messrs. Vallarino Veracierto (URU) and Jose Beracasa A. (VEN), together with presidents and secretary generals of the Chilean sports federations, an athlete and coach from each sports as well as journalists.

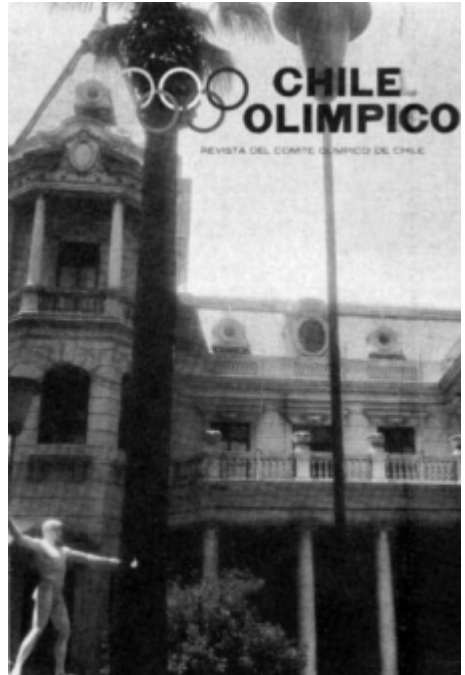
- **COCH Publications**

Since 1977, the COCH has circulated its own magazine, entitled "Chile Olimpico".

## SPORT IN CHILE

- **Other sports governing bodies**

The Physical Education Authority, the first body of its kind to be established in South America, ensures through its exemplary infrastructure, that the rudiments of sport are taught across the country. The authority works closely with the Sport and Recreation Authority (DIEGEDER), responsible for the organi-



sation of sport on a national level. The DIGEDER is divided into five sections: work, school, university, army and rural.

- **Sport at school**

In both state and private schools, particular emphasis is given to physical education and sport.

State schools set aside three to four hours per week for physical education and one half day to sport. In recent years, the growing success of school and university championships has been evidenced by a remarkable increase in those taking part.

Furthermore, an agreement signed by the DIGEDER, the COCH and the Ministry of Education has led to the setting up of a special school for sporting talent. This establishment is for children and adolescents who have shown particular promise in physical activities. The school enables them to give full vent to their talents whilst adequately equipping them for integration into society through a parallel programme of conventional studies.

#### • **Sports facilities in Chile**

The Sport and Recreation Authority devotes the main part of its budget to the building of sports infrastructures intended for mass sport.

In Santiago, as in the provinces, a large number of stadia and sports centres belong either to the municipality or to sports clubs. In the capital, Santiago, sports enthusiasts have ready access to the National Stadium (capacity 75,000 spectators) and to the Manuel Plaza stadium (capacity 65,000), etc...

#### • **Sports which draw the biggest crowds**

Football, basketball, athletics, boxing, cycling, swimming, volleyball and tennis.

#### • **Sports experiencing the greatest growth**

Volleyball, tennis, swimming, cycling, judo and gymnastics.

#### • **Percentage of population taking part in sport**

Approximately 15 %.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### **Professor O. N. Garcia**

The first IOC member in Chile, from 1912 to 1919. Instrumental in composing Chile's first Olympic delegation for the 1912 Games.

### **Enrique O. Barbosa Baeza**

IOC member in Chile from 1948 to 1952 and President of the COCH from 1934 to 1936.

President of the National Fencing Federation. he founded the National Sports Council and the COCH which were, for many years, united in a single body. Served as president of the arbitration board of the COCH and was an honorary member of the Committee.

Elected deputy on several occasions, he is a past Vice-President of the National Congress.

### **Alejandro Rivera Bascur**

IOC member in Chile since 1955.

Born 28th August 1901, at Collipulli. A lawyer by profession he is a former university athletics and boxing champion. In 1924, he founded the athletics club at the University of Chile and has, at different points during his career, occupied all the costs of responsibility within the national boxing federation. He presided the National Sports Council, of which he was a founding member, for 14 years, from 1947 to 1961. Present at seven celebrations of the Olympiad including four (1948 to 1960) in the capacity of President of the Chilean delegation. He is an honorary member of the PASO.

### **Gustavo Benko Kapuvary**

President of the COCH since 1980.

Born on 23rd February 1946. A talented fencer, he represented his country during almost 20 years in international competitions, and among other prizes won the bronze medal at the 1963 Pan-American Games.

At an early age he took on the functions of an official within the national fencing federation, of which he was director, then president. In this capacity, he joined the executive bureau of the COCH, where he was vice-president for several years.

### **Luia H. Villagra Reveco**

Secretary general of the COCH since 1980.

Born 31st October 1932. Secretary general for the Armed Forces Sports Confederation, judo is his preferred sport. He is an instructor, holds a black belt and presides the national Judo Federation.