

# Belize and Olympism

## BELIZE

(formerly British Honduras)

22,965 sq. km.

140,000 inhabitants.

## BELIZE OLYMPIC AND COMMONWEALTH GAMES ASSOCIATION (BOCGA)

Recognised by the IOC in 1967.

*President in office:* Edward "Ned" Pitts.\*

*Secretary General in office:* Hilly Martinez.\*

*Address:* P. O. Box 103, Belize City, Belize.

*Telephone:* 3459/3460.

*Telex:*

*Cable:* Sportsman Belize.

\* See biographical notes

## Role of the BOCGA

- To observe the ideals of the Olympic movement and the Rules of the IOC.
- To join ranks with amateur sport and pursue the objectives of the Olympic movement.
- To educate public opinion with regard to the importance of a properly organised sports movement.
- To ensure, by means of the national amateur sports organisations, the country's representation at both national and international sports events.

## Creation

The need to gain recognition for the "British Honduras Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association" was particularly felt when the country's athletes sought to participate in the Central American and Caribbean Games as well as in the Pan-American Games. Thus, in

1967, a request for recognition was submitted to IOC headquarters by officials from the Association. The application underwent a thorough study with reference to the Rules and statutes of the IOC which were then in force and it was found to conform to requirements. Official recognition of the NOC was extended by the 65th IOC Session held the same year in Teheran. On 1st June 1973, British Honduras adopted the name of Belize. The NOC's official designation was also subsequently modified as follows: "Belize Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association".

## Successive Presidents of the BOCGA

1967-1971: S. F. Smith.

Since 1971: E. A. Pitts.

## BELIZE AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- **Date of first participation:** 1968.

Athletes from Belize have been present at each subsequent celebration of the Olympiad.

- Representation of Belize at the Games of the Olympiad from 1968 to 1976 \*

	Athletics	Cycling	Shooting	Total
1968	2	2	2	6
1972	1	-	1	2
1976	2	-	2	4
1980	-	-	-	0

\* It is to be noted that until 1976, Belize was represented at the Olympic Games under the abbreviation HBR (British Honduras).

- *The present statutes* were adopted in 1974.
- *The General Assembly* is to meet annually and is to be attended by all the bodies affiliated to the NOC.
- *The Executive* is composed of a president, a vice-president, a secretary general, an assistant secretary general, a treasurer and three other members.

## PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE BOCGA



1976 – Montreal: the delegation of the BOCGA.

### Federations affiliated to the BOCGA

Federation	IF affiliation
Athletics	1959
Basketball	1974
Boxing	1966
Cycling	-
Shooting	-
Volleyball	-
Weightlifting	1966
Tennis and softball	

### • Present Executive of the BOCGA

*PT:* Edward “Ned” Pitts; *VPT:* Philip Rosado; *SG:* Hilly Martinez ; *Asst. SG:* Gilly Hinkson ; *T:* Mrs. Yolanda I. Martinez ; *Advisers :* Egbert Ellis, Owen Meighan Jr., Adolfo Reyes.

For the second time in the history of the BOCGA, a woman has assumed the duties of treasurer, thus playing a leading role on the Executive.

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

#### Edward “Ned” Pitts

President of the BOCGA since 1971



Born the 16th December 1926, as well as being an excellent athlete, he was one of the founding members of the Belize Amateur Athletic Association. Founder of the NOC, he was the chef de mission for many regional and Olympic Games.

#### Hilberto “Hilly” Martinez

Secretary General of the BOCGA since 1978, having previously serving as Assistant Secretary



Longtime secretary of the National Basketball Federation, then becoming Commissioner of the Softball Federation, he has frequently managed national sports delegations.