

Kuwait and Olympism

"The Olympic gold medal is winning friendship of the youth of the world through the Olympic Movement".

Sheik Fahid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

KUWAIT

17,820 sq. km.

1,400,000 inhabitants.



KUWAIT OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (KOC)

Created in 1957.

Recognised by the IOC in 1966.

President in office: Sheikh Fahid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah *.

Secretary General in office : Essa Abdulla Al-Dashti *.

Address: PO Box No 795, Al-Safat. Kuwait.

Telephone : 422744.

Telex : 3192.

Cable : Committee.

Role of the KOC

- To promote and protect the Olympic Movement and amateur sport.
- To carry out the instructions of the IOC.
- To assist national sports federations in all international questions.
- To maintain close contact with all national and international sports federations.
- To serve as a permanent advisory body for all athletes in Kuwait.

Creation of the KOC

Under the supervision of the Kuwait Sports Association, organised sports activities were initiated in 1951 primarily in the realm of team sports : football, basketball, and volleyball. It gradually became apparent, in the light of the great strides made by sport, that a body to co-ordinate and govern such activity was required. Thus, the KOC was created in May 1957, following which the Committee endeavoured to obtain recognition from the IOC. To this end, a delegation of officials was sent to Tokyo in 1964 during the celebration of the Games of the XVIIIth Olympiad to enter into negotiations. It was not until 1966, however, by virtue of a decision of the 63rd Session in Rome, that Kuwait officially joined the ranks of the International Olympic Movement.

* See biographical notes

- **IOC member for Kuwait**

Since 1981 :
 Sheikh Fahid
 Al-Ahmad
 Al-Sabah *



Montreal 1976: the Kuwait delegation.

Successive Presidents of the KOC

1958-1962 : Jassem Abdulaziz Al-Qatami.

1962-1969 : Essa Ahmad Al-Hamad.

1969-1970 : Ahmed Mohana Mohamad.

1970-1974 : Abdulla Dakheel Al Rasheed.

Since 1974 : Sheikh Fahid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah *.

- **Best performance**

In 1980 the football team reached the quarter-finals of the Olympic tournament. Two years later, this team qualified for the final rounds of the World

KUWAIT AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

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

Two competitors in the marathon event, Muraijib Ayed and Obaid Daifallah, were the first athletes to represent Kuwait in an Olympic celebration. Kuwaiti delegations, composed mainly of male competitors, have been present at each subsequent edition of the Games of the Olympiad, though the nation's sportsmen have not yet taken part in the Winter Games.

1962 - The Kuwait team which qualified for the final rounds of the World Cup.



- **Representation of Kuwait at the Olympic Games from 1968 to 1980**

	Athletics	Fencing	Football	Handball	Judo	Swimming	Total
1968	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
1972	4	-	-	-	-	2	6
1976	6	4	-	-	4	1	15
1980	11	9	19	16	5	5	65

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE KOC

- *The Executive Board*, the governing body of the KOC, meets once a month.

- *The General Assembly*, consisting of members of the Board and two representatives of each of the KOC's member-associations, meets annually for its plenary and ordinary session. Meetings of the Assembly may be convened whenever necessary at the request of one third of its members.

- **Present members of the KOC :** elected on 17th March 1980.

PT: Sheikh Fahid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah *;
VT: Col. Abdul-Hameed Al-Hajji Abdul-Raheem ; *SG :* Essa Abdulla Al-Dashti *;
T: Dasman Bakhet Al-Ali ; *Asst. SG:* Rajab Al-Mayouf ; *Asst. T:* Ahmad S. Al-Rashadan ; *Ms:* Ahmad Al-Roomi, Hussein Al-Hashash, Faud Al-Quraini, Khalid Al-Gaith, Abdul-Aziz Al-Ragum, Ahmad Abdul Samad, Ahmad Mohammad Ja'afar.

Col. Al-Hajji Abdul-Hameed, Vice-President



Essa Abdulla Al-Dashti, Secretary general

• Financing of the KOC

The funds required for the operation of the KOC are derived primarily from state subsidies, members' subscriptions.

• Federations affiliated to the KOC

	Year of creation	Date of IF affiliation	Members in	
			1972	1978
Athletics	1957	1961	581	975
Basketball	1957	1958	489	708
Boxing	1980		-	
Fencing	1974		-	160
Football	1957	1962	600	1452
Gymnastics	1964	1964	159	357
Handball	1966	1970	463	691
Judo	1974	1975		350
Swimming	1964	1968	371	400
Volleyball	1957	1963		626
Tennis and Squash	1968	1971	345	432
Table tennis	1981		-	-

The Weightlifting Federation will soon be added to this list.

Other sports practised in Kuwait include equitation, ice skating, shooting and yachting.

Finally, there is a special organisation which supervises and promotes the development of sport for the handicapped.

THE KOC AND OLYMPISM

- **Olympic day** was celebrated in Kuwait for the first time on 5th April 1978.

- **International Olympic Academy**

The KOC has sent participants to the sessions organised by the IOA, regularly since 1971. Moreover, this NOC has indicated its intention to enrich the collection of the museum in Olympia with various flags, stamps and medals created in Kuwait for different sports events.

- **Publications of the KOC**

A monthly sports bulletin, "Sport features" (entitled "*Sports News*" since 1971), printed in English, French and Arabic, and intended for all athletes in this region of the world, deals with a great variety of sports affairs, particular emphasis being placed on those sports practised specifically in Kuwait and the Arab world.



Sheikh Fahid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah rewards the best athletes of his country.

SPORT IN KUWAIT

- **State aid for the sports movement**

Each year the state provides the KOC with subsidies intended to enable it to carry on its activities.

The government also gives financial aid to the sports federations in Kuwait, and is keen to help the development of **sport** in other countries.

The headquarters of the Association of NOCs of Asia and of the Asian Handball Federation are located in Kuwait.

- **Training of sports leaders**

At the national level, a training centre for sports officials provides suitable preparation.

- **School sports**

There is great enthusiasm for developing games and sports amongst the youth of the country, both boys and girls. Regular school tournaments are held. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has established a number of Youth Centres where the young generation can play sports and conduct social activities.



Kuwait stadium - 30,000 seats.

• Sports facilities

Sports installations are administered by numerous clubs, the most established of which include the Kuwait Club, the Al Arabi Club and the Al Qadesseyya Club. Also assuming responsibility for facilities are schools, institutes run by the Ministry of Education, the training centre for sports officials, the youth centre operated by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the University of Kuwait, the army sports club and various governmental ministries. A large number of commercial companies in the country offer subsidies to provide for the needs of sports teams.

• Most popular spectator sports

Football, handball.

• Sports experiencing the greatest development

Football, basketball, volleyball, handball and athletics.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Sheikh Fahid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Member of the IOC since 1981.

President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee since 1974. Highly enthusiastic and energetic, takes great interest in the sports organisation activities in Kuwait. He has set himself the task of ensuring that his country is honourably represented at international events. Is the founder President of the Asian Handball Federation (1976). Elected Vice-President of the International Federation. Is the President of the Kuwait Football Federation Vice-President (Asia) of the Association of National Olympic Committees. Has led his country's contingents to the Olympic Games and the Asian Games, ever since 1974.

Colonel Abdul Hamid Al-Hajji

Previously Secretary General of the Kuwait Olympic Committee was elected as its Vice-President in 1980.

A sportsman and sports organiser of experience and stature. He is also the President of the Kuwait Swimming Federation. Presently also President of the Police Sport Federation in Kuwait.

Essa Abdullah Al-Dashti

Elected Secretary General of the Kuwait Olympic Committee in 1980.

Is also the President of the Kuwait Athletic Federation since 1976, and Vice-President of the Asian Amateur Athletic Association. Energetic and Intelligent Graduate in Sports and Physical Culture from Egypt, is a former athlete.