

# FIGURES FROM ATLANTA

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After the Games of the Olympiad, organizers always ‘boast’ about the participation “many figures appear” very few of them are absolutely correct. Why? Simply because organizers seem to consider that all athletes present and duly accredited are participants-and (even less though, now when the demonstration sports have been deleted) competitions not on the program. In Atlanta, for instance, the handicap competitions.

The Atlanta figures appearing here and there in the media are 10.774 (of which 3.684 were women) participants. This is the figure released by the ACOG and covers all accredited athletes. Since 1992, I have taken over the work of our Swedish statistical wizard Lennart Dahllof-making the count of participants such as we researchers should see them and that is: just only the athletes who really took part or shall we say started.

Atlanta was a tough nut to crack even under the best circumstances and with the best material and with preparations starting six months before, collecting names and information on all competitors in the championships of the International Federations in 1995.

My figures are different but not very much-and I don’t really say that my figures are correct. The human factor plays a big role and the ACOG figures were really “horrible” sometimes. I first started, having had all the preliminary 16.435 entrees delivered to me before 15th May 1996, to work with these. Then later came the second list with accreditations as of July 16th with all the entries, within the time limits for each sports. The third and fourth lists contained the I.F. list-each sport with all NOC’s having entered and accredited athletes, but only in numbers; the NOC list-each NOC summarized with the number of entries in the sports in which they had their athletes entered.

The final list printed after the Games were over, August 4th, contained names of all entries and all athletes accredited by the ACOG and thus living in the Olympic Village. This final list should have arrived in Stockholm in August, but the ACOG send it by surface mail and I did not get it until November. The difference between the various lists was so great, that I had to start all over again. The final accreditation lists (those that arrived in November) were also not the very best. There were at least eight to 10 athletes

not on the lists of accredited athletes, but appearing with their results in the competition summaries. To my surprise some nations in team sports had more accredited athletes than allowed. Take for instance Ghana, who had 23 accredited footballers, while only 18 were allowed. And further, at least two dozen athletes had been counted twice. They appeared with different accreditation numbers.

I must say that the result summaries mostly were brilliant, even if the officials responsible for equestrian seemed to like photographs of all obstacles in the jumping and three days events and in fact gave very bad results let us say incomplete, to say the least. My final count looks like this:

	Entered	Accredited	Started
Africa (52):	1.15/233	795/175	734/154
Americas (42):	3.661/1.219	2.252/788	2.177/753
Asia (43):	2.372/855	1.696/654	1.635/635
Europe (48):	8.519/2.872	5.296/1.797	5.187/1.766
Oceania (12):	758/256	591/210	577/205
Total	16.435/5.435	10.630/3.624	10.310/3.513

This means that 320/111 athletes were accredited, but did not start, and that almost 97% of the accredited athletes really started-a very good result. The same figures from 1992 in Barcelona were: 14.208/9.905/9.368; which means a total of 537 nonstarters, compared to 94,58% starters.

The 10 biggest teams in Atlanta were:

1)	USA	.....	647/268
2)	GER	.....	465/189
3)	AUS	.....	415/164
4)	RUS	.....	388/157
5)	ITA	.....	339/103
6)	JPN	.....	306/150
7)	CAN	.....	304/151
8)	KOR	.....	302/113
9)	FRA	.....	300/101
10)	GBR	.....	298/116
11)	CHN	.....	298/187

A remarkable record was set by the USA with as many as 1,326 preliminary entries!

The biggest sports were the usual:

- 1) Athletics: ..... 2,036/753
- 2) Swimming: ..... 950/470
- 3) Rowing: ..... 605/205
- 4) Cycling: ..... 478/110
- 5) Yachting: ..... 458/100
- 6) Canoeing: ..... 451/122

Most nonstarters (of the accredited athletes) came from Athletics with 141/47, and was surprisingly followed by Football 35/7, while Canoeing had 21/8 and Handball 18/9 non starters. Quite a few IF's had a hundred percent participation, others very few nonstarters, such as Weightlifting,

Fencing and Boxing (1 each) and Table tennis, Judo and Yachting (2 each).

For the first time ever ALL NOC's started or 197 of these.

A further amazing discovery in the accreditation list: 75% of the athletes from Venezuela were, if you believe the ACOG list, not accredited, but started nevertheless.

Another "unknown" fact is that the IOC accepted five athletes per country in the road race in cycling. This has never happened since 1924 or was it 1928? The reason for this "clemency" was that it was a deal with the UCI in order to have the professionals start they needed the usual 'back-up.' Let us hope that for the next Games the usual number of four (even that is very high) are allowed to start. Cycling is an individual sport, at least in the Olympic Games.

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