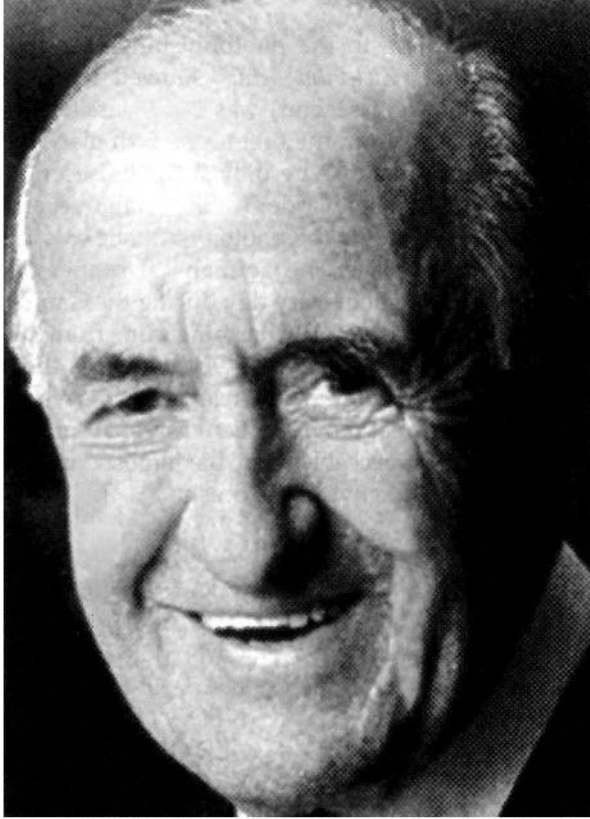


## Marc Hodler

\*26 October 1918 in Berne †18 October 2006 in Berne



Marc HODLER died in Berne shortly before his 89th birthday. He began his career as an alpine skier. An accident ended his career in 1938. But the lawyer remained true to his sport until he died. From 1949 to 1948 he was the coach of the Swiss ski team and from 1940 to 1951 vice president of the Swiss NOC.

As such he co-ordinated the Alpine skiing events at the 5th Winter Olympics in St. Moritz in 1948. Three years later he became president of the *International Ski Federation* (FIS). He successfully held this office for 47 (!) years. By 1998, when he passed it on to his secretary-general, the Swiss Gian-Franco KASPER, he had made the FIS one of the most powerful and also one of the most prosperous world sports federations.

In 1963 he entered the IOC. Here he was one of the three "lifers", who did not hit the age limit and step down. In 1980 he ran for president but lost to Juan Antonio SAMARANCH.

In December 1998 I was in Lausanne as a member of a working group and participated in a lunch with the IOC Executive Committee. I happened to sit next to HODLER. He hinted at a scandal related to the awarding of the Winter Games to Salt Lake City. A few days later he disclosed the bribery scandal at a press conference. A few months ago I spoke to him at the IOC hotel during the Turin Winter Games. He gave the impression of being bright and lively and told me that every day he kept going to the attorney's office which he had founded. He could do this until a few days before his death.

IOC vice president Thomas BACH: "*Marc Hodler, one of the greatest figures of sports and of the Olympic Movement has gone from us. Personally, I am filled with deep sorrow because since my first day at the IOC in 1991 he had befriended me and helped me a lot.*"

*Karl Lennartz*