

# The Biographies of all IOC Members

## Part XXII

By Volker Kluge, Roland Renson and Leif Yttergren



### 385. | Count Jacques Rogge | Belgium

Born: 2 May 1942,

Ghent

Co-opted:

16 June 1991, new seat

Resigned:

10 September 2013

Honorary President

from 2013

Attendance at

Sessions: Present 28,

Absent 0



Executive Board

Member No. 66

Elected Member

5 February 1998 –

16 July 2001

Elected President

16 July 2001 –

9 October 2009

Re-elected President

9 October 2009 –

10 September 2013

Jacques Jean Marie Rogge was born in Ghent into a well-to-do family. His grandfather was a farmer's son who started his own electric tools company in Ghent and was a passionate cyclist. His father, a civil engineer who further developed the family enterprise, practised track and field athletics and became a national champion in both field hockey and rowing.

Rogge grew up in a multilingual environment. At home, French was spoken, as it was in many middle-class Flemish families at that time. He learned Spanish from the nanny and spoke Dutch with his school mates. He studied Latin and Greek at the élite, Jesuit – run, Saint Barbara College. He was top of the class and acquired two more languages: English and German. The Jesuits very likely helped hone his character as a critical intellectual with a strong sense of commitment.

During holidays on the Belgian coast, where the family had their own yacht, he was initiated into sailing at an early age, and at the age of 17 he won the Yachting World Cadet Trophy in Burnham, England. Sixteen times Belgian champion in the Finn Class from 1965 until 1980, he competed in three Olympics in that class: Acapulco 1968, Kiel 1972 and Kingston 1976. Sailing is a matter of knowing how to read the wind – a skill vital in politics and decision making.

He played field hockey (like his father) at the Royal Athletic Association Ghent, but that was not his forte. Rugby, on the other hand, became another sporting passion and he joined ASUB, the Rugby Club of the University of Brussels (ULB). Rogge played ten times in the national rugby team and he and some friends decided to create their own Ghent Rugby Football Club in 1969. He has called rugby a life style, revealing that he was ever a team player!

Rogge studied medicine at Ghent University, where he met his wife-to-be, Anne Bovyn. Both would later specialise, Jacques as an orthopaedic surgeon and specialist in sports medicine, Anne a radiologist. They have two children: Philippe (born in 1969) and Caroline (born in 1971). A surgeon must always proceed systematically and make critical decisions: what is vital and what is not? – and this aspect of his medical career came to characterise his leadership style as IOC President.

Rogge's commitment was discovered by Raoul Mollet (1912–2002), Chairman of the Belgian NOC, during the 1968 Olympics, when "JR" suddenly plunged – in his underpants – into the Bay of Acapulco to bring his boat to safety before an upcoming storm. Rogge was Chef de Mission at the Olympic Winter Games in 1976 and 1988, as well as at the Summer Games in 1980, 1984 and 1988.

From 1989 to 1992, Rogge served as President of the Belgian NOC. He also served from 1989 to 2001 as Vice-President of the Association of National



Olympic Committees (ANOC) and President of the European Olympic Committees (EOC). Rogge succeeded in staging the first European Youth Olympic Days in Belgium in 1991, and event which later became the European Youth Olympic Festival, with a summer and winter edition.

Having been a member of the IOC since 1991 and an active member of the Executive Board since 1998, Rogge was elected the eighth IOC President in Moscow on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2001 and re-elected for a second term in 2009. This meant sacrificing his career as an orthopaedic surgeon and moving to Lausanne. But it enabled him to realise some of his personal Olympic ideals: the fight against doping, the defence of sport ethics, downsizing the Olympic Games, creation of the Youth Olympic Games and continuing the struggle against physical inactivity and obesity.

Although Rogge has praised his predecessor for his many accomplishments, he introduced a different management style and vision at the IOC headquarters. But then came 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001, which jeopardized the Winter Olympics of 2002. Rogge, who resided in the Olympic Village to stay in close contact with the athletes during the Games, faced a bribery scandal and a number of sporting and refereeing controversies during the competitions.

Nevertheless, these Games were a turning point, and Rogge – through his persistent fight against doping and corruption – became 'Mr. Clean'. He subsequently added match fixing and betting to the list of major threats to the credibility of the global sports system. He also attempted to downsize the format of the Olympics. Baseball and softball were removed from the Olympic programme for 2012, but the 2014 Sochi Winter Games were disproportionately large and tainted with corruption.

President Rogge has always stated that the IOC is not a political but a sporting organisation and, in his down-to-earth way, has often stated: "If we manage to organise Olympic Games in which athletes from all over the world can compete in a fair and democratic way, isn't that quite something?"

Rogge is a true believer in the educational power of sport for teaching young people a healthy lifestyle and social skills. He therefore considers the creation of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG), where the age limitation is 14 to 18 years, as one of his major accomplishments. The first summer version was held in Singapore in August 2010, the first winter version in Innsbruck in January 2012.

After serving the Olympic Movement with ardour and total commitment for 12 years, Rogge was succeeded by Thomas Bach of Germany at the IOC Session in Buenos Aires on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013, and became Honorary President. He was the second Belgian to serve as IOC President, after Count Henry de Baillet-Latour, who succeeded Pierre de Coubertin and served from 1925 to 1942.

Rogge was knighted in 1992 and was proclaimed Count in the Belgian nobility in 2002. He has received numerous honorary titles from a great variety of countries and no fewer than 24 Honorary Doctorates. He admires modern art and is well-read in history and scientific literature, and during his Presidency the Olympic Museum of Lausanne was entirely overhauled, and re-opened in 2013 after two years of renovations and innovations.

His life is characterised by balance, by mental and emotional stability. He has combined the lessons of his sporting life as a sailor and rugby player with the Jesuit immersion in the classical humanities and with his career as a surgeon, whose professional principle is "*primum non nocere*" (first do no harm). Often dubbed 'a cool operator', Rogge was always aware that "Anything you say may be used against you ..." and often played the role of the stoic Belgian, a role carried off elegantly, efficiently and, above all, honestly. (RR)

## Changes in IOC EC Board and eight new Members

Two new Vice-President were elected along with seven new Members on the Executive Board at the 129<sup>th</sup> IOC Session ahead of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Juan Antonio Samaranch (ESP) and Ugur Erdener (TUR) will replace outgoing Vice-Presidents Nawal El Moutawakel (MAR) and Sir Craig Reedie (GBR). Five new and returning Members will also joining the EC: Gian Franco Kasper (SUI), Angela Ruggiero (USA), Sergey Bubka (UKR), Ser Miang Ng (SIN), and Willi Kaltschmitt (GUA). Ching-Kuo Wu and Patrick Hickey are resuming their seats as representatives of the ASOIF and the ANOC.

Following a proposal from the Executive Board, eight new IOC Members were elected: Nita Ambani (IND); Sari Essayah (FIN); Ivo Ferriani (ITA); Luis Moreno (COL); Auvita Rapilla (PNG); Anant Singh (RSA); Tricia Smith (CAN); and Karl Stoss (AUT).

## Four new members to IOC Athletes Commission

Britta Heidemann (GER/fencing) 1603 votes, Ryu Seug-Min (KOR/table tennis/1544), Daniel Gyurta (HUN/swimming/1469) and Yelena Isinbayeva (RUS/athletics/1365) have been elected to the IOC Athletes Commission for a term of eight years.

The four new members replaced the outgoing members Claudia Bokel (GER), Dae Sung Moon (KOR), Alexander Popov (RUS) and Yumilka Ruiz Luaces (CUB), who were elected at the 2008 Games. Claudia Bokel handed over the title of Chair of the Commission to Angela Ruggiero.

Of the 11,245 athletes entitled to vote, 5185 took part and voted for one of the 23 candidates. (IOC/JOH)



Born: 7 June 1932,  
Mexico City  
Died: 8 February 2015

Co-opted:  
16 June 1991,  
replacing  
Eduardo Hay  
Resigned:  
15 March 2012  
Attendance at  
Sessions: Present 25,  
Absent 1

Executive Board  
Member No. 69  
Elected Member  
13 September 2000–  
11 August 2004  
Second term  
11 August 2004–  
7 August 2008  
Third term:  
7 August 2008–  
16 March 2012



Mario Vázquez Raña's family emigrated from Odense in Galicia (northwest Spain) to Mexico in 1928, where his father Venancio Álvarez Vázquez opened a small business. Mario graduated from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), with a BA in Business Administration.

From 1960 to 1980 Don Mario was President of the Board of the Hermanos Vázquez Company, which period marked the beginning of his path to wealth. In 1970 he had financed the presidential election campaign of Luis Echeverría Álvarez. Two years previously a few days before the Olympic Games, as Minister of the Interior, Echeverría was largely responsible for the massacre of 200 to 300 peacefully demonstrating students on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1968.

In 1975 he became President and Director General of the Organización Editorial Mexicana, the biggest newspaper company in Latin America (with 70 newspapers, 43 Internet firms, 24 radio and TV stations), and in 2001 President of Cartones Ponderosa, a firm with numerous paper factories. In 1985, he bought the near-bankrupt news agency United Press International.

An international marksman, he began his career as a sports official in the Organising Committee of the 1968 Olympics. In 1969, he became President of the Mexican Shooting Federation (until 1974) and of the American Shooting Confederation (1973–1979). His successor was his younger brother Olegario, President of the International Sport Shooting Federation (ISSF) since 1980 and a Member of the IOC since 1995.

From the mid-1970s, Vázquez dedicated a large proportion of his time to Olympic sport. He was Vice-President of the Mexican Sports Confederation (1973–1976), in 1975 he took on the presidency of the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO) and that of the Organization of the Pan-American Games, which, under his leadership gained significance.

Elected President of the Mexican Olympic Committee (1974–2001), he became the first President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) in 1979. He personally financed ANOC and a number of other Pan-American sporting bodies and, with the rapidly growing influence of ANOC, he became an obvious candidate for IOC membership.

Such a move was viewed with apprehension by a number of existing members, but the plan by many of the 'traditionalists' within the IOC to thwart Vázquez's membership aspirations failed and, at the 1991 Session in Birmingham, he was co-opted onto the IOC.

The circumstances of his election make interesting reading. A request by the IOC membership for a secret ballot was simply ignored by the Chair and when a show of hands was called for there were no fewer than 60 abstentions: only 13 members voted for Vázquez and ten voted against. Hardly an overwhelming expression of confidence. The other three candidates, Thomas Bach, Denis Oswald and Jacques Rogge, were elected unanimously.

Vázquez had himself elected President again in 2011 by the ANOC General Assembly for the period of four years. He probably hoped that he would thus retain his IOC membership and seat on the Executive Board even after his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. When that was not accepted, he announced his resignation in March 2012 from all IOC offices and presidency of ANOC. He only retained the post of Chairman of PASO.

At the same time, he came under fire in his public life in Mexico. Vázquez was accused of having supported, with manipulated articles in the newspapers he controlled, the controversial presidential candidate Enrique Peña Nieto of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI). (VK)



Thomas Bach's biography can be divided into three successful careers:

1. The fencer: like the chief organiser of the 1936 Olympic Games, Carl Diem, he was born in Würzburg. He grew up in Tauberbischofsheim in Franconia, where his parents owned a textile and clothing shop. The early death of his father from a war injury, overshadowed his childhood and youth.

At the same time, inspired by the film *The Three Musketeers*, the hairdresser Emil Beck (1935–2006) founded a fencing department in the Turn- und Sportverein (TSV) of the idyllic small town. From that emerged his own fencing club in 1967 – the FC Tauberbischofsheim, which, thanks to his extensive contacts in politics and business, became a fencing empire with boarding school and medical centre. One of his exemplary pupils was Thomas Bach, to whom Beck became a surrogate father.

In 1971, Bach became German junior champion in foil fencing; at the Junior World Championships in Chicago he won the bronze medal. Despite his two individual titles at the German Championships of 1977 and 1978, he was only one of many world class athletes in the Tauber valley. Less the outstanding individualist, instead all the more valuable in serving the team, with whom in 1973 in Göteborg he became a World Championship runner-up.

The same team brought back Olympic victory three years later in Montreal, as well as winning the World Championship title which they defended in 1977 in Buenos Aires. At the 1979 Worlds in Melbourne, Bach ended his active career with team bronze.

2. The economic lawyer. According to his trainer, at the age of ten Bach knew the contents of a newspaper by heart. His parents had a high opinion of his mental arithmetic, especially his quick calculations during inventories.

After his Abitur, Bach studied jurisprudence in Würzburg from 1973 to 1979. According to Beck, he could therefore only train twice a week. The first degree was followed by an internship in the German Bundestag, in which the Free Democrats (FDP) who Bach had joined, were at that time a governing party.

After his second degree in 1983, he was awarded his Doctorate magna cum laude. Bach is a double doctor – secular as well as religious – as well as joint owner of a legal practice in Tauberbischofsheim.

In 1985, Horst Dassler, the influential boss of Adidas, brought him to Landersheim, France, as Director of International Relations, to put together a broad network and till today one accompanied by suspicions of financial irregularity. For Bach, these were important years of apprenticeship, which gave him the insight that – by safeguarding the autonomy of sport – the Olympic Games should be marketed in such a way as to liberate them from the clutches of politics, after the experience of two boycotts.

After Dassler's unexpected death in 1987, Bach became the joint owner of a Frankfurt marketing agency. In 1990, he joined a company with a legal and notarial practice. After the reunification of Germany, he participated with a tax advisory firm in Dresden in the privatisation of the East German economy. He became a member of several supervisory boards and received top class mandates, among others in 1995 from the later insolvent building concern Philipp Holzmann AG. From 2000 to 2008 he advised Siemens AG. In May 2006, he was elected President of the Ghorfa Arab-German Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

3. The sports official. The roots of his enthusiasm for sport and the Olympics go back to the summer of 1960, when he saw the American sprinter Wilma Rudolph on television. His decision to take a close interest in sports politics

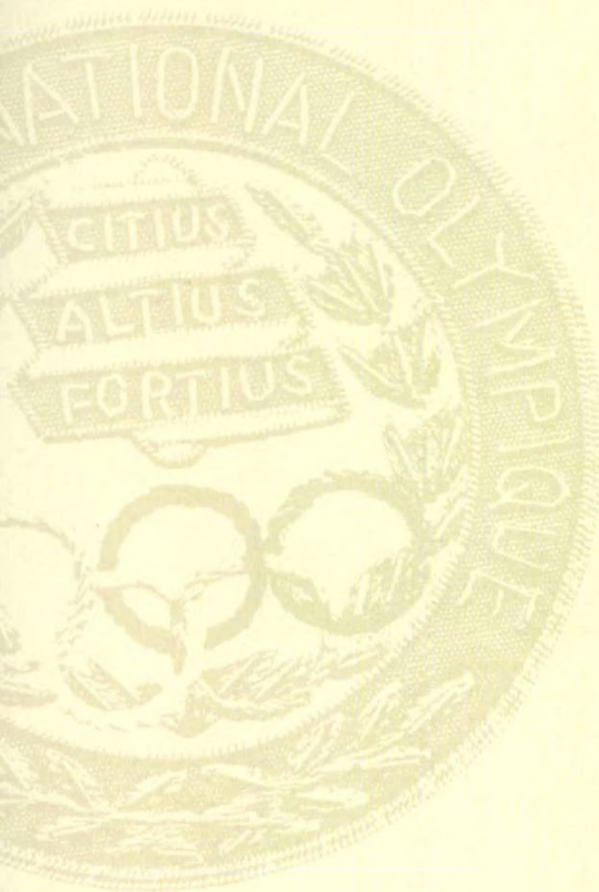


Born: 29 December 1953, Würzburg

Co-opted: 16 June 1991, replacing Willi Daume  
Attendance at Sessions: Present 32, Absent 0

Executive Board	Appointed
Member No. 65	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President
Elected Member	7 July 2007
17 July 1996–	Appointed
13 September 2000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
Second term:	7 August 2008
Appointed	Appointed
4 <sup>th</sup> Vice-President	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President 9
13 September 2000	October 2009–
Appointed	12 February 2010
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President	Fourth term:
16 July 2001	Appointed
Appointed	4 <sup>th</sup> Vice-President
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	12 February 2010
29 November 2002	Appointed
Appointed	3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-President
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	9 July 2011
4 July 2003–	Appointed
11 August 2004	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
Third term:	26 July 2012
Appointed	Elected President
4 <sup>th</sup> Vice-President	10 September
10 February 2006	2013–2021





came 20 years later. In the spring of 1980, where, together with two Olympic candidates of other sports, he was charged as a spokesman for active athletes in the German Fencing Federation with forming a resolution with which the recommendation of the German Bundestag to boycott the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow would be contradicted. This was endorsed by 20 votes to 1 by the representatives of the federations.

After Bach had read out the text at a rally in the Dortmund Westfalenhalle on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1980, he was summoned to meet Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn, along with the presidential representatives of West German sport, and after a three-hour lecture left humiliated.

On on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1980, the day of the decision, Bach – as a representative of active athletes in the Federal Committee for top class sport (BAL) – had the opportunity as last speaker in the debate to appeal to the NOC members. But under government and parliamentary pressure the die had been cast.

Bach's rise to the highest Olympic office is considered the result of a tactical and ambitious career plan, something that was frequently held against him by his critics. Insiders, however, vouch for his sound professionalism and diplomatic skills in integrate varying directions and opinions.

But none of this would have been possible without powerful backing. First of these was Willi Daume, on whose side he stood unwaveringly in the anti-boycott campaign of 1980. Daume would willingly have seen his at that time 36 year old protégé, whom he had in 1982 brought into the NOC as a personal member, as early as 1990 as his successor on the IOC. But as the reunited Germany with him, Walther Tröger and Dr. Günther Heinze had three seats at its disposal (the regulations at the time permitted two representatives at most per country), this proposal met with refusal. But when after that Daume and Heinze united in deciding to resign in favour of Bach, in 1991 nothing more stood in the way of Bach's acceptance into the IOC.

The other patron was IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, who had

### 388. | Primo Nebiolo | IAAF/Italy

Born: 14 July 1923,  
Turin  
Died: 7 November  
1999, Rome

Co-opted: 21 July 1992  
(until his death)  
Attendance at  
Sessions: Present 11,  
Absent 0



A law graduate of the University of Turin, Nebiolo was a long jumper in his youth and was President of the University Sports Club. He was Chairman of the Board of a number of companies, notably in the construction field where he had strong links with the Italian Government.

As President of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) since 1981, and the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) since 1983, he was an influential figure in world sport.

The highly qualified lawyer, who from 1961 had been President of the University Sports Federation (FISU) and was elected in 1972 to the IAAF Council, changed the sport of athletics in fundamental ways. With the introduction of "athlete funds", World Championships (outdoors and indoors), Grand Prix series, and the Golden League, he opened the door to big-time commercialisation. That Nebiolo was powerful is shown by the fact that he was elected IAAF President six times in succession without a rival.

Criticism of his authoritarian leadership style sharpened after the 1987 World Championships in Rome, where Italian officials had intentionally



liked Bach's appearance as a representative of active athletes at the 1981 Olympic Congress in Baden-Baden. Three weeks later Bach – together with world record runners Sebastian Coe and Kipchoge Keino, the Norwegian Olympic skiing champion Ivar Formo, the Bulgarian oarswoman Svetla Otzetova and the Soviet ice-hockey legend Vladislav Tretyak – was called to join the first IOC Athletes Commission, to which he belonged until 1988.

The large number of Commissions of which he was a member and chairman was an indication that he intended from the start to do constructive work. At the 1996 Session in Atlanta, he was elected to the Executive Committee, and Vice-President in 2000 in Sydney. Thereafter, he withdrew for two years, to return in 2006 in Turin, again as Vice-President. In 2010 he was confirmed in this post.

Bach had candidly made it known that he always saw himself as an interface between sport, politics and business. When he applied to succeed the departing IOC President Jacques Rogge, there was, as expected, no lack of opponents and envious rivals who sought to prevent his election. Yet on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at the Buenos Aires Session, he completely fulfilled his role as favourite. In the second round the duel with Richard L. Carrión was clearly decided in his favour by 49 votes to 29. He had worked towards this day for half his life.

In order to dedicate himself completely to this new task and refute the charge of conflicts of interest, he subsequently gave up his other offices, among them the presidency of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), which he had led since the fusion of NOC and German Sports Federation (DSB) in 2006.

Thomas Bach is the ninth President of the IOC. His period in office is restricted to eight years. If, in 2025, he were to be elected again for four years he would at that point be only 72 and (provided the rules are not changed) would be able to remain a further eight years in the IOC. (VK)



manipulated the distance jumped by their compatriot, Giovanni Evangelisti, and briefly awarded him the bronze medal. After this incident Nebiolo resigned as President of the Italian Athletics Federation (FIDAL).

This also seemed to bar his way to the IOC, although President Samaranch was keen to see his influential rival in this exclusive circle. According to the Olympic Charter at that time, no nation was permitted more than two IOC members, and the 88 year-old Italian Giorgio de Stefani had no intention of giving up his place which was guaranteed for life. Samaranch, therefore, made a proposed change in Rule 20 at the 1992 IOC Session in Courcheval. This change would permit the President to propose "two members without distinction of nationality or domicile" who were regarded as suitable either through their function or "their particular qualification".

Although the IOC partially gave up its privilege to determine the acceptance of new colleagues, only five members did not support it. To placate its critics and preserve the equilibrium of types of sports, the constitution of the IOC was organised afresh, and the "Lex Nebiolo" disappeared. (VK)



### 389. | Olaf Poulsen | ISU/Norway

Born: 27 July 1920,  
Oslo  
Died: 27 September  
2008, Oslo

Co-opted: 21 July 1992  
Retired: 25 July 1994  
Attendance at  
Sessions: Present 4,  
Absent 0



Olaf Poulsen's great interest was speed skating and he was actively engaged in the sport in his younger days. As a leader in the sport of speed skating in Norway and abroad, he became head of the Norwegian Skating Federation from 1969–1973.

Poulsen became a member of the Council of the International Skating Union (ISU) for speed skating in 1971 and was elected Vice-President in 1977. He was a technical delegate at the Winter Olympic Games of 1976 and 1980, became President of the ISU in 1980, and was appointed to the IOC in 1992 at the age of 72 in Seville, Spain.

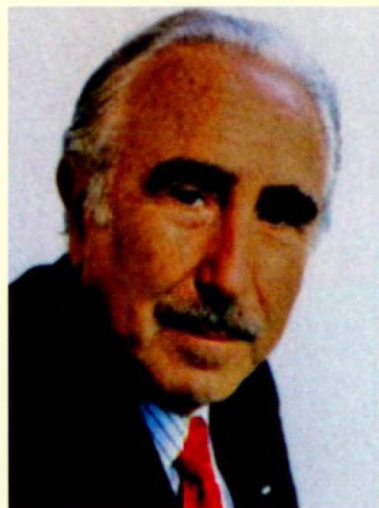
Poulsen was the first ISU President since Viktor Balck of Sweden (1895–1925) to become an IOC Member; his IOC mandate ended in 1994 when he retired as President of the ISU.

Over the years Poulsen received recognition for his valuable contributions to skating, including being honoured with the Norwegian Skating Association's highest award, "Gullmerket". (LY)

### 390. | Sergio Santander Fantini | Chile

Born: 5 May 1926,  
Puelmo  
Died: 25 July 2006,  
San Bernardo

Co-opted: 23 July  
1992, replacing  
Alejandro Rivera  
Bascur  
Expelled:  
17 March 1999  
Attendance at  
Sessions: Present 8,  
Absent 0



Following the death of Alejandro Rivera Bascur, there was a gap in Chile's representation on the IOC. Seven years passed before a successor was appointed, and the man chosen was Sergio Santander Fantini, Rector of the National Sports Institute and President of the Chilean Olympic Academy.

Santander Fantini was a former Director-Treasurer of the Chilean NOC, and was appointed Vice-President in 1970, First Vice-President in 1984, and elected NOC President in 1988.

In his youth he was a successful racing driver; in 1965 he was the founder of the Chilean motor sport federation. His son followed in his footsteps, becoming 1978 Chilean champion in Formula 4 and then in Formula 3. He died in an accident during a race on the Las Vizcachas circuit at Puente Alto near Santiago de Chile in 1987.

His father was accused of corruption in January 1999, together with five other IOC Members. In his defence speech at the March Session in Lausanne, the Chilean admitted having received monies from the Salt Lake City bid committee, which was applying for the 2002 Winter Games, and that he had used the money for personal electoral campaigns. Santander was a candidate in 1993 for the Chilean parliament and for the office of Mayor of Talca in the south of the country. The Session resolved to exclude him by 76 votes to 12. (VK)





Two years after Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was killed by a sharp-shooter on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1990 at the start of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict, one of his five sons took his place on the IOC. (see JOH, Vol. 23, No. 2/2015, p. 64). Sheikh Ahmad also succeeded to most of the other top sporting posts previously held by his late father.

He became President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee (1991–2001) and of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Although the OCA rules specifically ruled out anyone under the age of thirty-five assuming the Presidency, the inhibiting clause was set aside by a majority vote to allow the twenty-seven-year-old Sheikh to run for office. The actual ballot was postponed more than once and all circumstances surrounding the election of the OCA President caused a rift between the Arab and Asian bloc, which has never truly healed.

A quarter of a century later, Sheikh Ahmad has the reputation of a “kingmaker”, who – according to media reports – alternately seeks to be President of the IOC or of the International Association Football Federation (FIFA). In fact, until now he has applied for neither office. Instead, he was elected as successor to Mario Vázquez Raña as President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) in April 2012. After the Mexican’s retirement, he took over the chairmanship of the IOC Olympic Solidarity Commission.

The House of Sabah, to which the sports enthusiast Sheikh belongs, has been the ruling family in Kuwait since 1752. Sheikh Ahmad studied Political Sciences at Kuwait University and trained at Kuwait Military Academy. After five years military service, from which he emerged in 1990 with the rank of Major, he was Chairman of Public Authority for Youth Sports with a rank of a Cabinet Minister (2000–2001), Minister of Information (2001–2003), General Secretary of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC/2005), and Minister of Energy (2003–2006). In July 2006 he took on the post of Minister of National Security.

His career was accompanied by the power struggles, carried out in public, within the Kuwaiti dynasty. Sheikh Ahmad was, therefore, sentenced at the end of 2015 for insulting the Emir and justice to a six month suspended sentence and a fine, because he had accused high-ranking members of the government, on local television, of corruption and attempted putsches.

The persistent attempts of the government to restrict the autonomy of the Olympic Movement in Kuwait contributed in 2007 to this escalation. After the NOC had already been excluded from the IOC in 2010, it was again suspended on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015 from the IOC Executive Board, and as a result, Kuwait was not represented by a team at the 2016 Games. However, nine Kuwaitis were permitted to take part as Independent Olympic Athletes (IOA). An action for damages to the amount of a billion dollars, which had been handed in to a civil court in the Swiss canton of Waadt, failed. (VK)



Born: 12 August 1963,  
Lebanon

Co-opted: 23 July  
1992, Replacing  
Sheikh Fahad Al-  
Ahmad Al-Sabah  
Attendance at  
Sessions: Present 26,  
Absent 4

Former FIFA President João Havelange died during the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on 16<sup>th</sup> August at the age of 100 years. The Brazilian was an IOC Member from 1963 until 2011. He resigned as FIFA Honorary President in April 2013 following an investigation into bribery allegations. See: *Journal of Olympic History*, Vol. 21, No. 1/2013, pp. 60–61 and Vol. 24, No. 2, p. 22.