

Biographies of All IOC Members

Part XXX

By Volker Kluge



448. | Rubén Acosta Hernández | Mexico

Born: 4 April 1934,
Jerez de García
Salinas
Elected:
13 September 2000
Resigned:
August 2004
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 2,
Absent 2



Rubén Acosta, who was elected to the IOC in Sydney in 2000 as one of five presidents of an International Sports Federation (IF), studied Education, Science and Social Science from 1953 to 1957. He graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico in 1963 with a thesis on criminal law. From 1963 to 1973 he was a lawyer for governmental affairs and supervisor for General Electric (Mexico).

After completing a course in Sports Administration, he became a consultant at the National Sports Institute (INDE). From 1978 to 2000, he worked as a private consultant in international trademark law, marketing and governmental procedures.

Acosta began his career in sports administration in 1965, when he became president of the Mexican Volleyball Federation. He was General Vice Director/General Director of Technical and Sports Organisation on the Organising Committee for the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. In 1969, he founded the North, Central America and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation

(NORCECA), of which he was president until 1984. He organised three world championships between 1974 and 1981.

After being elected President of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) in 1984 as successor to Paul Libaud (France), he moved the organisation's headquarters from Paris to Lausanne. Under Acosta's leadership, the FIVB became the largest and one of the wealthiest international sports federations with 210 member associations (1993). New competition systems emerged from 1989, such as the Volleyball World League, Women's World Grand Prix and the Beach Volleyball World Tour. At the same time, Acosta's autocratic leadership style began to receive criticism.

A regrettable episode was the 2002 World Cup in Argentina, which earned a profit of 2.4 million US dollars for FIVB, but drove the Argentine head of the organisation and national association President Mario Goijman, who had used his own assets to support the competition, into personal bankruptcy.

Goijman filed a lawsuit against Acosta in a Swiss court at the end of 2002. He accused Acosta of arbitrarily ending marketing contracts and collecting commissions of 8.3 million Swiss francs. Two other FIVB officials were accused of financial misconduct and fraud.

Goijman had also contacted the IOC and accused the FIVB of a misappropriation of funds, so the Ethics Commission dealt with this case. In its preliminary decision dated 21 October 2003, it underlined that "the Code of Ethics is applicable to IOC Members, even when their actions occur outside the IOC" and recalled the axiom that "the money from sport must go to sport". Two days before the Ethics Commission's final recommendation was due in August 2004, Acosta announced his withdrawal from the IOC, anticipating expulsion. As the Swiss court subsequently rejected Goijman's lawsuit and declared this an internal affair of the FIVB, Acosta saw no reason to give up the post of FIVB President too. He did not resign until 2008 after a term of 24 years, and remained Honorary President for life.



449. | Tamás Aján | Hungary

Tamás Aján was born in Transylvania. After the Second World War, he moved with his family to Hungary, where his father became director of a bank. He graduated from the Semmelweis University in Budapest in 1964 with a PhD in Physical Education.

Aján began his sports policy career in 1965 in the Hungarian Ministry of Sport. From 1968, he served as Secretary-General of the Hungarian Weightlifting Federation for 15 years. In 1983, he gained a PhD in Political Science and became Deputy State Secretary for Sports and Physical Education. From 1989 to 2005 he was Secretary-General of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, then Honorary General Secretary.

In addition, Aján has held a variety of posts on an international level. He co-founded the European Weightlifting Federation (EWF) and has been its Vice-President since 1970. He became Secretary-General of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) in 1976. In 2000, he was elected IWF President, an office he still holds today.

Aján was Council member (1978-1988), then (1988-2011) Vice-President of the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF/since 2009 SportAccord) and Council member of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) from 1988 to 1992. He has been a member of the ASOIF Representative Foundation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) since 2000.



Born: 12 January 1939,
Szamossújvár (Gherla)
Elected:
13 September 2000
Resigned:
31 December 2009
Honorary Member
since 2010
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 9,
Absent 1

450. | Alfredo Goyeneche y Moreno | Spain

Born: 15 December 1937, San Sebastián, Guipúzcoa
Died: 16 March 2002
Pancorbo, Burgos
Elected:
13 September 2000 (until his death)
Attendance at Sessions: Present 1, Absent 1



Alfredo de Goyeneche y Moreno, X Marquis de Villafuerte and VI Count of Guaqui, was one of the best Spanish riders. He won the bronze medal in show jumping at the European Junior Championships in 1956. At the 1960 Olympics in Rome, he was a member of the Spanish team, which, however, was not placed. He won the Barcelona Grand Prix in 1967. He was also the Spanish Polo Champion twice (in 1968 and 1976).

An engineer by profession, Goyeneche took over as Chairman of the Madrid Equestrian Club in 1976. He served as President of the Spanish Equestrian Federation from 1981 to 1987. In 1987, Carlos Ferrer Salat named him First Vice-President of the Spanish Olympic Committee (COE). He was a member of the Sports Committee at the Organising Committee of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games (COOB).

After the sudden death of Ferrer Salat in October 1998, Goyeneche was chosen as his successor. He was co-opted with other six NOC representatives to the IOC at the 2000 Session in Sydney. He was on his way to the Final of the Copa de Rey in basketball when he was killed in a traffic accident.

451. | Bruno Grandi | Italy

Born: 9 May 1934, Forlì
Elected:
13 September 2000
Resigned:
31 December 2004
Attendance at Sessions: Present 4, Absent 1



In his youth, Bruno Grandi was a good gymnast and a member of the Italian youth team. After completing his schooling, he studied Physical Education at the Institute in Rome. After graduating, he worked there as a teacher and became coach of the junior national team. He was President of the Italian Gymnastics Federation (FGI) from 1977 to 2000.

Grandi was elected President of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) in 1996, and remained at the top until 2016. Artistic gymnastics became more dynamic under his leadership through the inclusion of many acrobatic elements, twists, somersaults and jumps.

The judging regulations (Code of Points) have been changed several times, allowing a more objective assessment of the exercises. The introduction of the new scoring rules for the individual all-around (a maximum of three gymnasts per team) and the finals on the apparatus (a maximum of two gymnasts per country) has created a variety of opportunities for small countries to win medals.

As a third element of gymnastic competition, trampoline was included in the programme of the 2000 Olympics.

After the resignation of Mario Pescante, who assumed responsibility for the doping scandal in Italian football in September 1998 (see *JOH*, Vol. 25/2017, No. 1, p. 61), Vice-President Grandi succeeded him as President of the Italian NOC (CONI). He held this office until 1999.

As one of five IF Presidents, Grandi was co-opted to the IOC in 2000 in Sydney. He served until he reached the upper age limit of 70 years.



452. | Seyed Mostafa Hashemitaba | Islamic Republic of Iran

Mostafa Hashemitaba was elected in 1986 for a two-year term as President of the NOC in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He served again from 1996 to 2004, during which period he was co-opted as one of seven NOC representatives to the IOC. He was also Vice-President of the Head of Iran's Physical Education Organisation from 1994 to 2001.

After graduating as a textile engineer from the Amir Kabir University of Technology, Hashemitaba went into politics. During the war between Iran and Iraq, he served as Minister of Heavy Industries from 1981 to 1982. In 1996, he became one of the 16 founders of the reformist Executives of Construction Party, of whose Central Committee he was a member. He twice ran unsuccessfully for the office of President.



Born: 22 May 1946,
Isfahan
Elected:
13 September 2000
Resigned:
29 August 2004
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 4,
Absent 1

453. | Paul Franklin Henderson | Canada

Paul Henderson grew up amongst boats and yachts in the Toronto Islands, where he quickly grew into one of the best Canadian sailors. He participated in the Canadian Olympic Trials from 1952 to 1984 and qualified for the Olympic Games on two occasions. In 1964, he came 12th in the Flying Dutchman class and in 1968, he finished in 20th place in the Finn. He was Canadian National Champion seven times, and US champion four times.

From the early 1970s, Henderson represented Canada in the International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU), which changed its name to the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) in 1996. After serving as Vice-President from 1978, he was elected as the first non-European President in 1994. He was co-opted to the IOC in this position from 2000 until the end of his ISAF term in 2004.

The successful businessman operated RG Henderson & Son Ltd., a commercial food equipment service agency for manufacturers. He was committed to the management of the Toronto bid for the 1996 Olympics for five years. He was an Executive Member of ASOIF during his IOC membership.



Born: 17 November
1934, Toronto,
Ontario
Elected:
13 September 2000
Resigned:
31 December 2004
Honorary Member
since 2010
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 4,
Absent 1

454. | William Joseph Hybl | USA

As luck would have it, William Hybl was born in the same city as Robert Helmick, who resigned in 1991 after four years in office as President of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) after business dealings which constituted a conflict of interest became known (see *JOH*, Vol. 23, 2015, no. 3, p. 69). Hybl served as an adviser to the USOC from 1987, and was seen as an ideal choice precisely because he was not one of the group of people whose names were publicly debated on the question of a successor.

Hybl also spoke of his excellent connections to politics. He became a member of the Colorado House of Representatives in 1972 at the age of 30. In early 1981, he had a brief career as a Special Counsel to the US President during the transition from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan. His tasks included finding solutions to problems arising from the 1980 Olympics boycott by the United States.



Born: 16 July 1942,
Des Moines, Iowa
Elected:
13 September 2000
Resigned:
23 February 2002
Attendance at
Sessions: Present 1,
Absent 1



He then returned to Colorado, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1964, and three years later his Juris Doctorate from the University of Colorado. In 1986, he became President of the El Pomar Investment Co. He also served on the Board of Directors of various companies.

Hybl managed the USOC for the remaining 18 months of Helmick's term in office, and led the 1992 US Olympic Team Delegations to the Winter Games in Albertville and the Summer Games in Barcelona. After a break of four years, he was again elected as USOC President in 1996. He was co-opted onto the IOC in 2000 as an NOC representative.

After the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Hybl ceded his position to Sandra Baldwin, who had become the first female USOC President two years earlier. She resigned only three months later after making false statements on the USOC website about her academic record.

Hybl is Chairman and CEO of El Pomar Foundation. President George W. Bush named him US Representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2001. He was responsible for giving American approval to the Olympic Truce Resolution for the 2002 Winter Olympics. He was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) in 2003. President Bush appointed him Chairman of the US Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy in 2008.

455. | Gian-Franco Kasper | Switzerland

Born: 24 January
1944, St. Moritz
Elected:
13 September 2000
Resigned:
30 June 2018
Honorary Member
since 2019
Attendance at
Sessions:
Present 20, Absent 1
Executive Board
Member No. 95
Elected Member
3 August 2016 –
30 June 2018



Following his studies in psychology, philosophy and journalism at the University of Zurich, Gian-Franco Kasper worked for various Swiss newspapers. He published the *St. Moritz Kurier* in four different languages from 1969 onwards. He served often as press officer, in the PR sections of the organising committees of the 1974 Alpine World Ski Championships and the World Championships in Bobsleigh in St. Moritz, and in the European Championships in sailing and equestrianism.

In 1975, FIS President Marc Hodler brought Kasper to Oberhofen on Lake Thun, where he took on the position of General Secretary of the International Ski Federation (FIS). Kasper was elected in May 1998 as the fourth FIS president, succeeding Hodler who had resigned at short notice. He has held the office for 21 years.

After Kasper joined the 1986 GAISF (now SportAccord) Council, he chaired the 2000–2002 Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federation (AIOWF).

Kasper was co-opted to the IOC in 2000 under the regulations he was scheduled to retire when he reached the upper age limit in 2014. However, he was elected AIOWF President for the second time in 2014. As he was also a Coordination Commission member for the Winter Olympics of 2018 and 2022, and the 2nd Winter Youth Olympic Games of 2016. The 2014 session in Monaco approved the proposal that he should retain his position on the IOC until 30 June 2018.

456. | Kipchoge Keino | Kenya

Kipchoge Keino was one of the greatest middle- and long-distance runners in the world. He came fifth in the 5,000 m at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo when his country took part for the first time. He set two world records in 1965: for the 3,000 m (7:39.6 min) and 5,000 m (13:24.2 min). In the same year, he won the 1,500 m and 5,000 m races at the first African Games. He won gold in the one mile and three mile at the 1966 Commonwealth Games.

Keino's greatest achievements came at the 1968 and 1972 Olympics. In Mexico City, he took gold in the 1,500 m and finished second in the 5,000 m. In Munich he won 3,000 steeplechase gold and came second in the 1,500 m. As a reward, he was promoted to the rank of captain in the Police Force.

Keino ended his career as a top sportsman after a brief stint with the International Track Association (ITA), founded by former US volleyball player Mike O'Hara in 1973. Together with his wife Phyllis, Keino founded a charitable organisation at Kazi Mingi Farm near Eldoret in North Western Kenya. This cared for orphans and former child soldiers.

Keino was chosen as head coach for the Kenyan athletic team in 1976 but the Olympics were ultimately boycotted by Kenya. In 1984, Keino did fulfil this role. He also served as Chef de Mission at the 1994 Commonwealth Games and the 1996 Olympics.

He was elected Vice-Chairman of the National Olympic Committee Kenya (NOCK) in 1987, and succeeded President Charles Mukora as President in 1999. Mukora, the former head coach was implicated in the bribery scandal surrounding the 2002 Winter Olympics and resigned from the IOC on 27 January 1999, to forestall an investigation. (see *JOH*, Vol. 24, 2016, no. 2, p. 68).

Keino, who was co-opted to the IOC in 2000, remained President of the NOCK until 2017. When the Games were opened in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, he was the first to be awarded the Olympic Laurel by IOC President Thomas Bach for services to the Olympic Movement.



Born: 17 January
1940, Nandi
Elected: 13
September 2000
Resigned:
31 December 2010
Honorary Member
since 2010
Attendance at
Sessions:
Present 10, Absent 1