

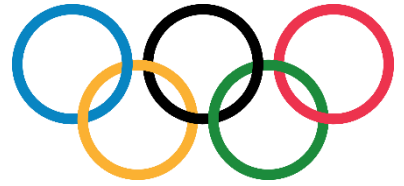
IOC - International Olympic Committee

"The International Olympic Committee is a private non-governmental organization. It is the authority responsible for organizing the modern Olympic Games. The IOC is the controlling body for the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), which are the national constituents of the worldwide Olympic Movement." (from Wikipedia)

The history of the modern Olympic Games is also the history of sports development since the mid-19th century.

Beginning in England, at first only members of the upper classes devoted themselves to sports (gentlemen sports) as leisure activities, as a status symbol reserved for them. (The verb "to sport" first appeared in the English novel "Destruction of Troya" by an unknown author, meaning for recreational activities of the nobility used in contrast to the "pastimes" of the lowly people.) From this historical root the concept of the amateur is to explain also. "Amateur" was originally the demarcation of the elitist upper class of all who had to earn a living. Conversely, the term "Professional" had nothing to do with the practice of sports or morally judgment. Interestingly, even Coubertin found the amateur concept ridiculous, calling it a "caste question". On the other hand, the "Amateur" was imposed on the IOC by the sports federations. Until the 1990s, amateur status was crucial for the admission of an athlete to the Olympic Games. At the end of the 19th century, sports also spread to the middle classes. Its pedagogical function had been recognized and placed in the service of education in the elite schools. From this pedagogical point of view, the original ideas of the French Baron de Coubertin originate as well for the Olympic movement initiated by him.

At the beginning, women's sports played no role in the Olympic Movement but also in sports generally. Coubertin remained an opponent of women's sports until his death. He regarded it as "contrary to the laws of nature." Although there some competitions for women in the early years of the Olympic Games (tennis, golf, swimming, figure skating) it lasted until 1926, as the IOC decided to allow women's athletics with 12 to 5 votes. This was the beginning of a very long way to gender equality at the Olympic Games.



Presidents

23.06.1894 - 15.04.1896	Demetrius Vikelas GRE
15.04.1896 - 10.04.1915	Baron Pierre de Coubertin FRA
10.04.1915 - 05.04.1919	Baron Godefroy de Blonay SUI, acting
05.04.1919 - 26.05.1926	Baron Pierre de Coubertin FRA
26.05.1926 - 06.01.1942 †	Comte Henri de Baillet-Latour BEL
07.01.1942 - 07.09.1946	Johannes Sigfrid Edström SWE, acting
07.09.1946 - 31.08.1952	Johannes Sigfrid Edström SWE
01.09.1952 - 11.10.1972	Avery Brundage USA
12.10.1972 - 03.08.1980	Lord Michael Morris Killanin IRL
04.08.1980 - 16.07.2001	Juan Antonio Samaranch ESP
16.07.2001 - 10.09.2013	Dr. Jacques Rogge BEL
10.09.2013 - 23.06.2025	Dr. Thomas Bach GER
23.06.2025 -	Kirsty Coventry ZIM