



COMITÉ
INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIQUE

Olympic Studies Centre

Games of the XXV Olympiad, Barcelona, 1992

Fonds list

Overview of the content of the archives concerning the preparation, organisation and running of the Games

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Barcelona 1992 – Games of the XXV Olympiad

Reference: CH CIO-AH C-J01-1992

Dates: 1986-2000

Level of description: Fonds

Extent and medium: 11.5 l.m. text documents

Name of creator

International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Administrative/Biographical history

Candidate Cities

On 17 October 1986, at the 91st IOC Session in Lausanne (Switzerland), the city of Barcelona (Spain) was awarded the right to host the Games of the XXV Olympiad, beating Amsterdam (Netherlands), Belgrade (Yugoslavia), Birmingham (Great Britain), Brisbane (Australia) and Paris (France). It was elected in the third round with 47 votes over 23 for Paris, 10 for Brisbane and 5 for Belgrade - Amsterdam and Birmingham having been eliminated in the first and second rounds respectively¹.

Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG)²

The Organising Committee for the Games of the XXV Olympiad was formed on 12 March 1987. Named "Barcelona'92 Olympic Organising Committee" (COOB'92), its headquarters were in Barcelona.

The President of the Organising Committee was Barcelona Mayor Pasqual Maragall.

The OCOG was liquidated on 15 September 1992, and it was decided give the liquidator the possibility to create a foundation to perpetuate the memory of the Barcelona 1992 Games. Created following a resolution of the General Assembly of Shareholders of COOB'92, held on 9 February 1993, the *Fundació Barcelona Olímpica* was formed on 1 April 1993³. The specific objective of the foundation, among other more general things, was to establish, maintain and promote a permanent exhibition and research centre open to the public and thus offer an overview of the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Dates and number of athletes

The Games of the XXV Olympiad were held from 25 July to 9 August 1992. Some 9,356 athletes – 6,652 men and 2,704 women from 189 different countries (NOCs) – took part in 25 sports and 257 events at the 1992 Games in Barcelona.⁴

For more information on the history of the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona in 1992, see the page dedicated to these Games on the IOC website.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

The fonds was received by the IOC Historical Archives in 2012 as part of the periodic transfer of operational archives.

Presentation of the content

Generally, the fonds focusses on the IOC's activities linked to the preparation, organisation and running of the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, but above all relations maintained with the OCOG. The subjects addressed are diverse and varied, and the correspondence provides information on the accreditation system, official film, the media, ceremonies and the Olympic Village. More specifically, the fonds addresses more broadly some themes which are set out below.

¹ Source: IOC Historical Archives / Sessions – 91st Session, Lausanne – Minutes – 1986

² Source: *Official Report of the Games of the XXV Olympiad, Barcelona 1992*, pp. 18-25

³ Source: Website of the *Fundació Barcelona Olímpica*: <http://www.fundaciobarcelonaolimpica.es/index.asp>

⁴ Source: www.olympic.org



Relations between the IOC and the OCOG occupy an important place in the fonds. The correspondence focuses mainly on all administrative aspects of the preparations for the Games. Besides the correspondence, the fonds also contains the OCOG's corporation deed as well as its statutes, the reports presented at IOC meetings (Sessions, Executive Board and commissions) or the minutes of coordination meetings between the OCOG and the IOC. In addition, the fonds contains the master plans and operational plans developed by the OCOG.

Relations between the OCOG and the Olympic family are well represented in the fonds for the Games of the XXV Olympiad. The fonds shows these relations with the NOCs and the International Federations (IFs) in particular.

For the IFs, the fonds is essentially made up of correspondence concerning the events, qualification systems, limits on the number of athletes, and the problems linked to the competition venues and competition times. A specific file is devoted to African horse sickness in Spain, and the risk of organising equestrian events in the country. It contains correspondence, reports, minutes of meetings and letters from various cities putting forward candidatures to organise the equestrian events if Barcelona was unable to do so.

As regards the NOCs, the correspondence deals with their concerns on very varied subjects, such as, for example, accommodation, the qualification criteria, quotas, financing, Olympic Solidarity (OS) subsidies, the distribution of tickets and providing a guarantee to accommodate delegations in the Olympic Village. This guarantee was given by the IOC for certain NOCs in financial difficulty.

One of the themes addressed concerned the participation of new NOCs and independent Olympic participants.

In the years preceding the 1992 Games in Barcelona, the world saw some important political changes. The fonds bears witness to the consequences of these historic changes, presenting the following issues:

- Former Yugoslavia: the fonds reflects the scale of the efforts deployed by the IOC to find an acceptable solution with the UN Security Council to ensure the participation of athletes from the Former Yugoslavia. Indeed, the country was the subject of sanctions by the UN, owing to its armed attack on Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.
In agreement with the UN Security Council, the IOC decided to offer the possibility to athletes from the Former Yugoslavia to take part in the 1992 Games in Barcelona as "independent Olympic athletes". Participation in team sports, however, was not authorised. The independent athletes took part under the Olympic flag and the IOC provided white clothes without any national identification to the athletes and officials. For a victory, the Olympic anthem and flag were used.
Having been recognised provisionally by the IOC in January and July 1992⁵, Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina respectively participated in their own team colours at the Barcelona Games.
Besides the correspondence, the fonds contains a contract between the IOC and the NOC of Yugoslavia, minutes of meetings between the IOC and the NOC, the list of participants and a signed commitment on their part to comply with the IOC-NOC contract.
- Former USSR: as a consequence of the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, the USSR was divided into 15 distinct countries. Independent teams from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania took part in the Games, their respective NOCs having been re-integrated into the Olympic Movement at the end of 1991⁶. As for the other republics, in conformity with the powers granted by the 98th Session in Courchevel in February 1992, the four IOC Vice-Presidents and the IOC President decided to grant provisional recognition to the NOCs of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, provided that they took part in the Barcelona Games in a unified team⁷. The participation conditions of the unified team are described in

⁵ Source: IOC Historical Archives / Sessions – 98th Session Courchevel – Minutes – 1992 and IOC Historical Archives / Sessions – 99th Session Barcelona – Minutes – 1992

⁶ Source: IOC Historical Archives / Executive Boards – Berlin - Minutes – September 1991

⁷ Source: IOC Historical Archives / C-J01-1992/101



detail⁸, mainly the fact that, for team sports, it was the Olympic flag and anthem that were used at the victory ceremonies. In individual sports, each winner was honoured by the flag and anthem from his/her own republic.

- South Africa: at the 70th IOC Session in Amsterdam in May 1970, the NOC of South Africa had its recognition withdrawn by the IOC owing to the application in sport of the laws of apartheid, which violated the Fundamental Principles of the Olympic Movement as established by the Olympic Charter⁹. The election of Frederik De Klerk as the country's president in 1989, who began to abandon the policy of apartheid, and the liberation of Nelson Mandela in February 1990, led the IOC to restore relations and once again meet the South African sports organisations and authorities. Following the abolition of apartheid laws in June 1991, the IOC "Apartheid and Olympism" Commission recommended, on 9 July 1991, official recognition of the NOC of South Africa. The IOC President thus decided to proclaim recognition of the NOC and informed the Olympic family of this in a circular letter dated 15 July 1991¹⁰. At an Executive Board meeting in Berlin in September 1991, recognition of the NOC was approved. Twenty-one years after its exclusion, South Africa returned to the Olympic Movement and could take part in the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

The fonds contain correspondence dealing with the two issues above.

The issue of accommodating the Olympic family and Games visitors was a complex point to manage for the OCOG. Correspondence conserved in the fonds of the Games of the XXV Olympiad bears witness to the difficulties linked to the high price of hotels and the lack of rooms available. The fonds also contains lodging contracts, reports, rates and needs. There is also a specific file on boat accommodation in the port of Barcelona. Luxury ocean liners were used to accommodate business guests sponsoring the Games to avoid impinging on hotel resources which were already highly sought after.

Marketing is the most covered issues in the fonds for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. This theme is divided into several parts depending on the various partner categories. The first category is represented by sponsors belonging to the IOC's worldwide TOP programme. This was set up in 1985 with the aim of developing a diversified revenue base for the Olympic Games. The TOP companies benefit from exclusive worldwide marketing rights and advantages within their product category and sign up for a minimum of four years. The 1992 Olympic Games (Albertville and Barcelona) saw the participation of the following 12 partners: 3M, Bausch & Lomb, Brother, Coca-Cola, Kodak, Mars, Matsushita, Philips, Ricoh, Time/Sports Illustrated, USPS and Visa.

In addition to the TOP programme, the OCOG developed other partnership programmes at national and international level: joint partners, official sponsors, official suppliers, suppliers of official sports material and official licence-holders. The fonds also covers these various types of partnership with considerable space devoted to joint partners, a category reserved for large companies on the Spanish market.

The fonds contain the same types of document for the various partner categories: correspondence, contracts and publications. In addition to this information on the partners, the fonds also contains general correspondence (including a part on the non-authorized use of Olympic emblems), reports, minutes of meetings and information on the IOC marketing club.

Linked to the theme of marketing, the issue of advertising is also present in the fonds, but to a lesser extent. The correspondence focuses essentially on the identification of marks on athletes' clothing and equipment, particularly the boats bearing the name of a sponsor (in rowing and sailing). It also concerns violation to the rules (ambush marketing) and the flight ban for advertising airships over the city.

The issue of the media forms a highly developed theme in the fonds. The theme is sub-divided into categories according to the nature of the media: written press, photographers, radio, television and video. The fonds contains in particular correspondence, press releases and kits, reports and operational plans – including reports on TV coverage and audience figures by country and sport.

⁸ Source: IOC Historical Archives / Executive Boards – Courchevel – Minutes – February 1992

⁹ Source: IOC Historical Archives / Sessions – 70^e Session Amsterdam – Minutes – 1970

¹⁰ Source: IOC Historical Archives / C-J01-1992/100



The theme of competition venues and sports facilities is covered in the fonds for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona in the form of general correspondence on the competition venues, and more specifically on the difficulties linked to choosing the venues for hockey and sailing.

There are also documents with general presentations of the venues, information on the working group for supervising the work and the creation of a private company to manage the facilities, operational land plans for several venues and publications. Also of note is the presence in the fonds of very detailed reports on the progress of work (several per year from 1990 to 1992) with images of the evolution of the work.

As regards the sports programme, the correspondence addresses the addition of events to the programme, particularly the slalom in canoe-kayak, and demonstration sports (Basque pelota, rink-hockey and taekwondo). The fonds also contains activity and progress reports by sport, as well as lists and reports on the test events (competiciones'91).

On the same theme, the fonds addresses the issue of the Paralympic Games. These were held three weeks after the Games of the XXV Olympiad, bringing together for 12 days athletes with a disability to compete in 15 sports. The competition venues were the same as for the Olympic Games. For the first time in history, the Organising Committee was the same for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The fonds contains in particular correspondence, competition programmes and schedules, information kits, progress report and operational plans as well as a presentation on ranking athletes by their disability. There is also information on the ceremonies and the flame.

One part of the fonds for the 1992 Games in Barcelona is devoted to the Olympic symbols, and contains information in the form of correspondence, contracts, speeches, norms and other proposals on the posters, Games emblem, mascot, motto and Olympic Torch Relay.

Also of note is the presence of documents on registering the OCOG marks (emblem and mascot) by product category and by country with "Ungria Patentes y Marcas", an entity specialised in protecting patent rights.

The Official Film is also dealt with in the fonds with correspondence, the contract, scenario and presentation of various propositions. That chosen by the OCOG was by the Ibergroup SA production company for the film entitled "Marathon" directed by Hugh Hudson, who directed the film "Chariots of Fire". The scenario by Melvyn Bragg focused on the marathon and comprised a reconstitution of the Battle of Marathon (490 BC). Hugh Hudson abandoned the project several weeks before the start of filming, and Spanish film-maker Carlos Saura was hired to replace him.

The fonds also deals with the Cultural Olympiad (*Olimpiada Cultural*) which took place from 1988 to 1991, culminating in in 1992 with the Olympic Arts Festival. The programme revolved around the historic and artistic patrimony of Barcelona, the meeting between art and sport, as well as various shows highlighting Spanish and Catalan artistic variety. The fonds reflects this diversity, containing correspondence, contracts, speeches, brochures, invitations and programmes. In particular is the file devoted to the IV International Biennale on Art in Sport. Participation in this event was reserved for athletes competing at the Barcelona Games who could present paintings, drawings and sculptures.

To conclude, the Barcelona Games in 1992 were also the subject of protests. These were essentially linked to animal rights and focused on the use of animals in general during the Games. In particular, the use of doves during the Opening Ceremony was strongly questioned to avoid the drama of Seoul when some doves burned to death when the Olympic cauldron was lit. Voices were also raised against the possibility of the OCOG organising a bullfight during the Games. Finally, the eventing course for the equestrian events was strongly criticised owing to its overstated complexity and putting in danger the lives of the horses and their riders.

Protests also focused on the exhibition (since 1915) of the mummified body of an African tribal chief at the Natural History Museum in Banyoles (El Negro). The subject was addressed in an IOC Executive Board Meeting in Seville in May 1992, which decided: "Mr Abad to approach the authorities in Banyoles and pass on the IOC's request that the section of the Museum concerned remain closed



throughout the Games."¹¹ In a letter dated 19 May 1992¹², the Mayor of Banyoles refused to accept this request.

In addition to the themes developed above, the fonds addresses many other subjects, such as: accreditations, Games eligibility, ticketing, the youth camp, ceremonies, timing, the Olympic flag, legal affairs, parallel events, invitations, music, numismatics, staff and volunteers, technology, the Olympic Truce and the Olympic Village.

Accruals

No

Conditions governing access

The documents are freely accessible, subject to the provisions established by the IOC to this effect.

Language/scripts of material

The documents are mainly written in English and Spanish. Some documents are in Catalan or French.

Bibliography

Official Report of the Games of the XXV Olympiad, Barcelona 1992

IOC website, page on the Games of the XXV Olympiad, Barcelona 1992.

Additional sourcesInternal sources

- Candidate Cities: C-J04-1992

External sources

- Arxiu Municipal Administratiu
- Centre d'Estudis Olímpics i de l'Esport Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- Fundació Barcelona Olímpica

Notes

The content of this fonds, including the Olympic identifications, are the property of the IOC.

Rules or conventions

Description complies with ISAD(G).

Date(s) of description

25 February 2015

¹¹ Source: IOC Historical Archives / Executive Boards – Monaco and Seville – Minutes – May 1992

¹² Source: IOC Historical Archives / C-J01-1992/458