
Benin and Olympism



The OCB delegation in 1984 in Los Angeles.

BENIN¹

112 600 km²

3 800 000 inhabitants (1983)

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF BENIN (OCB)

Founded on 5th May 1962

Recognised by the IOC in 1962

President in office :

Marius Francisco*

Secretary General in office :

Lucien Gokoun'

Address : BP N° 32767, Cotonou

Telephone : 31 26 22

Telegrams : COLYMPIC Benin

Official Olympic abbreviation : BEN



¹ Called Dahomey until 1975

• Creation

In February 1962, the Secretary of the IOC was informed of a plan to create a National Olympic Committee in Dahomey. On 5th May 1962, representatives of seven national sport federations (athletics, basketball, boxing, cycling, football, volleyball and tennis) formed the Dahoman National Olympic Committee. The Presidents of the Athletics and Volleyball Federations, Mr. Justin Durand



*Justin Durand,
President from 1962-1981*

and Mr. Adolphe Santos, became President and Secretary General respectively of the new NOC. A few weeks later at the 60th Session of the IOC, the members granted the OCB official recognition.

• **First Executive Board of the OCB**

PT: Justin Durand; *VPT:* Marius Amegan; *SG:* Adolphe Santos; *T:* Thomas Feliho. This Board remained unchanged until 1981.

Successive Presidents of the OCB :

1962-1981 : Justin Durand

1981-1982 : Dr. Soule Dankoro

1982 : Marius Francisco*

BENIN AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

• Date of first participation : 1972.

The OCB's first Olympic delegation consisted of three athletes and two boxers.

In 1976, the OCB decided not to take part in the celebration of the Olympiad in Montreal.

In 1980, in Moscow, the Benin delegation consisted of eighteen members : Nine athletes, including a woman, and nine boxers.

In 1984, in Los Angeles, there were three athletes representing the Benin NOC.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE OCB

• **Federations affiliated to the OCB**

Athletics, basketball, boxing, cycling, football, handball, judo, volleyball.

• **Current members of the Executive Board**

PT: Marius Francisco* ; *VPT:* Andre Yoro ; *SC :* Lucien Gokoun* ; *TG :* Auguste d'Almeida (These four forming the office of the OCB) ; *MS :* Bernard Pognon, Ezéchiél Wannou, Frederic Affo.

SPORT IN BENIN

A *sports charter* promulgated by ordinance n° 76-16, 29th March 1976, governs the sporting life in Benin.

A *National Sports Council*, made up of four commissions, forms the supreme national sporting body. One of these commissions deals with the National, regional, African and Olympic Games.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



*Marius Francisco,
President since 1982*

Marius Francisco, President of the OCB since 1982. Born 3rd May 1938 at Ouidah (BEN). Engineer in computer science, who became President of the computers office in Benin in 1977, also President of the scientific committee of the African institute of computers, and President of the African Union of computer specialists. Member of the National Sports Council since 1976, assuming responsibility for the direction of the National Handball Federation and the Board which selects the football players of Benin.



*Lucien Gokoun
Secretaire General since 1982*

Lucien Gokoun, Secretary General of the OCB since 1982.

Born the 6th May 1929 at Cotonou (BEN). A high and long jumper of great standing, and a volleyball player of renown (was captain of the national team) became President of the main board of judges of volleyball, and President of the National Federation itself.

-, see biographical notes

