

Jamaica and Olympism

JAMAICA

11,424 sq. km.
2,100,000 inhabitants.



JAMAICA OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION (JOA)

Recognised by the IOC in 1936.
Recognised in its present form in March 1962.

President in office: Michael S. Fennell *.
Secretary General in office: Mrs. Nellie Reid (acting).

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* See biographical notes.

Role of the JOA

- To promote and encourage the interests of amateur sport in Jamaica
- To undertake the organisation of international sports Games and to promote Jamaica's participation in them.
- To form, educate and stimulate public opinion concerning the importance to society of properly organised physical recreation.

Creation and development

Recognition was extended by the IOC to a Jamaican National Olympic Committee in 1936, though the country's first appearance at the Games was not to take place until 12 years later in London. The Jamaica Olympic Association did not come into existence in its present form until 1962 following the dissolution of the West Indies Federation and its corresponding Olympic Committee which had been presided over by a well known figure in Jamaican sport, Sir Herbert MacDonald *. Official recognition of this new JOA with 13 affiliated sports federations was granted by the IOC Executive Board at a meeting held in Lausanne on 2nd and 3rd March 1962.

IOC member in Jamaica

Since 1973 : Tony Bridge *.



The President and Secretary General of the NOC, Mr. Michael S. Fennell and Miss Leila Robinson, in June 1979, during the meetings held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



*Tony Bridge,
IOC member.*

Successive Presidents of the JOA

- 1936-1940 : Norman Manley.
- 1940-1943 : Herbert MacDonald *.
- 1947-1949 : Harry Dayes.
- 1949-1955 : George Desnoes.
- 1955-1956 : Herbert MacDonald *.
- 1956-1957 : Benito Machado.
- 1957-1977 : Tony Bridge *.
- Since 1977 : Michael S. Fennell *.

JAMAICA AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

Date of first participation : 1948.

Jamaica's first attendance at the Olympic Games in London was marked by the spectacular performance of its sprinters Arthur Wint * and Herbert McKenley who, between them, earned one gold and two silver medals. Jamai-

can athletes have been present at each subsequent renewal of the Games, though no national delegation has taken part in the Winter Games. In 1960 Jamaica participated as part of the West Indies team as at that time there existed a Federation of the West Indian territories.

1976 - Montreal: The Jamaican delegation



Representation of Jamaica at the Olympic Games ¹

	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1948	6(4)			1							2
1952	5(2)					1					
1956	6										
1960 ²											
1964	11(4)			2							
1968	9(4)			2							1
1972	16(12)			1		6					
1976	14(9)			3		3					
1980	21(9)			1		2					

	Handball	Hockey	Judo	Wrestling	Swimming	Modern Pentathlon	Shooting	Archery	Volleyball	Yachting	Total
1948	●		●					●	●		9(4)
1952	●		●					●	●		6(2)
1956	●		●					●	●		6
1960	●		●					●	●		
1964	●						1	●		3	17(4)
1968	●		●		1			●		5	18(4)
1972					2					4	29(12)
1976					1		2				23 (9)
1980											24(9)

¹ The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.

● Not included on the programme.

² Participated this year as part of the West Indies Team.

The Jamaican Olympic Champions

Titles obtained at the Olympic Games

1948 - Arthur Wint

Name	First name	Sport	Event
Wint	Arthur	Athletics	400 m
Rhoden	George	Athletics	400 m
Wint	Arthur	Athletics	4 x 400 m
Laing	Leslie	Athletics	4 x 400 m
McKenley	Herbert	Athletics	4 x 400 m
Rhoden	George	Athletics	4 x 400 m
Quarrie	Donald	Athletics	200 m



To this list must be added the name of Lennox Miller who, while not having earned a gold medal, has to his credit a silver medal in the 100 m. event at the 1968 Olympic Games and a bronze medal in the same event, earned four years later in Munich.

In Moscow in 1980, in addition to another medal for Donald Quarrie (this time bronze, in the 200 m.) we would note the third places achieved by the athlete Merlene Ottey (women's 200 m.) and the cyclist David Weller (1,000 m. individual time trial).

Donald Quarrie winning the 200 m. event at the Olympic Games in Montreal.



* The names in heavy print indicate that the champion in question is mentioned again later on.

* We would like to thank any reader in advance who can help us complete this table and give us news of all the Olympic champions of the past.

1948 - Herbert McKenley

Year	Birth	Notes
1948	1920	2nd in the 800 m in 1948 and 1952 (See biographical notes)
1952	1926	
1952	1920	1948 : 2nd in the 400 m 1952 : 2nd in the 100 m and 400 m
1952	1925	
1952		
1952	1926	1976: 2nd in 100 m
1976		



In Helsinki in 1956, the President of the IOC, J. Sigfrid Edström, presents the gold medals to the winners of the 4 x 400 m. relay.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE JOA

- **The present statutes** were adopted in the spring of 1973.

- **Composition**

Membership on the JOA is open to any organisation controlling an amateur sport in Jamaica. Honorary memberships may be conferred on any persons having rendered distinguished service to the JOA or to the amateur sports movement in the country.

- **A General Meeting**, to be held annually on or before 28th February, has among its tasks the adoption of reports and accounts, the election of officers to a four-year term and the appointment of auditors. An extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at the request of at least six Council members.

- **The Council**, entrusted with the administration of the NOC as well as the enforcement of rules, the admission of any eligible national sports associations and the composition of Olympic and other national sports delegations, is made up of the JOA's officers (a President, no more than two Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer) plus the President of each member-association.

- **Present officers**

PT: Mr. Michael S. Fennell * ; *1st VPT:* Mr. Keith Shervington ; *2nd VPT:* Dr. Matthew Beaubrum ; *Hon. Sec. :* Mrs. Nellie Reid (acting) ; *M. ex-officio:* Tony Bridge *, IOC member and immediate Past President.

- **Federations affiliated to the JOA**

Federation	Date of IF affiliation	Members in	
		1972	1979
Athletics	1951	25000	40000
Badminton	1962	1000	1700
Basketball	1962	150	300
Boxing	1958	100	150
Cycling before	1968	150	200
Football	1962	11000	20000
Hockey	1964	100	300
Judo	1968	75	175
Lawn Tennis		245	350
Netball	1962	11000	19000
Paraplegic	1968	250	300
Shooting	1950	75	100
Skeet shooting	1978	300	155
Softball	1960	800	2100
Squash Racquets	1974	100	300
Swimming	1963	150	500
Table Tennis	1956	300	600
Volleyball	1961	100	300
Weightlifting	1946	40	70
Women's Cricket	1968	300	200
Women's Hockey	1948	250	350
Yachting	1962	150	200

THE JOA AND OLYMPISM



- **Olympic awards obtained**

Olympic Diploma of Merit.

1967 - by Sir Herbert MacDonald * for his many years of dedication to the cause of sport in Jamaica and his monumental contribution to the organisation of the 1966 Commonwealth Games in Kingston.

- **Regional Games**

Kingston, the capital of Jamaica, served as the site for the 9th Central American and Caribbean Games in 1962 and the 8th Commonwealth Games in 1966.

- **Protection of the Olympic emblems**

This protection is provided for by the law relating to trade-marks.

- **The International Olympic Academy**

Thanks to the aid received from Olympic Solidarity, the JOA now envisages the establishment of links with the IOA and also plans to send representatives.

SPORT IN JAMAICA

- **State aid to the sports movement**

The state aids financially both the JOA and the various national sports associations, primarily with a view to enabling them to take part in international competition. The state allocates approximately 0.002% of its budget to sport. In addition, the private sector provides sporting organisations with substantial financial assistance.

- **Formation of sports leaders**

Courses and seminars are arranged to this effect.

- **Sport at school**

The weekly timetable devotes to sport :

To age 11 : 45 minutes.

11-13: 1 hour.

13-15 : 1 hour.

15 and over : 45 minutes.

This schedule is completed by one to two hours swimming per week.

- **Sports installations**

One sports centre, twenty-six swimming pools (including one of 50 m), and a gymnasium.



● Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football, athletics and cricket.

● Sports experiencing the greatest development

Athletics, boxing, cycling, tennis, basketball and netball.



BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Tony Bridge

President of the JOA from 1957 to 1977. IOC member since 1973.

Born in 1921 and a Director for a number of companies, he has served the cause of Jamaican sport for more than three decades. As an athlete, his specialty was shooting and he earned the right to represent his country in international competitions, including Regional and Olympic Games on many occasions between 1950 and 1970. He also served as Chef de Mission for Jamaican sports delegations at major international events beginning in 1962. The tasks he assumed within Jamaican sports organisations were numerous, including terms as President of the JOA and of the national athletics federation and as Vice-President of the Boxing Board of Control and the national rifle and weightlifting associations. Mr. Bridge was also active in the staging of the 9th Central American and Caribbean Games and the 8th Commonwealth Games, serving as Vice-President of both Organising Committees. Since his election as an IOC member in 1973, he has performed many important duties, sitting on the Commission for the Olympic Programme since 1974 and taking part in the fact finding missions which travelled to Taiwan and the People's Republic of China in 1978 and 1979. In 1967 Mr. Bridge was honoured for his many efforts in diverse fields with the decoration "Officer of the Order of the British Empire".

Michael S. Fennell

President of the JOA since 1977.

Born in 1935, he holds the post of Managing Director of Berger Paints Jamaica Ltd. and Regional Director for the Berger Caribbean area. His career as an athlete featured participation in swimming and water polo events (captain of the water polo team) at the 1958 and 1962 Central American and Caribbean Games and in 1959 of the West Indies team at the Pan-American Games, again at the head of the water polo team. He occupied administrative positions on the Amateur Swimming Association and the Jamaica Boxing Board of Control from 1950 to 1977 and served as first Vice-President of his NOC from 1973 to 1977 before assuming the presidential duties.

Sir Herbert MacDonald

One of the pillars of Jamaican sport, he was awarded the Olympic Diploma of Merit in 1967.

As a sportsman, he represented his country in football and tennis and was the first Jamaican to receive the national "Sportsman Award". He accompanied the national delegation during its first Olympic appearance in 1948 and served as team manager at the four succeeding celebrations of the Olympiad. He was the only man to occupy the position of President of the West Indies Olympic Association which existed at the time of the political union of the West Indies. Having played a vital role in the staging of the 1966 Commonwealth Games held in Kingston, an enormous undertaking for the island, he was made a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Miss Leila C. Robinson †

Secretary General of the JOA from 1977 to 1980.

After completing studies at a number of university institutions, she pursued a career in the field of education. Prior to her tragic death from a thrombosis, she occupied the post of education officer for mathematics in addition to serving as secretary of the Metrication Advisory Board within her country's Ministry of Industry and Commerce. In sport, Miss Robinson's prime interest was netball and she held, from 1959 onwards, a number of positions within the National and International Federations governing that sport. She was also active in umpiring international women's hockey competitions from 1957 to 1963 and served right up to her death as an umpire for international netball matches.

Arthur Wint

A winner of two gold medals and one silver at the 1948 Olympic Games and a silver medal four years later in Helsinki, Mr. Wint is regarded as the father of Jamaican athletics, his statue standing outside the main stadium in Kingston. He completed studies in medicine, but later chose a diplomatic career and served as Jamaican High Commissioner in London in 1974 as well as ambassador to Sweden in 1975.