



Elections of the Presidents of the International Olympic Committee

Candidates and voting results

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> FOREWORD

This document looks at the elections of the Presidents of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), starting with the first election of Dimitrius Vikelas, in 1894, to the election in 2013 of the ninth president of the IOC Thomas Bach. Dates, place, candidates, voting results, outcomes, duration of the term of office and changes of rules are included as relevant.

For an easy understanding of this document, please take into consideration the following points:

- The elections are presented in historic chronological order.
- Minutes of the IOC Sessions are the primary source for this information (some of them are only available in French). When information was not available in the minutes, other sources have been used and are mentioned.
- The terminology “candidate” was not officially used for early elections.
- The results and procedure of the voting are not available for all the elections

1. DEMETRIUS VIKELAS (GRE), FROM 1894 TO 1896

1894: PARIS, A FEW DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE 1ST
OLYMPIC CONGRESS^{1, 2}

- Candidate: Mr. Demetrius Vikelas.
- Voting Results: Mr. Demetrius Vikelas was chosen as President during a meeting with Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Mr. William Milligan Sloane and Mr. Ernest Callot that was held after the Congress.

> Outcome: Mr. Demetrius Vikelas was elected.

- Duration of the term of office: not precisely specified.
- Note: It was originally intended that the IOC President would come from the country where the upcoming edition of the Olympic Games was to be held. Mr. Demetrius Vikelas was the only Greek among the IOC members when Athens was the host city of the Games of the first Olympiad.

2. PIERRE DE COUBERTIN (FRA), FROM 1896 TO 1925

1896: 2ND IOC SESSION, ATHENS, 10 APRIL 1896³

- Candidate: Baron Pierre de Coubertin.
- Voting Results: Votes obtained were not announced.

> Outcome: Baron Pierre de Coubertin was elected.

- Duration of the term of office: not specified.
- Note: the vote was only to confirm the principle adopted during the Congress in Paris that the IOC President would come from the country where the upcoming edition of the Olympic Games was to be held

1901: PARIS, A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE SESSION IN MAY^{4, 5}

- Candidates: Mr. William Milligan Sloane and Baron Pierre de Coubertin.
- Voting Results: Mr. William Milligan Sloane was offered the presidency of the IOC and turned it down. He suggested that the presidency should be awarded to Coubertin for life; Coubertin declined, but accepted a 10-year term.

¹ 1894-1994 - *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years – The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*, Lausanne: IOC, 1994, Volume 1, p.63.

² Pierre de Coubertin, *Selected Writings*, Lausanne: IOC, 2000, pp. 398.

³ Minutes of the 2nd IOC Session, Athens, 4-14 April 1896 (in French only)

⁴ 1894-1994 - *The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years – The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*, Lausanne: IOC, 1994, Volume 1, p. 90.

⁵ Pierre de Coubertin, *Selected Writings*, Lausanne: IOC, 2000, p. 398.

> [Outcome: Pierre de Coubertin was re-elected.](#)

- Duration of the term of office: 10 years.
- Changes: From this time forward, the intention that the IOC President come from the country where the upcoming edition of the Olympic Games was to be held was abandoned.
- Note: the duration is not mentioned in the original document (see the sources 4 and 5)

1907: 10TH IOC SESSION, THE HAGUE, 23 MAY 1907⁶

- Candidates: Baron Pierre de Coubertin.
- Voting Results: Votes obtained were not announced.

> [Outcome: Baron Pierre de Coubertin was re-elected.](#)

- Duration of the term of office: 10 years.
- Note: The reason for this election during the term of office is not documented.

1916-1917: TEMPORARY HANDOVER OF PRESIDENTIAL DUTIES OF PIERRE DE COUBERTIN⁷

- During the World War I, Baron Pierre de Coubertin offered his services to France and decided that Baron Godefroy de Blonay should temporarily act as Interim President. However, Pierre de Coubertin retained the title of President.

FEBRUARY 1917: BY MAIL⁸

- Candidates: Baron Pierre de Coubertin.
- Voting Results: Interim President, Baron Godefroy de Blonay,
- wrote to the IOC members to request that they re-elect Baron de Coubertin
- for 10 years.

> [Outcome: Baron Pierre de Coubertin was re-elected.](#)

- Duration of the term of office: 10 years.

3. HENRI DE BAILLET-LATOURE (BEL), FROM 1925 TO 1942

1925: 24TH IOC SESSION, PRAGUE, 28 MAY 1925⁹

- Candidates: Comte Henri de Baillet-Latour, Baron Godefroy de Blonay, Comte Justinien de Clary and Marquis Melchior de Polignac.

⁶ *Report on the 10th IOC Session, The Hague, 23 May 1907 (in French only).*

⁷ *1894-1994 - The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years – The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements, Lausanne: IOC, 1994, Volume 1, pp.137-143.*

⁸ *1894-1994 - The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years – The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements, Lausanne: IOC, 1994, Volume 1, pp.137-143.*

⁹ *Minutes of the 24th IOC Session, Prague, 26-28 May 1925 (in French only).*

VOTING RESULTS	1 ST ROUND	2 ND ROUND
Comte H. de Baillet-Latour	17 votes	19 votes
Baron P. de Coubertin	11 votes	1 vote
Baron G. de Blonay	6 votes	6 votes
Comte J. de Clary	4 votes	1 vote
Marquis M. de Polignac	1 vote	-

> Outcome: Comte Henri de Baillet-Latour was elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 8 years.
- Changes: President elected for 8 years in conformity with Rule 4 of the Olympic Charter in force: *“Le C.I.O. désigne son Président qui est élu pour huit ans et rééligible.”*¹⁰
- Note: Baron Pierre de Coubertin decided to resign from his position before the end of his term of office. Although he declined to continue as President of the IOC, he still received votes from IOC members.

1933: 30TH IOC SESSION, VIENNA, 7 JUNE 1933¹¹

- Candidates: Comte Henri de Baillet-Latour and Baron Godefroy de Blonay.

VOTING RESULTS	1 ST ROUND
Comte H. de Baillet-Latour	48 votes
Baron G. de Blonay	1 vote

> Outcome: Comte Henri de Baillet-Latour was re-elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 8 years.

1941: WORLD WAR II

- No presidential election was held in 1941. Comte Henri de Baillet-Latour remained President. IOC activities were strictly limited to basic correspondence between the President, the Vice-President and the members¹².

¹⁰ [Olympic Charter](#), 1924, Administration, No. 4, p.4 (in French only).

¹¹ *Minutes of the 30th IOC Session, Vienna, 7-9 June 1933* (in French only).

¹² *1894-1994 - The International Olympic Committee - One Hundred Years – The Idea - The Presidents - The Achievements*, Lausanne: IOC, 1994, Volume 2, p.15.

4. J. SIGFRID EDSTRÖM (SWE), FROM 1946 TO 1952

6 JANUARY 1942: DEATH OF THE IOC PRESIDENT, COUNT
HENRI DE BAILLET-LATOURE

- In his capacity as Vice-President, Mr. Sigfrid Edström became head of the International Olympic Committee. As per Section II, Rule 7 of the Olympic Charter in force at that time, he retained the title of Vice-President between 1942 and his election in 1946. *"The Executive Committee chooses from amongst its members the Vice-President of the I.O.C. who takes the place of the President of the Committee when he is unable to be present, resigns or dies"*¹³.

1946: 40TH IOC SESSION, LAUSANNE, 4 SEPTEMBER 1946¹⁴

- Candidates: Mr. Sigfrid Edström.
- Voting Results: by acclamation.
- > Outcome: Mr. Sigfrid Edström was elected.
- Duration of the term of office: 8 years.

5. AVERY BRUNDAGE (USA), FROM 1952 TO 1972

1952: 47TH IOC SESSION, HELSINKI, 16 JULY 1952¹⁵

- Candidates: Mr. Avery Brundage and Lord David George Burghley.

VOTING RESULTS	1 ST ROUND
Mr. Avery Brundage	30 votes
Lord David George Burghley	17 votes

- > Outcome: Mr. Avery Brundage was elected.
 - Duration of the term of office: 8 years.
- Note: Mr. Sigfrid Edström decided to resign from his role of President before the end of his term of office because of his "old age"¹⁶.

¹³ [Olympic Charter](#), 1938, Section II, No. 7, p. 46.

¹⁴ *Minutes of the 40th IOC Session*, Lausanne, 3-6 September 1946 (in French only).

¹⁵ *Minutes of the 47th IOC Session*, Helsinki, 16-18 July 1952.

¹⁶ J. Sigfrid Edström, "Last Presidential Speech", *Bulletin du Comité International Olympique*, November 1952, No. 36, pp. 22-23.

1960: 57TH IOC SESSION, ROME, 24 AUGUST 1960¹⁷

- Candidates: Mr. Avery Brundage.
- Voting Results: by acclamation (motion of Lord David George Burghley, Marquess of Exeter).

> Outcome: Mr. Avery Brundage was re-elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 4 years.

1964: 62ND IOC SESSION, TOKYO, 7 OCTOBER 1964¹⁸

- Candidates: Mr. Avery Brundage and Lord David George Burghley, Marquess of Exeter.
- Voting Results: Mr. Avery Brundage by unanimity.

> Outcome: Mr. Avery Brundage was re-elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 4 years.
- Changes: The President is eligible for re-election for successive terms of four years in accordance with the Rule 12 of the Olympic Charter in force: *"The International Olympic Committee elects a President from among its member to hold office for eight years. He is eligible for re-election for successive terms of four years"*¹⁹.

1968: 67TH IOC SESSION, MEXICO CITY, 10 OCTOBER 1968²⁰

- Candidates: Mr. Avery Brundage and Comte Jean de Beaumont.
- Voting Results: Mr. Avery Brundage by unanimity.

> Outcome: Mr. Avery Brundage was re-elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 4 years

6. LORD KILLANIN (IRL), FROM 1972 TO 1980

1972: 73RD IOC SESSION, MUNICH, 21 AUGUST 1972²¹

- Candidates: Lord Killanin and Comte Jean de Beaumont.

VOTING RESULTS ²²	1 ST ROUND
Lord Killanin	39 votes
Comte Jean de Beaumont	19 votes

¹⁷ Minutes of the 57th IOC Session, Rome, 22-24 August 1960.

¹⁸ Minutes of the 62nd IOC Session, Tokyo, 6-8 October 1964.

¹⁹ [Olympic Charter](#), 1962, Rule 12, p. 12.

²⁰ Minutes of the 67th IOC Session, Mexico City, 7-11 October 1968.

²¹ Minutes of the 73rd IOC Session, Munich, 21-24 August & 5 September 1972.

²² Alain Lunzenfichter, 2016, not published

> Outcome: Lord Killanin was elected.

– Duration of the term of office: 8 years.

7. JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH (ESP), FROM 1980 TO 2001

1980: 83^{R D} IOC SESSION, MOSCOW, 16 JULY 1980²³

– Candidates: Mr. Willi Daume, Mr. Marc Hodler, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, Mr. James Worrall.

VOTING RESULTS ²⁴	1 ST ROUND
Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch	44 votes
Mr. Marc Hodler	23 votes
Mr. Willi Daume	6 votes
Mr. James Worrall.	5votes

> Outcome: Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was elected.

– Duration of the term of office: 8 years.

1989: 95^{T H} IOC SESSION, PUERTO RICO, 31 AUGUST
1989²⁵²⁶

– Candidates: HE Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch.
– Voting Results: by acclamation.

> Outcome: HE Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was re-elected.

– Duration of the term of office: 4 years.
– Changes: The President is elected by the Session held during the second year of the Olympiad.

1993: 101^{S T} IOC SESSION, MONACO, 23 SEPTEMBER 1993²⁷²⁸

– Candidates: HE Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch.
– Voting Results: by acclamation.

²³ *Minutes of the 83rd IOC Session, Moscow, 15 July 3 August 1980.*

²⁴ Alain Lunzenfichter, 2016, not published

²⁵ *Minutes of the 95th IOC Session, Puerto Rico, 30 August - 1 September 1989.*

²⁶ “95th IOC Session”, *Olympic Review*, August 1989, No. 262, p. 369.

²⁷ *Minutes of the 101st IOC Session, Monaco, 21-24 September 1993.*

²⁸ “Programme of the 101st Session”, *Olympic Review*, September 1993, No. 311, p. 351.

> Outcome: HE Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was re-elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 4 years.

1997: 106TH SESSION, LAUSANNE, 6 SEPTEMBER 1997^{29, 30}

- Candidates: HE Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch.
- Voting Results: by acclamation.

> Outcome: HE Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch was re-elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 4 years
- Changes: IOC members from the same country as a candidate cannot vote. In conformity with the Rule 20 of the Olympic Charter in force: “*Any member so elected must refrain from taking part in a vote in the following circumstances: [...] when the vote concerns the election, to any office on the Executive Board, or to any other office, of a candidate who is national of the same country as the member*”³¹.

8. JACQUES ROGGE (BEL), FROM 2001 TO 2013

2001: 112TH IOC SESSION, MOSCOW, 16 JULY 2001³²

- Candidates: Dr. Jacques Rogge, Dr. Un Yong Kim, Mr. Richard Pound, Mr. Pál Schmitt and Ms. Anita L. DeFrantz.

VOTING RESULTS	1 ST ROUND	2 ND ROUND
Dr. Jacques Rogge	46 votes	59 votes
Dr. Un Yong Kim	21 votes	23 votes
Mr. Richard Pound	20 votes	22 votes
Mr. Pál Schmitt	11 votes	6 votes
Ms. Anita DeFrantz	9 votes	-

> Outcome: Dr. Jacques Rogge was elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 8 years.
 - Changes: The President may be re-elected only once, in conformity with Rule 24 of the Olympic Charter in force: “*The IOC elects, by secret ballot, a President from among its members, for a term of eight years, renewable once for four years. [...]*”³³.

²⁹ Minutes of the 106th IOC Session, Lausanne, 3-5 September 1997.

³⁰ “One O Six”, Lausanne: IOC, 1997, p.3 (Single issue on the occasion of the 106th IOC Session in Lausanne, from 2 to 6 September 1997).

³¹ [Olympic Charter](#), 1997, Rule 20, Paragraph 1.3, p.25

³² Minutes of the 112th IOC Session, Moscow, 13-16 July 2001.

2009: 121ST IOC SESSION, COPENHAGEN, 9 OCTOBER
2009³⁴

- Candidates: Comte Jacques Rogge.
- Voting Results: 88 yes, 1 no and 3 abstentions.

> Outcome: Comte Jacques Rogge was re-elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 4 years.

9. THOMAS BACH (GER), SINCE SEPTEMBER 2013

2013: 125TH IOC SESSION, BUENOS AIRES, 10 SEPTEMBER
2013³⁵

- Candidates: Mr. Thomas Bach, Mr. Sergey Bubka, Mr. Richard Carrion,
- Mr. Ser Miang Ng, Mr. Denis Oswald, Mr. Ching-kuo Wu

VOTING RESULTS	1 ST ROUND	1 ST ROUND TIE- BREAK	2 ND ROUND
Mr. Thomas Bach	43 votes		49 votes
Mr. Sergey Bubka	8 votes		4 votes
Mr. Richard Carrion	23 votes		29 votes
Mr. Ser Miang Ng	6 votes	56	6 votes
Mr. Denis Oswald	7 votes		5 votes
Mr. Ching-kuo Wu	6 votes	36	-

> Outcome: Mr. Thomas Bach was elected.

- Duration of the term of office: 8 years
- Basic rules: The regulations for the elections were established by the IOC Executive Board according to the [Olympic Charter \(2013\)](#) and its Bye-Law 6 to Rule 18.

³³ [Olympic Charter](#), 2011, Rule 24.1, p.39.

³⁴ Minutes of the 121st IOC Session, Copenhagen, 2 & 7-9 October 2009.

³⁵ <http://www.olympic.org/news/thomas-bach-elected-new-ioc-president/208945>

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