

Sepp Blatter

Joseph S. (Sepp) Blatter was elected eighth president of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) in 1998, having already served the organisation for twenty-three years. He has played a leading role in developing football into a global sport. An early advocate of youth football, educational programmes, indoor football and competitions for women, he has presided over five FIFA World Cup competitions and has secured worldwide sponsorship for the event.



Sepp Blatter was born on 10 March 1936 in the Swiss town of Visp. After graduating from Lausanne University, he began his professional career in public relations and became general secretary of the Swiss Ice Hockey Federation in 1964. After a spell working in public relations in sport and private industry he became involved in the organisation of the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games. He became Director of Technical Development Programmes at FIFA in 1975, was appointed General Secretary in 1981 and became FIFA's CEO in 1990. He has served as FIFA's president since 1998.

Jagmohan Dalmiya

Jagmohan Dalmiya is president of the Asian Cricket Council, former president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and former chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). An adroit politician and entrepreneur, he engineered the commercialisation of cricket in India and made the BCCI the richest cricketing body in the world. As chairman of the ICC from 1997 to 2000 he masterminded the globalisation of cricket. The vast revenue he generated from sponsorship and broadcasting rights prompted *The Wall Street Journal* to describe him as 'The man who converted cricket into a multi-million dollar industry'. He has also mounted peace initiatives through cricket, such as his campaign to have South Africa re-admitted to international competition in 1991.



Born into a wealthy Marwari business family in Calcutta, Jagmohan Dalmiya inherited one of India's largest construction companies at the age of 19, but it was in the business of cricket that he was destined to make his name. He joined the BCCI in 1979 and played a major role in bringing the cricket World Cup to India and Pakistan in 1987. He was president of the ICC from 1997 to 2000 and was elected president of the BCCI in 2001. In 2004 he was appointed president of the Asian Cricket Council.

Juan Antonio Samaranch

As president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from 1980 to 2001 Juan Antonio Samaranch transformed the Olympic Games into a global sporting phenomenon. When he became its president, the IOC was a discredited and impoverished organisation. He sought to reform it by increasing the number of participating nations and securing global sponsorship and lucrative broadcasting contracts for the Games. Under his stewardship the Olympics became a multi-million pound global enterprise. In his effort to modernise the IOC, he put it at the forefront of the fight against apartheid and doping, and encouraged the participation of professional athletes.

Juan Antonio Samaranch was born on 17 July 1920 into a wealthy textile family in Barcelona. After gaining a university degree in commerce he embarked on a business career. He had been the *chef de mission* of the Spanish team at a number of Olympic events before being appointed government secretary for sports in 1966. He became president of the Spanish National Olympic Committee and a member of the IOC. He was vice-president of the IOC from 1974 and 1978, president from 1980 to 2001, and he was appointed Spain's ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1977 to 1980.

