

Decisions taken by the Technical Congress at Prague

1. Amateuism.

The Amateur Status as defined by the respective International Sporting Federations shall apply to athletes taking part in the Olympic Games.

At the same time, all athletes taking part in the Games must comply with, as a minimum, the following conditions:

- a) Must not be a Professional in any branch of Sport,
- b) Must not have been re-instated as an Amateur after knowingly becoming a Professional.
- c) Must not have received compensation for lost salaries.

The International Associations and the National Olympic Committees are requested to study the suggestions contained in the articles 4 and 7 of the report issued by the Commission on Amateuism, at the Congress, viz:

4. Trainers, Advisers, Instructors, and Coaches who teach competitive games for money directly or indirectly can neither compete in the Olympic Games nor serve as Judges or members of the Juries. Professors or Teachers who do not specially train or teach competitive Sports and exercises may take part in the Games and serve as Judges and Members of the Juries.

7. Lengthy sporting competitions which take place in a country far away from that of the competitor are to be condemned, and it is recommended as a general rule that no competitor remains away from his home more than one fortnight in a year to take part in Sporting competitions. At the same time it is recognised that for the important International competitions such as the Olympic Games and National competitions in very large countries, certain exceptions are necessary. These exceptions should be infrequent and rigidly controlled.

2. The oath.

The declaration of honour necessary for qualification at the Olympic Games shall be the following, according to the decision of the International Olympic Committee:

I the undersigned, declare on my honour that I am an Amateur according to the Olympic Rules of Amateuism.

This oath, signed by every competitor, is considered sufficient and no other means of control beyond those laid down by the General Rules is considered advisable.

3. Sporting Education.

Report of Committee no. II upon Sporting Education.

1. The Committee considers that to reach a proper conclusion it is necessary to define the terms used.

The Committee understands by the term «Sport» not just competition in games and physical exercises, but disciplined competition, inspired by loyalty as much towards the opponent as towards the comrade, by the abnegation of «self» and by the idea of the service to be rendered by the individual to the group to which he belongs: Team — Country — Humanity.

The Committee understands by «Sporting Spirit» the combination.

a) - of inner and outer truth - that is to say on the one hand the exclusion of lying, cheating, the will to deceive, and on the other hand the effort to form a just opinion of one's own capabilities and of the service one may render the Team.

b) the habit of playing fair.

c) the chivalrous spirit which forbids one to ensure victory by taking advantage of an accident to an opponent, or of a

mistake by the referee. That is the sporting spirit which must be taught.

2. The Committee considers that to spread that sporting spirit one must start with the child, and that for the training of children it is necessary to ensure that their guides, teachers, coaches, masters, gymnasium instructors, are imbued with the same spirit.

With this end in view the Committee asks that there be instituted in all countries, as far as possible, one or more sporting schools the pupils of which would be taught, not only the technique, but more especially the moral spirit of the different sports.

It should be, for example, impossible to find in any sport an instructor who would teach young men means of deceiving the referee and in that manner alter the normal result of a match.

The Committee would like a certain length of time in such a school to be made compulsory for all who desire to take part in the education of a child.

The Committee would like also, as far as possible, that those taking part in the education of children be not satisfied with giving lessons and punishing faults, but that they try to interest themselves in the moral development of their pupils by knowing them also outside school.

In this way an atmosphere of truth, of comradeship, of sportsmanship would be created in all teachers, whose influence would produce amongst the children themselves a popular opinion which would shun all that was outside the principles of sportsmanship and loyalty, honour and the respect of others would become popular.

It is by the public opinion of his comrades that the child unconsciously, learns the true sporting spirit.

For the sporting education of adults, it would be desirable that clubs, when choosing their sporting coaches, etc., should give preference to those who have been trained at such a school.

The Committee understands perfectly that this calls for much time and good will, but is convinced that it is the only chance for many countries to spread the sporting spirit, and so does not hesitate to strongly recommend it.

3. Press propaganda.

The Committee considers that the Press could play a much more important part than it does to day in sporting education.

a) By publishing from time to time articles to enlighten the public upon what is essentially «sport» and to make it clear that it is the great school of devotion to duty, abnegation of self, and service to the community, qualities which are essential to the balance of modern democracy.

b) By emphasising, in the accounts of sporting events, not so much the result achieved as the qualities of courage, endurance and dexterity which the competitors have displayed.

c) By giving at least as much importance to acts of sportsmanship, as it gives to-day to regrettable incidents.

4. Education of the spectators.

For a sporting event to give of its best, spectators not less than competitors must be imbued with the true sporting spirit. How can this be attained?

We have already touched on this question when speaking of the possibilities of the Press.

We consider that in addition one could have printed upon the programme and upon posters placed in Athletic Grounds, etc., a few well chosen sentences the object of which would be to make the spectators think of the sporting spirit that is necessary for the success of a competition.

For the sake of illustration only, we join to this report a few sentences of that kind which have been submitted to us.

5. The Committee considers that it would be a good step to ask Baron Pierre de Coubertin, when he gives up the Presidency of the I. O. C. in September to write to the Sportsmen of the world a farewell in which he would ask them all to consider themselves as the ambassadors of the sporting spirit and of the great Olympic Ideal.

Signed by order of the Committee.

Sunday May 31st. 1923.

R. S. de Courcy-Laffan.

ARE YOU A SPORTSMAN ?

Think:

As a player

1. Do you play the Game for the Game's sake?
2. Do you play for your team and not for yourself?
3. Do you carry out your captain's orders without question or criticism?
4. Do you accept the umpire's decision absolutely?
5. Do you win without swank and lose without grouching?
6. Would you rather lose than do anything which you are not sure is fair?

Then you are in the way to become a sportsman.

As a Spectator

1. Do you refuse to cheer good play by your opponents?
 2. Do you boo the umpire when he gives a decision you do not like?
 3. Do you want to see your side win if it does deserve to?
 4. Do you quarrel with spectators for backing the other side?
- Then you are no sportsman.

Try to become one.

La loyauté est la première vertu du sportif.

Se discipliner soi-même est pour chaque sportif un devoir.

Sans le franc-jeu point de beauté dans les rencontres sportives. L'esprit chevaleresque constitue l'élégance morale du sport.

4. Reduction of the programme of the Games

a) Decisions taken by the International Olympic Committee.

The International Olympic Committee lays down that the programme for the Games must include among the Sports qualified as Olympic, the following:

Athletic Sports.

Gymnastic Sports.

Self-Defence Sports (Boxing, Fencing, Wrestling).

Nautical Sports (Rowing and Swimming.)

Equestrian Sports (Two competitions: Training and Outside Riding.)

Combined Sports (Modern Pentathlon.)

Football, Association.

Art Competitions (Architecture, Music, Literature, Painting and Sculpture).

The Organising Committee in submitting its programme to the I. O. C. will be entitled to ask for the inclusion of Athletic Games, Equestrian Games, Cycling Competitions, Monotype Yachting, Weight Lifting, all of which are also qualified Olympic Games.

b) Number of Events in each Sport:

It was decided (1) that the number of events in each Sport shall be settled by the International Federations concerned, who will submit their programme for the approval of the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee.

(2) That the maximum number of four entries be maintained, but the Congress expresses the desire that the International Federations consider in what way the number of entries may be

reduced to a minimum so as not to interfere with the sporting chance of any country.

The Congress also begs the International Federations to make or consider the Olympic Games as World's Championships.

In case of refusal, the Congress expresses the wish that the International Federations do not hold their World's Championships in the same year as the Olympic Games.

It was noted that:

(1) The Lawn Tennis Association and the Weight Lifting Association desire that the International Olympic Committee insists on their sports being part of the programme.

(2) The Shooting (Tir de Chasse) Association desires its sport to be admitted to the list of Olympic Sports.

5. Classification.

In the Olympic Games there is no classification by points. A Table of Honour will be drawn up giving the names of the first six competitors in each competition.

This document will be controlled by the International Olympic Committee.

6. The various powers of the Juries.

Ground Jury.

Applies the Competition Rules established for each Sport or each competition.

Jury of appeal.

Sees that the Ground Jury strictly carries out the Competition Rules, intervenes when these Rules have been transgressed and takes the necessary decisions. Its findings are final.

Both these Juries are set up by the International Federation of each sport and their authority is limited to the duration of the Competition.

Jury of Honour.

Only intervenes in non-technical questions and its rulings only apply to the Olympic Games. It intervenes only on the demand of the Organising Country or at the request of one of the parties or on its own authority in case of necessity.

The National Olympic Committees must apply the penalties inflicted on competitors by the Jury of Honour.

The Congress recognises that the Delegates of the International Federations and the Appeal Jury have the right to intervene in the control of the purely technical arrangements and in regard to the Arena Equipment. This should be in conformity with the Rules of the International Federations concerned.

Article II of the Statutes, which concerns an objection against the qualification of a competitor has had added to it the following:

«Objections sent in after the Games will be judged by the International Federation interested and not by the Organising Committee.»

The last sentence of Article 13 has also been modified:

«The Jury of Appeal» instead «A jury of Appeal» will give its decision after enquiry».

The result of the decisions of the Jury of Honour: The Congress expresses the desire that:

i) The Federations undertake «ipso facto» to apply the penalties imposed by the Jury of Honour when it intervenes at the request of the Ground Jury in cases which, not being entirely of a technical order, would regularly be outside the scope of that Jury.

The Ground Jury appeals to the Jury of Honour either on its own initiative or at the request of the Jury of Appeal and acts by delegation of the International Federation which has named it.

ii) For the sake of harmony at the Games in the case where the Jury of Honour is appealed to by the Jury of Appeal, the

decisions of the Jury of Honour will only be published after the end of the Games. Nevertheless, at the request of the Jury of Appeal if they consider the matter urgent, the Jury of Honour after having heard the interested parties, must without delay make its findings known.

7. Travelling expenses of the judges.

This question is considered with Question 9.

8. Definition and extent of the Powers of the National Olympic Committees.

The Congress has decided that in every Sport the National Associations affiliated to the International Federations alone are allowed by the National Olympic Committees to select their competitors for the Olympic Games. The National Olympic Committees alone are authorised to make the entries to the Organising Country, with the exception as laid down by the General Rules.

The National Olympic Committees must forward these entries, but if they consider that they are not in conformity with the Olympic Rules or with the Rules of the International Federations they will send them on without countersigning them.

9. Organisation of the Competitions.

The Congress has decided to add the following paragraph:

The International Federation will choose among the Members called upon to form the Ground Jury or the Jury of Appeal, a maximum of three technical delegates who will be on the Spot 15 clear days before the beginning of their Sport in order to get in touch with the Organising Committee and prepare the work of the Juries. The expenses (not travelling) of these three delegates for these 15 days, will be paid by the Organising Committee of the Games at the rate of five dollars a day.»

10. It is Admissible or a Technical rule to be changed During the Games?

It is recommended that no change in the Technical Rules be allowed during the Games or within six months preceding the Games, so that competitors coming from far distant countries and those living close to the town where the Games take place, may be on the same footing.

11. General Questions, concerning the next Games.

The congress has expressed the following three desires:

Date of the Games. That the date of the Games once decided upon be not changed, and that the date of the Opening be settled before the 1st of January of the year in which the Games take place.

Duration of the Games. That they do not last longer than two weeks, including three Sundays.

Reserved Seats. That the 1.500 places for the Athletes in the Grand Stand be close to the winning post.

12. Special Questions Concerning Winter Sports, Suggestion as to a Distinct Cycle.

The Congress, having approved of the decision taken by the International Olympic Committee to hold a Cycle of Winter Olympic Games decides:

a) To institute the following Games:

Ski-ing;	Skating;	Ice Hockey;
Bobsleighting;		Tobogganning,

the organising of which will be done in collaboration with the International Federations governing these Sports.

b) That in each of these Sports the events be governed by the Rules (Technical) of the International Federations.

c) For the ski-ing, however, a special military competition be allowed.

d) That Winter Sports not governed by an International Federation may only figure on the programme of the Games under the title of «Demonstrations».

e) That the number of entries for each event and each Sport be settled by the International Olympic Committee after consultation with the International Federations.

f) i) Hopes that on the occasion of the next Winter Olympic Games, Skeleton and Skikjoering demonstrations may be arranged.

ii) That the International Olympic Committee grant the «Chamonix Games» the title of «First Winter Olympic Games».

13. **Eliminating Regional Competitions.** This question was not discussed as M. Rimet failed to present a Report.

14. Transport and Housing.

It is recommended that the International Olympic Committee get in touch with the International Congress of Railways with a view to obtaining a tariff of reduced prices in all countries for competitors and officials travelling to and from the Olympic Games.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. «Article 20 International Federations» has been modified as follows:

«The Sporting Rules in use at the Olympic Games are those of the International Federations recognised at Lausanne in 1921».

B. PROGRAMME OF THE AMSTERDAM GAMES.

The Congress has approved of this Programme containing:

Athletic Sports.

Gymnastic Sports.

Self-Defence Sports (Boxing, Fencing, Wrestling).

Nautical Sports (Rowing, Swimming).

Equestrian Sports (Training and Outside Riding).

Combined Sports (Modern Pentathlon).

Football (Association).

Art Competition (Architecture, Music, Literature, Painting & Sculpture).

Cycling (Road and Track).

Weights & Dumb-bell competition.

Yachting (Monotype, 6 and 8 metres.)

Athletic Games (Hockey, Lawn-Tennis, Water Polo.)

Equestrian Games (Jumping).

C. NOMINATION OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE RULES OF THE CONGRESS.

A Committee composed of M. Edström representing the International Olympic Committee; Colonel Thompson representing the National Olympic Committees; M. Paul Rousseau representing the International Federations; has been formed to frame the Rules of this Congress and study the various suggestions expressed at Prague.

This Committee will present its Report at the meeting of the International Olympic Committee at Lisbon in May 1926.

(Sd) Baillet-Latour
The Recorder.

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