

# The Amateur Paragraphs

The only criticism made to any extent against the Olympic Games concerns the amateur paragraphs, but in this connection criticism is frequently forthcoming. The International Olympic Committee is accused of being so entirely isolated from both sport and the world that it fails to realize that the Olympic amateur regulations are antiquated and insists upon retaining laws which in reality are not respected. Demands are even made that the amateur regulations be abolished because violations are suspected though these cannot be established juridically. In reply it may be stated that the Olympic amateur regulations as they exist today were not drawn up by the International Olympic Committee but represent the decisions of the Berlin Olympic Congress of 1930. The amateur regulations which are today in effect were proposed at that time by the British Olympic Committee and approved by the great majority of those present at the Congress. This question is sufficiently important, however, to justify the reproduction of an excerpt from the protocol of the Olympic Congress of 1930. From this source we have drawn the following reply to the critics of the amateur regulations:

1. The amateur regulations which apply to the Olympic Games of today represent the decision of the International Olympic Committee in collaboration with the sponsors of the Olympic Games, namely the international sporting federations and the National Olympic Committees of the different nations. They may be revised only at a new Olympic Congress.

2. The enforcement of the regulations lies with those possessing executive power and not with the International Olympic Committee. The latter is not in the position to ascertain whether the regulations are respected in each individual case. This is principally the task of the international sporting federations, for whom the Olympic amateur regulations represent only minimum requirements. Second in line come the National Olympic Committees, since they must countersign the enrolments for the Olympic Games and are required to investigate all cases of doubt.

The members of the International Olympic Committee, like all other leaders in sport, know that there are border cases in the field of amateurism and that life is unusually elastic. Numerous examples could be mentioned against which the regulations offer no complete solution. Decisive is the proper juridical outlook, and every leader of sports is obliged to support this. This juridical outlook will also prevent the public opinion from becoming poisoned with unproved assertions.

Should these border cases and the difficulty of issuing regulations to cover them lead to the abolition of the entire amateur regulations, what would be the result? The Olympic Games would attract only professional athletes. All hesitation and reserve would fall and an increasing number of young people would be tempted during the bloom of their youth to discontinue their professional training and to pursue monetary attractions, the source of which becomes all too soon exhausted. The Olympic Games would lose their secret force, their proper dignity. As long as the youth of the world competes in them for honour alone, they further the principles of humanity and enjoy the participation of the world. If professional athletes were to compete in them for cash prizes, they would soon become a shallow, empty show and cease to interest the world, since the public is indifferent to the fleetness of young people who wish to make their running ability a source of income. To abolish the amateur paragraphs would signify the death of the Olympic Games. The retaining of the amateur paragraphs in spite of their many inadequacies represents education towards a higher ideal of humanity.

## Report of the Commission for Amateurism at the Olympic Congress held in Berlin from May 25th to 30th, 1930

(For the members of the Commission see French text, pages 16/17)

Gentlemen,

The Committee as appointed by you had to consider the following two proposals placed on the agenda by Belgium.

I. "Athletes who are qualified by the regulations and rules of their International Federation are considered as amateurs for the Olympic Games."

To this proposal the delegation of the British Olympic Association moved the following amendment:

". . . provided they are qualified in compliance with the resolution passed at Prague by the Olympic Congress 1925, i. e. : an athlete taking part in the Olympic Games must satisfy the following conditions :

1. Must not be, or knowingly have become, a professional in the sport for which he is entered or in any other sport.
2. Must not have received re-imbusement or compensation for loss of salary."

After careful debate a vote was taken first on the British amendment and this having been carried by 31 votes to 11, the Commission proposes that the Plenary Session of the Congress pass the following resolution:

“Athletes who are qualified by the regulations and rules of their International Federation are considered as amateurs for the Olympic Games provided they are qualified in compliance with the resolution passed at Prague by the Olympic Congress 1925, i. e.:

An athlete taking part in the Olympic Games must satisfy the following conditions: —

1. must not be, or knowingly have become, a professional in the sport for which he is entered or in any other sport,
2. must not have received re-imbusement or compensation for loss of salary.”

II. “The granting of leave . . .

Second Meeting

... Following the agenda, the President opened the discussion on the preliminary question submitted by the International Cyclists' Union.

The Olympic Congress considering however, that the qualification of an athlete as an amateur comes under the control of the International Sporting Federations, whose definitions are known by everybody, resolved that: Athletes, qualified as amateurs by the International Sporting Federations, shall be allowed to participate in the Olympic Games.

Third Meeting

After the General Secretary had read the Report of the Commission for Amateurism in French and English a discussion was opened on the first proposal (see No. I) of the above Commission.

Then the vote was taken by the calling of names, and the Congress accepted Proposal No. I of the Commission for Amateurism by 90 votes to 20.

## The Problem of Coaching an Eight

by Coach Al Ulbrickson, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

We plan to include in the „Olympic Review" an exchange of opinions regarding sporting questions and have therefore approached a number of outstanding sports leaders throughout the world, particularly from U.S. A., with the request that they explain to us the principles according to which they train their teams. The following article is the first of the series, which we shall continue in future numbers.

It is with a great amount of doubt and concern that I attempt to put into words the reasons why an eight may or may not have speed. The question of what gives an eight its speed will be argued forever and never settled. Some claim it is just a matter of physical strength and man power by pointing out that all styles of rowing have won races. Others will maintain that rowing style or technique gives the speed. You also find a third group that states that morale and spirit in the eight is the greatest factor for success. Then there are those who believe that it takes a happy combination of man power, style and morale to turn out the best performance. I class myself in this last group which, I believe, numbers by far the largest among men who know rowing. Always bear in mind that the following discussion is merely my own opinion as to what goes into making a winning combination.

A description of our rowing style seems to be the first in order. We use a modified orthodox style in that the body angle forward and back is shorter than is generally used, which naturally gives us a shorter reach and layback. The amount of reach forward at the beginning of the stroke is not a set distance but is determined by the individual himself. He is told to get all the reach he can comfortably by bending in the hips, keeping the back fairly straight,