

PROPOSALS FOR 1952 GAMES

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By *ERIK von FRENCKELL*

President and Chairman, Organising Committee, XVth Olympiad

The Organising Committee for the XVth Olympiad has been making great efforts preparing the proposals for the 1952 Games programme. At the time of writing we are still only half-way: nevertheless, I am pleased to give *World Sports'* readers some information about the opinions held in Helsinki and the plans we have discussed regarding the preparations.

I am sure we shall be able to arrange sufficient accommodation for all the athletes who will come to Finland in 1952. What is worrying us, however, is the gigantic dimensions to which the Games have grown. It is, in our opinion, quite possible that future Olympic hosts will have to face organising problems so enormous that there will be a considerable chance of ill-success. Of the Olympic programme is of particular importance.

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In the London Games last summer there were 1,500 more competitors than in Berlin in 1936. In Helsinki in 1952 there will, most likely, be a new record number. The Organising Committee, therefore, will have to make decisions that may be of considerable importance for the future development of the Olympic Games. So the composition of the Olympic programme is of particular importance.

The Organising Committee has no power of decision regarding the compulsory programme, the different International Sports Federations and the International Olympic Committee making the final decisions after having studied the proposals of the Organising Committee.

It is certain, however, that some reductions in the programme will be suggested by our Committee. So far as Fencing is concerned, it will be suggested that there should be no whole series as was the case in London. A new and shorter system will, it is hoped, be adopted. Also, we believe the team competitions should be left out.

The International Shooting Union has decided to increase their programme to eight events instead of four — a decision which conflicts with the efforts of our Organising Committee.

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Regarding the refereeing of Gymnastics, Boxing and Wrestling events, differences of opinion cannot, of course, be avoided. But the rules for referees should be sufficiently clear to make the discharge of their duties more automatic.

I do not wish to make any special comments about the Swimming, Cycling, Riding, Modern Pentathlon, Rowing, Weight-lifting and Yachting competitions, but my opinion is that the Track and Field events should also be reduced. These have been, and, presumably, always will be the main Olympic Games sports, and there is every reason to keep these events as pure and free from criticism as possible. We will, therefore, suggest that the 50 km. walk and certain events for women which, in the opinion of physicians, are dangerous, be omitted from the programme.

So far as non-compulsory events are concerned, I have no doubts about Association Football, Water Polo and Canoeing. I daresay, however, that Rugby, Tennis, Polo and Pelota are out of the question. Basketball, Hockey, Handball and Gliding cause us much trouble. If I understand Finnish opinion rightly, I should say that the sequence of these last-mentioned sports, as given here, indicates their respective possibilities of being included in the programme.

We in Finland do not like to think that some sports may have to be left out simply because the entry may be too great. For this reason it has been suggested that the preliminary rounds in certain team competitions should be played abroad. My personal suggestion for the football tournament is that the same system should be adopted in the Games as in the World Championships in Brazil in 1950, when only sixteen teams will be allowed.

Should Basketball, Hockey and Handball be included, an even more strict system should be adopted, only the more important rounds taking place in Finland. This principle is contrary to previous practice, but modern developments force us to make a proposal in this direction.

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The Organising Committee may stage demonstrations of two sports not included in the I. O. C. programme—a national sport and a sport foreign to the host country. The following have been suggested for sub demonstration: Finnish. Baseball (Boball), Orientation Cross-Country Running, Archery, Volleyball, Korfball, Icelandic Glimawrestling and Chinlon (suggested by Burma).

This month, questions of details will be cleared up when the International Sports Federations give their opinions about the proposals made by the Organising Committee, while at the I. O. C. Congress in Rome in April the final resolutions will be passed.