

The International Federations

The first tribute paid by the I. O. C. to the International Federations dates back to the very day after the Renovation of the Olympic Games. The Committee's Bulletin under the date of January 1895, in actual fact, records the preliminary Program of the Games at Athens. It also specifies that the ruling to be applied to the various sports must be as follows: the foot races are submitted to the Rules of the Union of the French Clubs of athletic sports — jumping and throwing events come under those of the British Amateur Athletic Association — rowing and canoeing follow those of the Italian Rowing Club — while the cycling events (which was called velocipede in those days, Editor.) came under the Rules of the International Cyclists Union. Furthermore it is also mentioned in this particular Bulletin that the « Société d'Encouragement » for fencing, of Paris, as well as the French Yachting Union have agreed to draw up a set of Rules controlling the fencing and yachting events. The International Cyclists Union was the only International Federation in existence

in those days. (What about the International Rowing Federation which was founded in 1893? *Editor.*)

The principle thus established has been in force ever since. As soon as new International Federations sprang into being, the rules controlling each branch of sport began to conform themselves to a standard of unity; the I. O. C. was then able to prescribe these Rules to the organizers of the Games with the strict injunctions to accept and apply them. It is only fair and rational that the Rules set up by the International Federations should be acknowledged as the only laws in force at the Games. Upon our proposal, the Congress which took place in Paris in 1914, adopted this course of action.

Since then the International Federations have full authority over the technical conduct of the events of the sports which they control, they also assure the functioning of the appointed Juries.

(Communication made to the Members of the I. O. C. by Pierre de Coubertin in December 1920.)