

# President Avery Brundage

## has written to the National Olympic Committees

On April 1st. The Organizing Committee of the Games of the XVIth. Olympiad has sent, under the signatures of President Brundage and Mr. W. Bridgeford, Chief Executive Officer of the Games, a circular-letter to all National Olympic Committees with reference to Entry Forms.

We reproduce hereby this message as follow:

### **For the attention of the Presidents, Secretaries and Members of all National Olympic Committees**

“One of the fundamental principles of the Olympic Games is that they are restricted to amateurs. These entry blanks must be signed by the competitor, who declares that he is an amateur and fulfills the conditions stipulated by the Rules of the International Olympic Committee. They must then be countersigned by his National Federation, which guarantees that the competitor’s affidavit is true to the best of its knowledge. The National Olympic Committee must then certify its correctness by endorsing the entry blank.

“In past years it has been alleged that non-amateurs have competed in the Olympic Games. If this is true, it is due to the fact that non-amateurs have been certified by National Olympic Committees, since only competitors certified by NOC’s approval by the International Olympic Committee may enter the Olympic Games. We ask you therefore to exercise due caution in signing these entry blanks.

“The International Olympic Committee has for some time been greatly disturbed over the tendency in some places and in certain sports to use the Olympic Games as a stepping-stone to a career in professional sport. This is, of course, a gross misuse of the Games and indicates a complete misconception of the Olympic Movement.

“All National Olympic Committees are requested to screen their competitors most carefully and to eliminate not only the ones who are not amateurs but also those who are known to have the idea of capitalizing on their participation on the Olympic Games. It is one of the responsibilities of National Olympic Committees to be certain that all competitors representing their country are amateurs complying with the Olympic Rule, which we quote below for your convenient reference:

*“An amateur is one who participates and always has participated in sport solely for pleasure and for the physical, mental or social benefits he derives therefrom, and to whom participation in sport is nothing more than recreation without material gain of any kind, direct or indirect, and in accordance with the rules of the International Federation concerned.”*

With appreciation for your co-operation, we are

AVERY BRUNDAGE  
*President,*  
*International Olympic Committee*

W. BRIDGEFORD  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*xvi. Olympiad, Melbourne.*