

# Volley-ball

## *A new Olympic sport*

Volley-Ball is considered universal, collective, amateur and olympic, this at any rate, is what we read in the illustrated booklet which has been distributed to the members of the International Olympic Committee while they were attending the Session in Sofia.

After prolonged and repeated requests for recognition, Volley-Ball has been officially recognized in the course of the Session in Sofia in 1957, and has therefore become an active member of the Olympic family. In order to celebrate this event, the leaders of this spectacular sport staged an international volley-ball tournament which coincided with the Session of the International Olympic Committee in Sofia, and took place during the same week. The members of the International Olympic Committee attending the Session, witnessed many matches. They became convinced that volley-ball which originally was only an educative past-time,

once transformed into an athletic and spectacular sport (while retaining its intrinsic qualities) ought to be included on the list of Olympic sports.

The actual strength of this international federation includes 53 affiliated federations. Let us quote some of the information given in the booklet which has been published by the F.I.V.B. (International Volley-Ball Federation) :

‘One of the striking facts which marks the development and evolution of this sport is the amazing speed with which volley-ball has been spreading throughout the world. Started in the United States where William Morgan invented this sport in 1895, volley-ball was adopted by the American Expeditionary Forces who fought in the First World War. In this manner, volley-ball became known to sportsmen belonging to several different countries. Less than ten years later, the first national

federations were instituted. In 1940, the Second World War impeded the creation of the International Federation by causing a delay, but in spite of this, the latter was constituted in 1947.'

This federation is under the leadership of competent men who are devoted to its cause. We wish to mention its president, Mr. Paul Libaud and his Secretary Mr. Lenoir who were both overjoyed by the results considering

that they only applied for their sport to be placed in the list of *optional* sports while volley-ball now figures in the *official* list of olympic sports. As it happens, the terms *compulsory* and *optional* have been cancelled in Sofia, thus, only one list remains, the latter consists of 21 sports of which a minimum of 15 must figure in the Olympic Programme.

Good luck and best wishes to volley- ball in 1964.



*Volley-Ball Match in Sofia: ITALY—FRANCE.*