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## An interesting suggestion regarding the limitation of the number of athletes taking part in the Olympic Games

At the International Olympic Committee meeting in Tokyo plans were discussed regarding means to limit the number of participants in the Games. The International Olympic Committee is of the opinion that no

interference should be made in the work of the International Federations. As far as possible they ought to decide the Olympic programme of their own sport. On the other hand it cannot be possible to increase the

total number of participants in the Games above a certain level.

Mr. Bo Ekelund, of Sweden, Member of the International Olympic Committee and its Executive Board, has made a study of the participation in the Games in Berlin 1936, London 1948, and Helsinki 1952 (The statistics from Melbourne, for certain reasons, have not been considered in this connection).

We do not wish to publish here the complete figures of that study, but do remind that the number of participants exceeded 4,000, in 1936 and 1948 and approached 6,000 in 1952.

Mr. Bo Ekelund now suggests, that the maximum total number of participants for each Games should be 5,000 or 6,000. The number of participants thereafter be divided amongst the different sports according to the column of percentage shown below. In order to

illustrate the consequences of the suggestion, the results have been figured out for the two alternatives, 5,000 and 6,000 competitors. Please note that the number of participants in team sports should be decided with the number of teams and the number of participants per team taken into consideration. This has not been done in the table below. A complete statement of that project has been sent last month to the International Federations with the invitation to kindly make a study of Mr. Bo Ekelund's proposal. Their remarks should reach the Chancellery of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne before January 1st 1959. A preliminary report will be presented to the International Olympic Committee Session in Munich in May 1959 by Mr. Bo Ekelund, while a final decision will probably be taken in 1961 only, as that project does not concern the 1960 Games, but only the future.

Sport	%	6.000	5.000
Athletics	20,0	1,200	1,000
Cycling	5,0	300	250
Shooting	5,0	300	250
Equestrian sport	2,5	150	125
Modern pentathlon	1,0	60	50
Rowing	7,0	420	350
Canoeing	3,5	210	175
Yachting	4,0	240	200
Football	5,0	300	250
Hockey	2,5	150	125
Basketball	5,0	300	250
Waterpolo	5,0	210	175
Swimming	7,0	420	350
Diving	1,5	90	75
Wrestling	4,5	270	225
Weight-lifting	2,5	150	125
Fencing	6,0	360	300
Gymnastics	5,0	300	250
Boxing	4,5	270	225
General reserve	5,0	300	250
TOTAL	100,0	6,000	5,000

*The Olympic champion should be inspired by* taken by other organizations. Panathlon