

News from Italy

Panathlon Clubs and what they stand for...

AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

What were our aims when we founded the Panathlon Clubs Association which is exercising its growing influence and arousing great interest among the elite of those sportsmen who are anxious to keep the true spirit of the Olympic Movement on a sound foundation of fair play and good sportsmanship, as well as preserving the high ideals of the Olympic Games?

The following concept of Baron Pierre de Coubertin commanded our attention and struck us as particularly forcible when it says : *The Olympic champion should be inspired by*

the following spirit: to honour his family and his native country without aspiring to a material gain of any kind. This high conception inspired us to create such an association which is assuming the following aims : to maintain the true form of sport as originally conceived, to stress and develop sport on ethico and spiritual lines, to encourage all forms of activities destined to foment the sacred bond of brotherhood between mankind, to fight down all tendencies to indifference and scepticism.

The Panathlon Association does not aspire to execute technical tasks nor to be exclusively an organizing Body., this duty is undertaken by other organizations. Panathlon

was created in Venice, a worthy setting admirably suited, to bring about the aesthetic and spiritual value of sport.

During the last eight years it has been arousing deep interest in the minds of sportsmen and its prestige is built on the conviction that sport must be guarded against encroaching professionalism. To this end, one only needs to defend it from being outgrown by actual events. One important fact, which we are proud to record, is that we contrived to rekindle the love of sport among the young, and we also note that it is arousing general enthusiasm.

The Panathlon Association was conceived in Italy by men who were passionately fond of sport, who aimed at retaining its original true character, while laying stress on sport social and spiritual values, also helping to tighten the bonds of brotherhood among individuals as well as among nations. The Association is also concerned with physical culture and the diversion of the mind-and the body, it does not interfere with the technical organization of sport and in the allocation of its various activities.

Panathlon, founded in Venice in 1951, has grown rapidly, asserting itself in the most important sport centres of Italy. Clubs have been created with a view to welcoming the elements representing the various branches of local sports. Those clubs act as propaganda centres and it is through their initiative and activities that the principles, inspiring the idea of Panathlon, are becoming known.

Panathlon has already found favour with Italian sportsmen and its fame has spread beyond the frontiers with the result that Panathlon Clubs have been instituted in Switzerland. It is hoped that this example will be followed as soon as possible in other countries, and that, with their support, it will accelerate the realization, in the whole sporting world, of the high ideals which constitute sport's raison d'être.

At the present time, there exist in Italy 43 clubs with a membership of about 1,700. Since 1956, Switzerland possesses two clubs, one in Lausanne and one in Lugano with a membership of about 75. The Lausanne Panathlon Club has laid down the following ten rules :

1. A member of the Panathlon Club must know the general rules of sport and be thoroughly interested in the national and international life of sport. Privileges do not exist for him, nevertheless he must be a constant example of loyalty.
2. A member of the Panathlon Club is a true amateur sportsman and must be unselfish, courteous and not accept gratuities.
3. He must be straightforward, trustworthy and take an active part in the sport's life of his country. He must believe in the value of sport. must condemn all idle pessimism and must give without any thought of return in exchange.
4. A member of the Panathlon Club must extend a helping hand to the members who are his juniors both in age and experience, he must strive constantly to help raise the standard of those who live near him by increasing their moral sense and their integrity.
5. A member of the Panathlon Club must accept the responsibilities assigned to him, he must study the needs of sport in its various forms, he must keep himself young and understand the aspirations and exigencies of the coming generation.
6. In his actions, he must make his conscience and his past experiences in sport his best judges.
7. A member of the Panathlon Club is grateful to everybody for what the latter is doing for the sake of sport.
8. He must always be unbiased in his judgement or at least do his best to achieve this end.
9. He must not interfere in incriminating cases or listen to unwarranted criticisms, he must never be guilty of vulgarity or liable to offend the sport etiquette of the Panathlon Clubs.
10. He shall respect and must enforce the code of fair play as far as he can.

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All information and particulars may be obtained either from the Head Office of the Italian Panathlon Clubs, via Ippolito D'Aste 3-4 Genova, or from the Panathlon Club in Lausanne, president Mr. Jean Weymann, Gen. Secy. to the Swiss Olympic Committee, 2 Chemin de Boisy, Lausanne.

(Editor's note : We know that various Olympic leaders, both Italian and Swiss, as well as Olympic medallists of these countries actually belong to Panathlon Clubs.)