

# THE NEW OLYMPIC RULES

1958 EDITION

As is the case regarding the laws of a country, an international organization like the International Olympic Committee must revise its rules and regulations in the course of the years, in order to adapt them to present requirements. While the Charter (conceived by Baron de Coubertin) remains immutable, since it forms the actual structure of the Olympic Games, this is not the case with certain clauses of the Rules and regulations. Revised already in 1956, the Rules of the International Olympic Committee have just been published in a new edition in 1958. It has actually taken two full years to study and elaborate the French and English texts which were passed by vote at the last Sessions of the International Olympic Committee. The French and English Committees which were entrusted with the elaboration of these new Rules were composed of M. Armand Massard and M. François Pietri of Paris for the French, and the Marquess of Exeter and Sir Arthur Porritt of London for the English version. These two Committees were placed under the supervision of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Avery Brundage, and the whole was completed and elaborated at the Chancellery in Lausanne. In this manner the work was carried out.

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It seems appropriate to give some brief explanation concerning a few of the most important alterations and changes which have been effected. We will make no mention of the corrections affecting style and wording, which were the cause of voluminous correspondence, thus proving the truth of the adage that 'everybody does not speak the same language'. Let us remember that, in cases of incertitude between the texts in the two different languages the French version prevails over the English.

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*Fundamental Principles.* Art. 4, which was a useless repetition of the new nomenclature of the Olympic sports, has been entirely modified and now gives the exact definition of the aims of the Olympic Games.

*Art. 30.* The official programme of the Games has been revised. The distinction between compulsory and optional sports no longer exists, and they have been replaced by a list of twenty-one Olympic sports without any distinction (as well as an exhibition of fine Arts). Of these twenty-one sports, fifteen, at least, must be included in the programme of the Games.

*Art. 33.* The Biathlon, (a combined shooting and skiing competition known in earlier days under the name of 'military patrols'), has been omitted from the programme of the Olympic Winter Games and is to figure for the last time on the programme at the Squaw Valley Games. There are, in fact, already quite a sufficient number of cross-country skiing events, whilst shoot-inn cannot be looked upon as a winter sport. The Skeleton event, (for which only one track exists in the world, at St. Moritz) has been replaced by the Luge.

*Art. 36.* The number of team officials admitted to the Games has been greatly reduced and reconstituted. This became a measure of necessity when one considers the number of parasites designated as officials, who overcrowded the Olympic village in the past. Is it known, for instance, that certain delegations which participated in the Games were composed of an equal number of athletes and officials, and that often the officials outnumbered the athletes? Is it known that at Helsinki about 900 officially inscribed athletes actually never set foot on field or cinder track in the stadia? Furthermore judges, referees, timekeepers, inspectors, and take-over umpires shall not live in the Olympic village, where they are out of place. This measure is entirely logical.

*Art. 49.* Since the introduction of television, this article which appeared under the rubric of 'Photography and Films' is from now on named 'Publicity'. It is necessary to read the elaborate text of this article in order to grasp its meaning fully, as well as to realize how necessary it was to effect a complete revision. It was the cause of the greatest amount of controversy and exchange of correspondence, for the International Olympic Committee was anxious to have the advice of specialists in Europe as well as in America. On this account, the collaboration of Eurovision for the realization of this article was appreciated.

*Art. 57 and 59.* The texts of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies have been altered. The official Olympic flag is to be handed over to the Mayor of the city which is staging the Games not in the Closing Ceremony of the Games but in the Opening Ceremony, which is much more sensible. The President's speech of welcome has been limited to five minutes, in view of the fact that the spectators have not come to listen to a long speech but to see the performances of the athletes. For this reason the International Olympic Committee has decided that its

members will not appear upon the field of the stadium, and in any case this measure was already in operation at the Melbourne Games.

The above, therefore, are the main alterations, but practically every article has been revised and modified.

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In the second part of the new Olympic Rules, under the heading of *General Information*, let us point out a few innovations :

a) A representative of each international federation of an Olympic sport will be entitled to be present at the meeting of the International Olympic Committee, when the candidatures of the cities wishing to stage the future Games are presented. On that occasion these delegates will be consulted on the technical facilities offered. Without a doubt this advice will be most valuable to those responsible for the attribution of the Olympic Games to one city or another.

b) In the list of sports (Art. 30.) 'Water-Polo', although coming under the jurisdiction of the International Amateur Swimming Federation, is now placed under a

separate rubric from 'Swimming and Diving'. For this reason the total number of sports which figures in the table for each Games is different from the number of sports scheduled in former times (Page 65).

c) On page 96 (in addition to Art. 26 on amateurism) the stipulations are laid down regarding the athletes who may not be eligible for Olympic competitions.

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Finally this booklet, issued last October, contains a bibliography of the most important works, official reports, publications, etc., dealing with Olympism. These works can be found together with many other publications in the Olympic library in Lausanne.

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Copies of this new edition of the Rules can be purchased from the Chancellery of the International Olympic Committee at the cost of 4 Swiss francs (or 1 Dollar). Please specify whether the French or the English version is required.