
OLYMPISM AND FOOTBALL

International Football Amateur Federation (F.I.F.A.) has proposed to its affiliated Federations that access to the Olympic Games be refused to all players who have taken part in or been engaged for the World Football Championship in Sweden in 1958 (22

players per country), it being taken for granted that all official 'pros' are already excluded.

This proposal is put forward in the hope of saving the Olympic football championships.

As a matter of fact, under the existing rules the Olympic football tournament virtually

cannot fail to be won by one of the countries who does not recognize professionalism (such as the U.S.S.R., Sweden, Czecho-Slovakia, and Hungary) since the other countries are automatically deprived of their professional technical elite.

This decision to ban players from Olympic selection, who were enrolled to compete in the recent World Championship in which sixteen nations took part, does not offer a complete solution to the problem, but it does contribute all the same to the equalization of the chances, and helps to give back to certain nations the desire to behave better, and at any rate to adopt a better attitude towards non-professional countries by ex-

cluding the majority of their A and B international teams.

Thus one comes to the conclusion and implicit admission that when a certain technical level exists it is difficult to draw the line between amateur and professional. The mere fact of being chosen to compete in a world championship may be one of these discriminating factors.

It is not an ideal solution, but it is an improvement, and this improvement of a practical nature may give a new impetus to the Olympic football tournament which has come lately to have only a very relative importance.

