

How to keep the Games within bounds

(by J. -F. Brisson)

Herewith are the principal measures which, if introduced in the Olympic Charter, would give the Games their former character of 'a great quadrennial Festival of the Youth of the World', a quality considered essential in the mind of Pierre de Coubertin.

PROGRAMME

— Going back to unity of time and of place. Abolishing the Winter Olympic Games.

— Only the following sports could figure in the official programme of the Games:

— INDIVIDUAL EVENTS, meaning events practised by one individual, although this would not exclude relays and rowing events contested by several members of a team.

— Sports assuming a WORLD-WIDE character, practised by at least one thousand competitors belonging to more than two-thirds of the countries participating in the Games.

— Sport Manifestations which are not INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS between PROFESSIONALS with attribution of sport titles.

— Sport manifestations which are not WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS or other important sport international event to take their place. If some federations called upon to choose the events, were to decide that the Olympic sports to figure in the programme would be: Athletic sports, swimming and diving, gymnastics, wrestling, weight-lifting, fencing, equestrian sports, rowing, yachting, shooting and modern pentathlon. (Has boxing been deliberately left out from this list? yet it is an individual sport, *Ed.*)

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

In the 'Definition of an Amateur', Rule 26, replace 'one who participates in sport' by 'one who participates in competitive sport'. This modification would temper the severity of this clause and would incidentally confer the amateur status to those sportsmen who

happen to be instructors or sports coaches (such as fencing instructors, for instance).

The extenuatory quality of this modification would be counterbalanced by increased severity in the control of the prospective competitors.

The declaration signed by the competitor, stipulated in Rule 34, 'I declare on my honour' and countersigned by the National Federation of that particular sport, concerning the amateur status of the competitor, would thus be supported by a document consisting in: An attestation of employment countersigned by a professional organism or a trade union; or a certificate from a corporate body in cases dealing with liberal or industrial professions.

This attestation would also certify that the athlete in question discharges his professional duties in a normal way and has not taken leaves beyond the usual holidays allotted to his profession.

As far as students are concerned, an attestation would be required issued by the university authorities certifying that the interested party has duly passed examinations and obtained marks bearing out the proof that the student is pursuing the course of his studies in a normal way.

The International Olympic Committee, assisted by qualified personalities, would reserve itself the right to control on the spot, the professional competence and sporting ability of some of the competitors entered for the Games.

PROTOCOL

The oath should be worded as follows:

'We swear that we participate in the Olympic Games as loyal competitors, complying with the Olympic Regulations which govern them, and with no other motive but our love of disinterested and pure sport.'

The allusion to 'honour the country and to the glory of sport' ought to be dropped. (Bravo, *Ed.*)

The competitors, men and women, when participating in the events would wear the sports costumes of their respective clubs or Associations, except in team events, when they could wear a national sports costume.

The national colours of the champion would be flown from the central mast after his victory had been proclaimed, but the national hymn would only be played in connection with particularly important events such as athletics, for instance in the 100 m (the fastest among the winners of that race, of the marathon winners (the most tenacious) and the best allround winner of the Decathlon.

In connection with the Closing Ceremony, all the competitors who have participated

in the Games would march in the athletes parade wearing a white sports costume. At the head of the parade would be the gold medallists followed by the silver and the bronze medallists.

The other athletes would be grouped according to their sport.

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