

Facts which should be made known on the subject of equestrian sports and money prizes

On many occasions, the attention of the International Olympic Committee has been drawn to the number of money prizes received by the riders taking part in horse shows during the year. If there is no question of this in the Olympic Games, where a

medal only is awarded to the winner, it seems that it is a very different matter outside the Games. It is precisely those riders, who so often win substantial money prizes, that participate in the Games themselves. The International Olympic Committee

has applied itself many times to the solution of this problem, and it was discussed once again in the course of the meeting on June 6th last in Lausanne with the International Federations and with the International Federation of Equestrian Sports, when the problem was voiced by Mr. Avery Brundage, the President of the International Olympic Committee. This discussion was confirmed in writing, which demanded a reply. It is with great pleasure that we publish here an extract from this reply, which seems sufficiently explicit to render any comment superfluous. We thank the International Federation of Equestrian Sports for their reply, of which the following is an extract:

The sums of money distributed belong to the owner of the horse and should compensate him for the cost of upkeep and the enormous expense of transporting the horses. For your information, the upkeep of a horse is as much as two and a half dollars a day. Although it is perfectly correct to say that a horse belonging to a certain stable can win a large sum of money, it must be borne in mind that an international horseman has several horses at his disposal, some younger, some less successful, and that the whole stable has to share in the money won by one horse alone. Furthermore, it must not be forgotten that, in fact, a horse begins its

competitive life only when it is a six-year-old, and that three years of careful training are necessary to bring it up to the standard required by international horse shows in the home country or abroad. It will also easily be understood that often the most well-founded hopes placed in a certain horse can come to nothing. The competitive life of a horse is comparatively short, and if it is necessary to recuperate its purchasing price and the cost of training and transport, it must be agreed that few horses, if any, reach the point where they can cover capital and expenses by means of money prizes. We add here the text of Paragraph 126, letter (a) of our general Rules modified in the new 1963 edition:

Cups and Objets d'art go to the rider. The other prizes, including money prizes and souvenirs, belong to the owner of the horse.

Finally, the International Federation of Equestrian Sports assures the International Olympic Committee that it will in future take all the necessary steps which it judges useful so that, in the whole question of money prizes, the Olympic rules will be strictly observed. Everyone hopes that this will be the case, and we have no doubt that the International Federation of Equestrian Sports will give the matter their careful attention.