

The Problem of South Africa

Contrary to popular belief, legislation has never existed in South Africa concerning segregation of the races in sport. If laws on racial segregation exist in certain spheres of South African life, they have been introduced by different parliaments since the founding of the State. In sport, this discrimination exists 'traditionally', following the English accepted custom where certain laws are not written down, but which are respected all the same.

The South African Government has recently put forward its point of view on Apartheid in relation to the sport of that country. Here are the 8 points of this policy :

1. It is the custom in South Africa that, within its own territories, white and non-

white practise their sports apart from each other, and this custom must be respected. Within this country the whites and non-whites must not compete against each other — either as individuals, teams, or as members of mixed teams.

2. South African athletes of whatever race can compete against other athletes of another race provided they are not South Africans, and provided that these competitions take place outside South Africa.
3. The South African Government will respect the customs of other countries which have to do with sport outside South Africa, but expect that these others, when visiting South Africa, will respect South African customs.

4. The participation of mixed teams as representatives of South Africa in the various tournaments and competitions in any part of the world is not approved of. If, for example, the whites take part in such tournaments as individuals, they must act as representatives of white South Africans, and the non-whites must also represent only the non-whites.
5. The invitations received by South African teams from neighbouring sporting associations which are in conflict with South African customs — unless it be a question of international matches — will not be regarded with favour.
6. In accordance with the policy of Apartheid, the sporting associations of whites and non-whites can be established separately, but not if it is their aim to force the country to modify its avowed policy.
7. Concerning the administration and control of sporting activities, it is in complete agreement with official policy that the associations of non-whites should exist and develop alongside the corresponding white associations.
8. In order to resolve the questions which concern the non-whites, one or two members of the white executive committee can take part in the executive committee meetings of the non-whites if necessary. If this system shows itself to be impracticable for one reason or another, one or several members of the non-white com-

mittee can be co-opted to sit on white executive committees in an advisory capacity each time that affairs concerning non-whites are discussed,

If this unwritten law, or custom, has to be applied to the Olympic Games in 1964, we do not understand how, if Point So. 4 is put into force, South African athletes, whether white or coloured, can take part at Tokyo under the same flag, in the same tears and live under the same roof in the Olympic village. If, according to South Africa; Government policy, the white athletes must represent the white race and the coloured their own race, and that they must be divided into two 'distinct groups, then South Africa will surely be excluded from participating in the Games because of non-conformity with the Charter and the Olympic Rules.' The South African Government, it is understood, does not consider coloured Africans as South African citizens, but as 'subjects'. The creation of an independent State composed of Africans has been considered and will be put into force, such as Transkei, which is on the way to becoming a non-white State. Other States will be created and will follow the same road. The idea is both honest and possible, but time is needed for its realization, and the world today has everything except patience. The Tokyo Games are to take place NEST year — so what is the answer ?

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