

We receive questions practically every day concerning the International Olympic Committee, its members, its administration, its operation and its contacts with other organisations.

In this Olympic year, with the Grenoble and Mexico Games fast approaching, we thought it might be useful to group together some replies,

if you wish certain specific points to be clarified we will take pleasure in writing to you directly.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

The International Olympic Committee was founded on 23rd June 1894, following a meeting which lasted a week, held at the Sorbonne, Paris, and which was entitled "Paris International Congress for the study and propagation of amateur principles".

The eighth point on the Agenda was worded as follows: "Concerning the possibility of reviving the Olympic Games. How could they be restored?" The instigator of the Paris Congress was Pierre de Coubertin. He was Secretary General of the French Athletic Sports Union and it was when celebrating the fifth anniversary of this organisation, in 1892 that the Baron de Coubertin put forward the idea of restoring the Olympic Games. Between 1892 and 1894 he travelled all round the world recruiting followers.

Forty-nine societies, 12 countries represented and 79 delegates voted unanimously both for the revival of the Olympic Games and for the drawing up of a constitution for an International Committee with 14 members, to supervise the carrying out of the Congress's decisions.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin was Commissaire Général of the Paris Congress, which was chaired during its inaugural session by Baron de Courcel, a Senator, and for the two General Assemblies by Mr. de Janzé.

Amongst the specialised commissions, one dealt with Olympic questions. The Chairman was M. Demetrius Vikelas, a delegate from the pan-Hellenic Gymnastic Society. Having obtained, thanks to Pierre de Coubertin, that the first Modern Olympic Games would be held at Athens, Mr. Vikelas took on the Presidency of the International Olympic Committee, Pierre de Coubertin acting as Secretary General.

Acting upon a proposition put forward by Baron de Coubertin, it had at that time been decided that the Presidency of the

./.

I O C would fall upon the I O C member in the country in which the next Olympiad would be celebrated. Thus, as the first Games were to take place in Athens in 1896, Mr. Vikelas was designated as the first President of the I O C. He passed this Presidency to the Baron de Coubertin at the close of the Olympic Games, for the second Games were scheduled to be held in 1900 in Paris.

This presidential ruling was changed in 1900. In effect, the founder member for the United States, Professor W.M. Sloane, categorically refused to succeed Pierre de Coubertin, making it a condition sine qua non of his subsequent participation. Under no circumstances did Pierre de Coubertin wish for a life Presidency, therefore he proposed that the term of office be set at 10 years, and the rule was thus modified. The present rules will be looked at further on in this articles.

As Germany had not been represented at the Paris Congress, there was no German member of the International Olympic Committee in 1894. After numerous representations and a violent campaign by the European Press, which alerted even Emperor William II, Dr. Gebhardt was made an I O C Member in 1895. Thus the first I O C comprised 16 members (with Pierre de Coubertin).

Today the I O C is represented in the different countries of the world by its 70 members.

It must be emphasised that the I O C members are the ambassadors of the I O C within their countries and not delegates of their countries within the I O C. Nevertheless, an I O C member may also be the President of his country's National Olympic Committee.

#### HOW ARE IOC MEMBERS NOMINATED.

Pierre de Coubertin wished, above all, that the Members of the I O C be independant and free from all government influence. They had to bear all the costs occasioned by their numerous journeys and pay a standing fee to the I O C which was supported, to a large extent, by the personal fortune of Baron de Coubertin.

As, amongst other things, the I O C Members had to have sufficient spare time and be themselves sportsmen, they were naturally drawn from amongst the aristocracy and the upper middle classes.

But today, the I O C Members themselves select from amongst the candidates those who have the qualities and the sports

./.

references necessary to be numbered amongst this supreme sports assembly.

The personalities chosen must speak French or English, the two official languages of the I O C.

The General Assembly or I O C Session elects a member, whose candidature was previously put before the Executive Board (or "Board of Directors").

Until 1966 the I O C Members were elected for life and could, at their instigation and with the agreement of the other Members, become honorary Members, having thereby the right to assist at General Assemblies, to take part in discussions, but no longer to vote. Those Members who have been elected since 1966 must retire at the age of 72.

#### THE PRESIDENT

The President is elected by his fellow members during a Session and serves for a period of eight years, he can be re-elected for successive periods of four years.

The President can take initiatives and make decisions on his own and have them ratified at the I O C Session. Should there be an urgent matter to be dealt with he can arrange for a postal vote.

The President is Chairman of the Executive Board and of the Sessions. Should it be necessary, he also has the casting vote.

The President is assisted by three Vice-Presidents (of whom one is resident in Europe). The Vice-Presidents are elected for a four-year period and can be re-elected for a similar period at the end of a four-year interval. The most senior Vice-President can replace the President, in the case of the latter's death or resignation, until the election of a new President (at the next Session).

#### THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This is composed of : the President; the three Vice-Presidents, five members (one of whom is in charge of protocol) and a Treasurer. The members are elected for a four-year period and are replaced annually in rotation.

The Executive Board is the equivalent of the Board of Directors of a company. The propositions it puts forward are studied during the Sessions and then voted upon.

./.

### THE I O C HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the I O C is in Switzerland.

Pierre de Coubertin signed a document on 10th April 1915 in the Council Chamber of Lausanne Town Hall establishing the administrative centre of the Olympic Movement in that town; though it was not until 1922 that the I O C installed its offices in the Campagne Mon Repos.

Pierre de Coubertin lived with his wife on the third floor of the building until his death. This has since become the home of the Olympic Museum.

The second floor contains the offices of the General Secretariat. During the course of the coming weeks these offices, which have become too small, will be transferred to the Chateau de Vidy, generously placed at the disposal of the I O C by the Municipality.

### THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

During the Rome Session of 1965 a Secretary General was nominated in the person of Johann W. Westerhoff.

The Secretary General is in charge of the General Secretariat and copes with day to day matters. His duties are determined by the Executive Board.

A relative newcomer to the I O C Secretariat is General G. Reinderhoff who is particularly concerned with contacts with the National Olympic Committees and International Federations.

Mrs. Monique Berlioux looks after information and public relations questions and deals with problems concerning the Organising Committees of the Games.

Miss Irene Hiller, Mr. J. W. Westerhoff's personal secretary, has the task of looking after the correspondence and contacts with the members of the I O C.

Dr. Alexander Vechsler is in charge of the I O C's Library.

The team working around Mr. Westerhoff is completed by the various secretaries and shorthand-typists- the Misses Bützberger, Dériaz, Gutteridge, Martin and Varlet, and Mme. Tsilticlis.

-----

## 1. SESSIONS

One Session of the I O C is held every year, except in the year of the Games when a Session precedes both the Winter Games and the Games.

Invitations from National Olympic Committees to be host of a Session except in the Olympic year, must be received by the I O C two months before the Session at which the invitation will be discussed, and two years before the Session concerned (i.e. 1967 for 1969). In the Olympic year, the invitation will be discussed at the Session prior to the main Games,

In the year of the allocation of the Games the Session cannot be held in a country, if a city of that country is an applicant for the Games.

The National Olympic Committee of the country where the Session is held is responsible for the complete organisation of the Session, but it can delegate its authority either to a local Committee or to the Organising Committee of the Games, this however does not exempt it from the responsibility.

### Opening

- a) The N O C of the host country shall be responsible for arranging the opening ceremony. The ceremony must, except in the case of the year of the Games, be performed by the Head of State. In the year of Games, the Head of State, who will be opening the Games, may delegate his authority.
- b) The Head of State and President of the I O C will make a speech at the opening ceremony and the President of the N O C may make a speech. No other speeches are permitted.
- c) The opening ceremony which must include the Olympic fanfare, shall also contain a dignified programme which may contain music and dancing, but the ceremony shall be limited to one hour.
- d) Seating at the Opening Ceremony shall be according to I O C protocol as printed in the Rule book.

The I O C may convene meetings with International Federations or National Olympic Committees, or meetings of Sub-Commissions at a Session. These Members, as also the delegates reporting from the cities organising the Games (limited to six persons) shall be lodged on the same terms as members of the I O C.

./.



At formal presentations (e.g. to Head of State, Chief of Government) any families or official guests of members of the I O C, International Federations and N O Cs, etc..., will stand beside member, (on left or right as applicable so that the member may introduce his guest after the President has made formal presentation of the member,

Any special guests at the I O C meetings (e.g. widows or relatives of members unable to attend etc.) shall be placed with the members of their country. If no member is present, they will be placed at the end.

If at any time the above precedence should clash with the official protocol when the I O C is invited by the Head of State or Chief of Government, the organising committee shall refer this to the President.

If members of the I O C attend meetings as representatives of their N O C they shall, during that time, be treated as member of the N O C only.

During sessions of the I O C the following only may be in conference:

- 1- I O C Secretariat
2. Accredited shorthand reporters and recorders
3. Official interpreters
4. Those summoned by President or Committee.

### 3. THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic Games are allotted, during a plenary session, to a town, not to a country, which put in an application through its mayor or the highest authority in the city. This application must be approved by the National Olympic Committee and submitted to the I O C at least six years before the date set for the Olympic Games in question.

A questionnaire, which is put at the disposal of the candidate towns, must be filled out and sent in with the application.

A Fine Arts programme must be arranged for the duration of the Games. This programme must be up to the standard of the sports events.

The Winter Games must last ten days; the Olympic Games, which celebrate the Olympiad, must take place during the first year of the Olympiad and their duration must not exceed fifteen days.

./.

#### 4. OLYMPIC AWARDS

Apart from the medals (gold, silver, bronze) and the diplomas which are given to the winners and competitors at the Olympic Games, the awards which are given by the International Olympic Committee are as follows:

The Olympic Cup which was instituted by the Baron de Coubertin in 1906—It is now awarded to an institution or association with a general reputation for merit and integrity which has been active and efficient in the service of amateur sport and has contributed substantially to the development of the Olympic Movement.

The Olympic Diploma of Merit, created at the Congress in Brussels in 1905, is awarded to an individual with qualifications similar to those described in the previous paragraph (Olympic Cup).

The Fearnley Cup founded in 1950 by Sir Thomas Fearnley, former member of the International Olympic Committee, is given to an amateur sport club or a local amateur sport association because of meritorious achievement in the service of the Olympic Movement.

The Mohammed Taher Trophy, founded in 1950 by H.E.Mohammed Taher, member of the International Olympic Committee, is awarded to an amateur athlete who may or may not have competed in the Olympic Games, but whose general merit or career justifies the award of a special distinction.

None of these above mentioned awards may in the future be bestowed on a National or International Federation, on a National Olympic Committee or on the officers of these organisations in their capacity as such nor on a member of the International Olympic Committee (except that the Olympic Diploma of Merit may be awarded to honorary members).

The Count Bonacossa Trophy. The Count Bonacossa Trophy, offered in 1954 by C O N I. the National Olympic Committee of Italy, in honour of Count Alberto Bonacossa, member of the International Olympic Committee for many years, is awarded to the National Olympic Committee which during the preceding year has done outstanding work in furthering the Olympic Movement.

The Tokyo Trophy, offered in 1964 by the City of Tokyo, is awarded to an athlete (or group of athletes) whose conduct

./.

displayed during the Olympic Games should be recognized as an example of outstanding sportsmanship, irrespective of the result of competitive achievement.

Nominations of candidates for these awards, with qualifications in writing must be received by the International Olympic Committee at its office in Lausanne before the first of March each year.

### THE I O C COMMISSIONS

The I O C has set up several commissions which have the task of studying certain special problems. These commissions submit their findings to the Executive Board of the I O C who examines them and then passes on the proposed resolutions to the plenary session of the I O C.

The Commissions are the following:

#### 1. Finance Commission

(chairman? Lord LUKE

Members: Mr. R.S. ALEXANDER, Mr. G. ERICSSON, General J. de CLARK, Mr. M. HODLER

2. Joint Commission which is made up of I O C members and representatives of the N O Cs elected by the N O Cs.

Chairman: Mr. I.E. VIND

Members: Dr R. AZUNA, General J. de CLARK, Mr. S.WAJID ALI, Sir A. ADEMOLA , Avv. G. ONESTI, Mr. F. KRUTIL, Mr.J. JAHRE  
Mr. E. WIECZOREK, Mr. J. BERACASA, Mr. W. JHUNG, Mr.A. de O. SALES, Mr. A. ARROYO.

#### 3. Commission for Press and Public Relations

Chairman: Lord KILLANIN	}	
Members: Lord LUKE,	}	standing
Comte de BEAUMONT	}	Committee
Dr. H. SCHOBEL	}	

#### Enlarged Commission

Members: Mr. S. WAJID ALI, Mr. E. DIBOS, Mr. M. MZALI, Mr. J. SAMARANCH, Lt.-Col RUSSELL, the Heads of the Press Departments of the Organising Committees of the Games, Mr. LEVI-TAN, Mr. H. THORNBERRY, Mr. J. FARROW, Mr. D. ROCHER, Mr.V. MORGAN and Mr. N. KISSELEV.

#### 4. Medical Commission

Prince Alexandre de MERODE (chairman),

./.

Members: Dr. E. HAY, Dr. A. DIRIX, Prof.L.PROKOP, Prof. A. BECKETT, Dr.P.van DIJK, Prof. La CAVA, Dr. THIEBAULT.

5. Commission for the protection of Olympic emblems

Chairman: Lord LUKE.

Members: Mr. A.D. TOUNY, Mr. TAKASHIMA, Mr. J. HAYELANGE, Mr. A. CSANADI, Vice-Admiral P. LAPPAS.

6. Commission for the International Olympic Academy

The International Olympic Academy was founded in 1961. Its objectives are to create an international culture centre at Olympia, site of the ancient Games, where the high ideals of amateur competitive sport were first conceived and realized, and to study and to promote the social, educational, aesthetic, ethical and spiritual values of the Olympic Movement. The President of the International Olympic Academy is H.R.H. Prince George of HANOVER, ex-officio member of the I O C.

Chairman: Mr. I. E. VIND,

Members: H.R.H. Prince George of HANOVER, Sir A.ADEMOLA, Mr. J. SAMARANCH, Dr. G. de STEFANI, Dr. R. AZUMA, Mr. A. SIPERCO, Mr. J. HAVELANGE.

In addition to these Commissions, a special Commission to go into the practice of sport in South Africa was set up in 1967. It is composed of Lord KILLANIN (chairman), Sir A. ADEMOLA and Mr. R. S. ALEXANDER.

-----

<p>LE COMITE INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC OLYMPIQUE COMMITTEE</p>	<p>Créé le 23 juin 1894 Fondateur : Le baron Pierre de Coubertin</p>
<p>LISTE DES PRESIDENTS DU CIO</p> <p>LIST O F I O C PRESIDENTS</p>	<p>M. Vikélas (Grèce) premier président, 1894-1896 Le baron Pierre de Coubertin France, 1896-1925 Le comte de Baillet-Latour Belgique 1925-1942 M.J. Sigfrid Edström Suède 1946-1952 M. Avery Brundage U.S.A. depuis 1952</p>
<p>COMMISSION EXECUTIVE</p> <p>EXECUTIVE BOARD</p>	<p><u>PRESIDENT</u> M. Avery Brundage</p> <p><u>VICE-PRESIDENTS</u> M. Armand Massard M. Constantin Andrianow Général José de Clark</p> <p><u>MEMBRES</u> Dr. Giorgio de Stefani M. Gabriel Gemayel The Marquess of Exeter M. Syed Wajid Ali Lord Killanin</p> <p><u>MEMBRE ASSISTANT DU PRESIDENT</u> S.E. Mohammed Taher</p> <p><u>CHEF DU PROTOCOLE</u> Lord Killanin</p> <p><u>TRESORIER HONORAIRE</u> Me Marc Hodler</p>
<p>SECRETARIAT DU CIO</p> <p>I O C SECRETARIAT</p>	<p><u>ADRESSE</u> Château de VIDY, LAUSANNE, (à partir du 1er mars 1968 ) <u>SECRETARE GENERAL</u> M. Johann W. Westerhoff</p> <p><u>ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE</u> CIO Lausanne</p>