

APROPOS THE WINNIPEG CHARTER

We have received the following letter from Mr. D.T.P. PAIN, Honorary Secretary of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Dear Madame Berlioux,

In your most recent Newsletter No. 25, you printed an account of the Winnipeg Charter. The text of this was not available to my Federation before the IOC gave it this publicity but in order to avoid any misunderstandings in the future, it is felt that this International Federation should make its position absolutely clear. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could publish the enclosed letter in the next issue of your Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

D.T.P. Pain,
Honorary Secretary-Treasurer

It is with pleasure that we publish his declaration. In this connection we would like to remind you that as for all articles appearing in the Newsletter, these do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the International Olympic Committee.

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"A statement has appeared in your 25th edition of the Newsletter headed "The Winnipeg Charter". In order to avoid any misunderstanding in the future it is felt that this International Federation should make its position absolutely clear.

1. As regards the proposal for spreading the Olympic spirit in sport, this is obviously a matter for the NOCs.

2. The I.A.A.F. must, however, make clear that its 135 Members are affiliated directly to it, and under no circumstances is anybody recognised as coming between them.
3. It of course fully accepts that for the Olympic Games NOCs are responsible for housing, transporting, equipping the teams and entering the competitors. The lists are prepared and competitors put in the correct order by the National Federation concerned and this cannot be altered by an NOC. The NOC has, however, the power to exclude a nominee if that individual would in fact be undesirable to represent his country, or if there is not sufficient finance, or some other acceptable reason for not sending all the members of any team, and in such a case it is for the NOC to decide who should be left out. Those excluded for the latter reasons must come from the bottom of the list submitted by the National Federation. While the competitors are at the Games the NOC is responsible for them and their discipline.
4. In certain areas, NOCs are carrying out other tasks of a similar nature in other Games. On such occasions they are for these Games in a similar position as they are for the Olympic Games.
5. There is a statement in the article in the Newsletter that we quote: "*only National Federations recognised by each NOC will be entitled to membership of their respective I.F.s.*" This is quite unacceptable for it is the I.A.A.F. which affiliates its Members and in such a matter the NOC has no standing, although in questions of doubt all I.F.s are advised to consult the appropriate NOC for helpful advice. In the IOC Rules, too, it is stated that only the federation affiliated to the recognised I.F. in each Olympic sport can be affiliated to an NOC. Indeed IOC Rule 24 lays down that NOCs be controlled by delegates of National Federations recognised by the respective I.F.s.
6. The other point which surprises us to find, is a categorical statement that no matches can take place or athletes go abroad from the Americas without the approval of their NOC. As far as the I.A.A.F. is concerned, whether or not their Members in good standing

visit each other is a matter entirely for them and if they choose, and have the finance and facilities, to hold matches with each other or send athletes abroad, no ban by an outside body would have any effect on their good standing with the I.F. If, however the NOC is providing finance obviously it can decide under what conditions it will make the finance available for that particular event. We presume that this particular clause is a suggestion that Federations will voluntarily consult on such matters with their NOCs but this cannot be a condition regulating the competition of their athletes abroad which is solely within the jurisdiction of the national governing body for athletes which is in membership with the I.A.A.F. This of course is the case of the U.S.A. where their teams travel abroad with the sole approval of the A.A.U. which does not refer such matters to the NOC nor any outside body; the same is the case in Canada.

7. We feel that these points should be made absolutely clear to prevent any misunderstanding in the future. In the meantime, naturally, the I.A.A.F. wishes well to the activity of the Pan-American Organisation in its work for the Olympic Movement and for their Games.

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