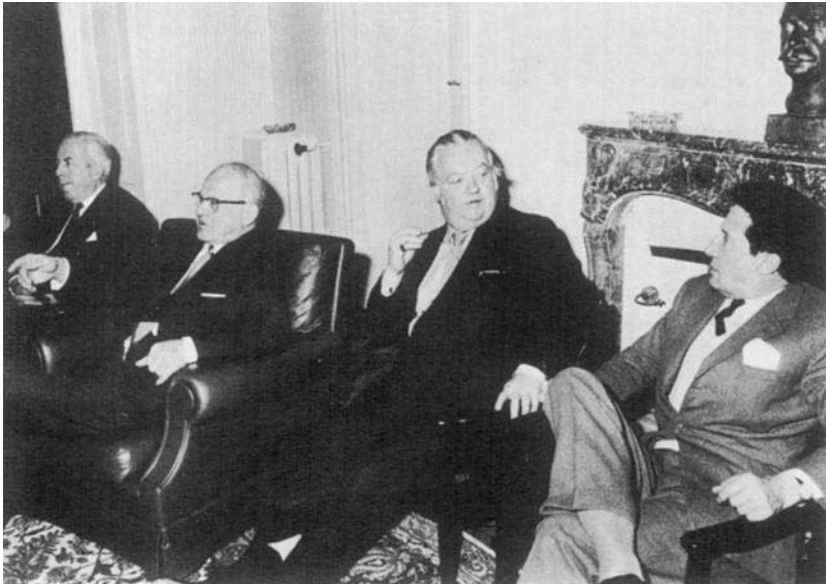


THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE NEW RULE 26

As announced in our latest editions, the Executive Board met in Lausanne on March 13th and 14th last. At the close of the two days' work, President Avery BRUNDAGE gave a Press Conference, from which we are publishing the most important extracts.

In our edition No. 43, we shall come back to the various standings taken by the Executive Board, as well as to the meeting of the Commission for the Olympic Congress, which was held in Geneva in the afternoon of March 15th.

We hope to be able to publish the text of the new Rule 26 in our next issue.



*From left to right:
Jonkheer Herman van KARNEBEEK, Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE
Lord KILLANIN, Comte Jean de BEAUMONT*

Press Conference given by President Avery BRUNDAGE at the
Château de Vidv in Lausanne on Sunday, March 14th, 1971

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *The session of the Executive Board is concluded except for a brief session tomorrow morning at which we will consider a proposal for an Olympic film which has been presented by the Comte de BEAUMONT, who has been working on this subject for some time. The principle item on the Agenda, as you know, was the consideration of Rule 26, with its principle additions, amplifications and amendments. Our deliberations have resulted in the unanimous approval of a new text with certain additions, amplifications and amendments. Unfortunately we cannot release the text to you because it is being immediately sent out for a mail vote, and we hope the mail vote will be favourable inasmuch as the text has been studied very thoroughly by the Sub-Commission composed of the three Vice-Presidents, reviewed by the President and then reviewed by the entire Executive Board. The three Vice-Presidents, as you know, met with the representatives of each of the Olympic International Federations to ascertain their views, and all of this has been incorporated in the revised text. This text, being a new rendition of the rule, will have to be approved by a two-thirds majority.*

Q: Have you any idea when the date of the release of the text will be?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *Probably in about thirty days. Until the results of the postal vote are announced, the existing rule is in force.*

Q: As we are not getting an actual copy of the revised text, will you tell us what the main points are?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *I can tell you one important thing. We are setting up a special sub-commission to work in collaboration with the International Federations and the National Olympic Committees in the enforcement of this rule. This is something we have not had here before.*

Q: Who is setting up this sub-commission?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *The I.O.C.*

Q: Is this a commission which is going to vet the entries?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *Maybe. If there is any necessity for doing so.*

Q: How is this going to be done, by the Executive Board or by the Commission?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *This will probably be done with the approval of the Executive Board.*

Q: How many people will be on this Commission?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *It will be a very small Commission, of 3 to 5 members.*

Q: From each group?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *No. The Sub-Commission of the I.O.C. will co-operate with the representatives of the International Federations should it be necessary to do so.*

Q: Will you take up more exactly how this Commission will work?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *We begin if there is a National Olympic Committee which has a question of an application of the rule in a particular case, then they will consult the Commission. I may inform you that this was provided for in the old rule, but never implemented.*

Q: As a result of the revised Rule 26, do you think that the skiers whom you have many times branded professionals would be allowed to participate at Sapporo?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *The subject of the skiers was not discussed.*

Q: Did the three Vice-Presidents, during the meetings in London, Paris and Lausanne, come to an agreement concerning broken time and what basis has been taken into consideration?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *This question and many others were discussed with each individual federation and was taken into consideration in the drafting of the new text of Rule 26. The old rule said that the I.O.C. was not in favour of payment for broken time, except in cases of hardship approved by the National Olympic Committee and the International Federation. Many International Federations are opposed to payment for broken time in any form. We must consider that the Olympic Committee is looked to for leadership by much of the sports world. We hope it will be by all of the sports world, but I cannot use this term. We have studied this very very closely and have come to the conclusion in the language of the new rule which we think is the correct conclusion.*

Q: Your opinion about skiing is based on existing Olympic Committee rules. Would you say that this new Rule 26 would modify your opinion in any way?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: My opinion was based on the wide publicity in full-page advertising of a racing camp organised commercially by manufacturers. In this advertisement the names of certain skiers were included as coaches and these skiers were brought thousands of miles by jet plane and paid \$50 a day. What I said was that under those circumstances this was a violation of Olympic rules. Now the FIS said it was entirely a misrepresentation by the manufacturer and by the advertisement, but this has not been resolved. I assume the FIS will contend that the whole thing was a misrepresentation and that these boys had no idea of what they were getting into. These boys were not infants. This remains to be proved. In an important thing like this, I suppose the letter which the FIS has written will be submitted to the Sub-Commission. They will study the subject and say whether the FIS is right or not. Then they report back to the Executive Board.

Q: Where do the questions come from?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: From specific questions about specific skiers which have come from several different National Olympic Committees. When it comes down to it, no one has been entered in the Olympic Games as yet. Let us say that a National Olympic Committee wishes to enter one of these men, and it is doubtful about his standing, they will come to this Sub-Commission. The FIS has already done so by letter, which said that the whole thing was a misrepresentation. This letter will come to the attention of the Sub-Commission. Does that answer you?

Q: Will this Sub-Commission ever take the initiative? If the N.O.C. and the I.F. agree that the skier is eligible for the Olympic Games, while the I.O.C. thinks that the skier is a doubtful case, will the I.O.C. come to an agreement with the National Olympic Committee and the International Federation or will it eliminate the skier on its own?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: In a case so widely advertised as this one, the I.O.C. will certainly make a decision on its own.

Q: Will the Committee ever say we bar this man who has violated the rules and will keep pseudo-amateurs out? Will you take the initiative in saying we do not accept so and so?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: The I.O.C. has before it ten thousand participants. The I.O.C. is not going to investigate all these ten thousand participants - this is impossible. The I.O.C. deals with N.O.C.s and I.F.s, and if there are any conditions which exist in an N.O.C. or a sport, we are going to deal with the I.F.s or the N.O.C.s. We are not going into the business of dealing with individuals.

Q: What if the National Olympic Committee and the International Federation say this man is eligible to compete, will you accept this recommendation?

Comte Jean de BEAUMONT: *This Sub-Commission will deal with the important cases, not with the small ones.*

Q: If, in fact, the N.O.C. and the FIS say this person is eligible to compete in Sapporo and then under the new Rule 26 you find him to be ineligible because he is in violation of the rule, can the I.O.C. turn around and say he is not allowed to compete even though the N.O.C. and I.F. say he can?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *The Olympic Games are our Games, and we make the rules and interpret them in the final analysis. In other words, if an N.O.C. for some reason or another enters a competitor who is not eligible, we are not going to accept that entry just because he comes from a N.O.C. or an I.F. It is a question of our rules and we are going to interpret them.*

Q: To exclude an athlete, would the decision be made by the Sub-Commission (with a majority of the 3 to 5 members), the Executive Board or all the 75 members?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *It will depend entirely on the case. If it is a policy of great importance, it may be better with the full session. In the normal course of events, it will be decided on by the Sub-Commission or if they have any doubt, they will refer it to the Executive Board. With serious violations, it will be the entire I.O.C.*

Q: Concerning the organisation of the Games in Sapporo, how can they begin work now if they are not going to know what the situation is for some time. What assurance can you give them that alpine skiing will take place?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *As far as we are concerned, the programme in Sapporo will proceed as contemplated.*

Q: Besides this special Sub-Commission, what other changes were made in Rule 26?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: *I would say that there are amplifications rather than amendments, but there may have been one or two. Usually we made the language more precise.*

Q: Returning to broken time, has this been amplified or amended? Would it be fair to say that the proposed changes would allow for a little more leeway in relation to broken time? The International Federations who want more, can they have more; the I.F.s who do not need it, can they not have any?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: I do not mind telling you what I said to the Executive Board. I hoped that our rules would be more severe than those of any federation. My hopes have not been realised. Some federations have stricter rules than we have. I will say that the three Vice-Presidents, through their interviews with the representatives of the International Federations, have reached a conclusion with common sense. In other words, they concluded that it would be better to legislate for the Olympic Games only. It would be highly desirable if the regulations for all sports were the same. We have been hoping for this for fifty years. This will never be realised because of the different conditions in each sport. After consulting with all these federations, they came up with that which they thought appropriate to do.

Q: Have you changed the period of residence from three to one year?

Mr. Avery BRUNDAGE: It requires a two-thirds majority; we have recommended it.

