



To: All Members of the IOC

THE PRESIDENT

cc: International Federations
National Olympic Committees
Press

Re: Suggested Rule 26

Lausanne, 26th April 1974

Dear Colleague,

Since Varna, the Executive Committee has been studying Rule 26. This has been co-ordinated by the three Vice-Presidents, together with Mr. Ivar Vind, (Denmark) representing the Eligibility Commission, under my chairmanship. It was discussed and amended by the Executive Board at their meeting in Lausanne 9th/11th February 1974.

The Eligibility Commission (under Mr. Hugh Weir) proposed a draft new Rule 26, which was circulated to members at Varna, subsequently discussed with the International Federations and used as a working document. It is the Rule as printed in the Rule Book which is being reviewed and this should be compared with the proposed new draft rule.

After discussing the matter with you and all the International Federations it is clear that directives are essential, and it is for this reason that the Executive recommends a short rule. This would require a 2/3rds majority to replace the existing rule. It is proposed that the subsequent bye-laws should only need a simple majority. Also discussions have been held by me with representatives of National Olympic Committees and active competitors during my various visits.

It is my personal opinion that the current Rule 26 is confusing. It has endeavoured to state a philosophy rather than to make a firm rule, e.g. such wordings as « ... observe the traditional Olympic spirit and ethic ... » and « ... participates in sport as an avocation... ». This is covered under our Fundamental Principles.

RULE 26

The draft rule confirms:

1. that the Games are closed to professionals,
2. that by approving the rules of the International Federations for Olympic recognition, the IOC is given the necessary authority over all International Federations who wish to be on the Olympic Programme.

ADVERTISING

- A. In many cases athletes are, individually or collectively, compelled to appear in advertising photographs but the new bye-laws makes it clear that this can only be permitted when an International Federation, a National Federation or an NOC has entered into a contract and any benefits must pass to the governing bodies and not to the individuals.
- B. The question of carrying advertising material on a competitor's person, other than normal trade marks for equipment, was discussed. In many countries national and club sports are sponsored and the running numbers carry the names of a commercial product. This can be an affront to the freedom of the individual and indeed against his conscience, but without this structure there might be a drop in sponsorship. The Executive were divided on this point. Replies to circular M/870 from members of the IOC would indicate a 50: 50 division between total ban and ban at international level only. The proposal in the bye-laws is that a ban should be put on international competitions in all sports.

WRITING, TV, etc.

The question of the publication of articles has been carefully considered. On the one hand there is the advantage of experienced competitors contributing to the Press, Radio and Television for the benefit of sport and the Olympic movement from a technical and philosophical point of view. At the same time, there has been the risk of active competitors contributing to the Press for their own personal gain. The new rule does not ban writing or publication but naturally the competitor would be in breach of the Rule 26 if he personally obtained financial or material gain from any such work. The prohibition of writing during the period of the Games and the control of interviews, which is a disciplinary matter, will be included in the rule of conduct at the Games (Rule 48).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are difficult to control and in many countries scholarships are given to potential physical education instructors who eventually teach but under the heading of those who give elementary instruction, and are eligible to compete.

Many of the scholars who have the opportunity of furthering their education, which may be assisted by their sport prowess, do not necessarily have material gain, but obtain an intellectual asset which contributes towards the complete man or woman which is the ideal of Olympism, and for this reason it is suggested that all reference to scholarships be deleted.

DURATION OF TRAINING AND COMPETITIONS

The present rule permits full-time training « not normally exceeding an aggregate of 30 days and in no case exceeding 60 in one calendar year ». This is not an enforceable clause even within certain sports (e.g. a long-distance runner might train daily going to and from work, whilst a sprinter might well have

to spend a period of time in concentrated training). The period of training has been deleted and left to the International Federations to include in their own rules, which would be approved by the IOC.

DOPING

No reference is made to doping in this draft rule as this will be subject to a separate new rule in the course of preparation.

PRO-AM COMPETITION

The question of a professional in one sport and an amateur in another has been very fully discussed and there have been examples of this in the Olympic Games, but the Executive Committee considered unanimously that for an Olympic competitor it would be impossible to control. This does not prevent individual International Federations having their own ruling as necessary for non-Olympic competition.

The IOC has never had a rule regarding competitions between professionals and amateurs which varies from sport to sport, and it is not recommended that this should now be introduced. However, it is suggested that in World Championships open to professionals and amateurs that an Olympic competitor should not be included. This is a subject for discussion.

This rule must be finalised at Vienna, and so that the Executive can be assured that progress is made, would you please reply to Château de Vidy by 21st May 1974:

- a) Whether you are in agreement with the new basic Rule 26;
- b) Your comments on the bye-laws.

This is only a draft. Copies are being sent to the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees and to the Press, so that the correct facts and progress may be known to all who will be affected.

It goes without saying that all members of the IOC, the Olympic International Federations and the National Olympic Committees, competitors and officials are subject to ALL the Rules and By -Laws and future Rules and Bye-Laws of the IOC and any breach can lead to the suspension or withdrawal of recognition of those concerned.

Lord Killanin
President

Draft

ELIGIBILITY CODE

Working Document

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To be eligible for participation in the Olympic Games, a competitor must:

1. Never have received any financial rewards or material benefit in connection with his or her sports participation and conform with the bye-laws to this rule and the IOC Rules 1 and 3 (Fundamental Principles), 7 (Citizenship), 22 (Affiliation), . . (Doping), 27 (Special Conditions) and 48 (Reporting, etc.).
2. Observe and abide by the Rules of his or her International Federation, as approved by the IOC, even if the Federation Rules are more strict than those of the IOC.