

The Fair-Play

by Sir Stanley Rous
past president of the FIFA

The following excerpts have been taken from an address given by Sir Stanley Rous at the occasion of the Award Ceremony of the International Fair Play Trophy « Pierre de Coubertin » the 6th October 1981:

“Participation in sport and games is encouraged today in every country in the world through educational and cultural organisations because of the lessons which are learnt. There must be law and order and the rules and regulations of competitions must be observed.

The decisions of referees and umpires must be accepted without dissent. There is too much jubilation shown in winning. Winning should be only part of the fun in participation.

Sport develops fitness, team spirit, comradeship and fair-play. Football, if played skilfully and well organised, is one of the most enjoyable team games played throughout the world. Football players have been the happy recipients of this international Fair-Play award.

There is much trouble in the world among nations, politicians, between races and religions and sometimes even among sports legislators, but we can be sure that the troubles are not caused by sportsmen and sportswomen. Their aim is to tear down curtains, to smash walls and to remove all barriers which prevent goodwill and peace among the peoples of the world. One sees examples in Olympic villages at Olympic Games, where after exciting contests, competitors fraternise happily. That is why the spirit of the game and fair-play must always be encouraged. I wonder whether UNESCO and ICSPE, together with the International Sports Federations, could organise a world-wide campaign through the press, television and broadcast media, perhaps on one selected week-end annually, when the message of fair-play and play fair could be presented. I am sure that such a campaign would emphasise to parents, teachers, sports organisers and all concerned with the welfare of youth of their important responsibilities.”