



IOC Recognition

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In the past, the IOC granted recognition to organisations connected directly or indirectly with sport and, among others, with International Sports Federations. But this recognition was granted without having any particular criteria or standards set up by the IOC itself.

Later, at the end of the '60s the existing status of recognition was withdrawn by the IOC and the IOC Commission for the Programme was charged to elaborate the criteria or standards for new recognition.

In close co-operation with the IFs, first some criteria, and later a general rule were elaborated by the Programme Commission. Both the criteria and the rule were approved, then the above Commission started to study the applications which came to the IOC.

In spite of the fact that the IOC had a new rule and bye-law it did not have an easy task; in many cases some IFs referred mainly to tradition, in others, in spite of the newly accepted rule and criteria, the general policy of the IOC was not sufficiently clear, i.e. whether to be strict or to be flexible when studying applications.

Since 1976, following the recommendations of its Programme Commission, the IOC granted recognition to the following IFs whose sports complied with the rule and most of the criteria :

tennis, table tennis, orienteering, softball, baseball, bowling, taekwondo, badminton, roller-skating and water-skiing. (Meanwhile, tennis and table tennis were recognised as Olympic sports).

Some applications were rejected and others are still pending. The reasons are varied. In some cases the IOC needs more data on a national and international level about the popularity of the sports concerned. The number of affiliations alone in national federations is not sufficient. Exact and detailed information on *popularity at a national level* is also needed (e.g. how many clubs exist, the state of development of national participation in championships etc.).

There were difficulties where some sports have more than one controlling IF. This was the case for a while with *badminton*, until the two bodies merged, or with *karate* where there are still two IFs applying for recognition (IAKF

and WUKO). In the case of *taekwondo*, after the recognition of the WTF, a new application came from another IF which calls itself ITF. The IOC Commission for the Programme is studying these developments and is encouraging the IFs to unite for the sake of their athletes, because otherwise the IOC cannot give them recognition.

Procedure for recognition

If any of the IFs would like to ask for IOC recognition it has first to *study the new rule* to be recommended by the IOC Executive Board to the IOC Session in May. Studying the *criteria* which will be identical with those for Olympic sports is also recommended. Following this, the IFs in question have to complete the official questionnaire which can be obtained from the IOC Secretariat.

Then all the documents should be sent to the IOC for study. The IOC Commission for the Programme invites, if necessary, representatives of the IFs concerned before submitting its recommendation to the IOC Executive Board. The final decision on recognition will be taken by the IOC Session.

There is an amended rule proposed by the IOC Commission for the Programme and recommended by the IOC Executive Board to the next IOC Session in May 1982 as follows :

In order to further the development of a sport, the IOC can give recognition to International Federations provided their sports comply with the criteria valid for Olympic Sports and with the following standards.

- 25 countries and 3 continents for Summer sports ;
- 20 countries and 3 continents for Winter sports.

These sports can be included in the programme of continental and regional Games receiving the patronage of the IOC. For this purpose easier standards can be applied. "

In this respect, may I refer to the criteria for Olympic sports, disciplines or events (bye-law to Rule 43 of the "Olympic Charter") which are as follows.

1. *Any sport, discipline or event on the Olympic programme or applying for admission must be in conformity with the conditions laid down in Rules 26 and 44.*

2. *Any sport, discipline or event in the Olympic programme or applying for admission should serve the harmonious physical and moral development of abilities of men and/or women as well as involve a great deal of physical activity.*
3. *IFs which also govern the professional side of their sport must have a separate amateur governing body controlling world, continental or regional championships.*
4. *Any sport, discipline or event in which the construction and quality of equipment tends to give special advantage to some athletes, not available to others, should not be encouraged.*
5. *Sports, disciplines or events depending mainly on mechanical propulsion are not acceptable.*
6. *Those sports, disciplines or events are desirable in which achievements can be assessed with the minimum of human error.*
7. *Sports, disciplines or events in which the athletes are able to train and compete under similar conditions (equipment, grounds, etc.) should be encouraged.*
8. *The staging of a sport, discipline or event should not involve excessive expenses and major organisational difficulties connected with equipment, venues and technical officials.*
9. *Any sport and/or discipline on the Olympic programme or applying for admission should have a balanced events programme for the Olympic Games. Events in which much the same abilities are involved and similar preparation is required should not be adopted. Only events with a well established international standing may be accepted.*
10. *Sports, disciplines or events in the Olympic programme may be maintained in exceptional cases on the mere basis of Olympic tradition.*
11. *Sports or events with artificial team placing are not to be encouraged.*
12. *Team events in individual sports are not encouraged.*

Rights of the recognised IFs

Recognised IFs have the right to be present as observers when the IOC meets the Olympic IFs.

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The recognised sports can be included on the programme of continental and regional Games receiving the patronage of the IOC.

The Organising Committees have the right to choose, with the approval of the IOC, not more than two recognised sports for demonstration during the Olympic Games but not as an official part of the Olympic programme.

Conclusion

All IFs having applied for recognition are recommended to wait for the IOC's final decision to be made in Rome in May 1982.

IFs which intend to be recognised are recommended to study very carefully the related rule and bye-laws and follow the above mentioned procedure.

Good luck !

A. C.

