



Responsible athletes

Just a few days away from the opening of the XIVth Winter Games in Sarajevo, and a few months from the Games of the XXIIIrd Olympiad in Los Angeles, I would like to convey to athletes all over the world my very best wishes for success in 1984.

If the Olympic Games represent the fraternal gathering of the best of athletes, the International Olympic Committee has not forgotten that the millions of other athletes of all ages who share our ideals without hope of ever participating in the Games constitute the essence of the Olympic movement.

Everyone realises that only a very small number of people can possibly take part in the Games. It is therefore essential that these privileged few be fully aware of the values they embody for their less fortunate or less talented counterparts, and for the children who admire them and for whom they become models for emulation.

In this respect, they are shouldering an important responsibility. It is by respecting the rules, those of fair play and of loyal and healthy sportsmanship, that they will obtain, not only the laurels they seek, but also the respect and admiration of everyone, thereby fulfilling their roles as educators before passing on the torch to following generations.

It is only on these terms that they have the right to lay claim to the opportunities which modern sport is ready to provide them with, out of respect for the Olympic ideals of justice and education. It is our duty to see to the future it is yours to protect it.

I am convinced that all athletes, sports leaders, officials, media representatives and spectators who will follow or take part in this year's Games will once again give proof of the strength, enthusiasm and unity of our large Olympic family.

Best wishes for 1984, the fourth year of the XXIIIrd Olympiad.



Juan Antonio Samaranch
IOC President