

IDEAS FOR IMPROVING ORGANISATION OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

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Since the creation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894 and the restoration of the Olympic Games in 1896, the Olympic Movement has been evolving with a logical desire for improvement. Amongst other developments, the IOC authorised the creation of Regional Organisations to hold Regional Games where the Olympic formalities were to be respected ; it proposed the creation of the International Olympic Academy and local Olympic Academies to spread the doctrine of the Movement. It also promoted the founding of International Federations and duly established relations with them, regularly supplementing and updating their Olympic rules, adapting Rule 26 concerning eligibility, etc.

By the establishing of the Olympic Solidarity Programme in 1977, a great step forward was taken to provide support for National Olympic Committees and subsequently, in 1979, the IOC authorised the setting up of the ANOC, later approving its Statutes. I sincerely believe that this date can be considered a historic one, since from that time onwards the Olympic Movement began to rest on firmer foundations on the solid tripod of the IOC, GAISF and ANOC.

From 1980, with the accession of President Samaranch and after the Baden-Baden Congress, another stage started in the strengthening and development of the Olympic Movement, through steps to protect the Olympic Symbols and Olympic Games, recognition of the IOC by the Swiss Government, Athletes' Commissions, IOC and IF agreements, visits to NOCs throughout the world, etc.

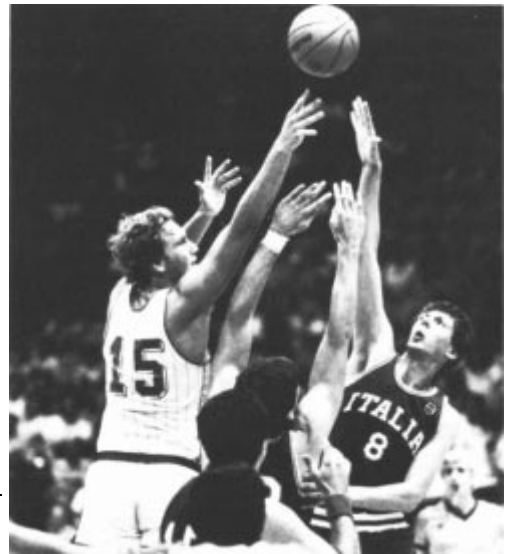
This development has been best known in the ANOC. At the Los Angeles Congress at the beginning of 1983, we met all the Continental Organisations set up with elected authorities and functioning properly.

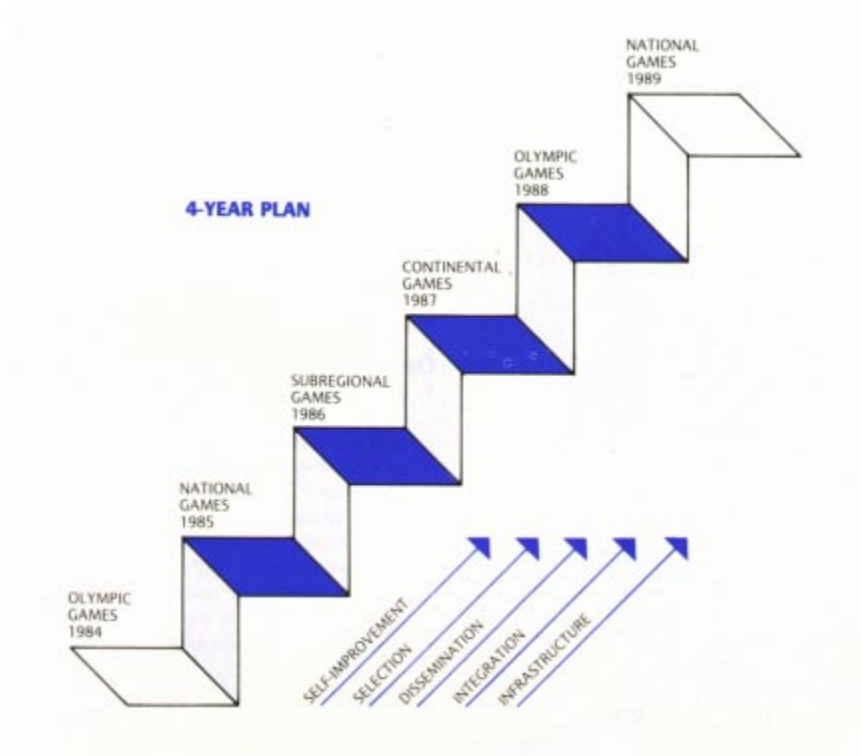
To sum up, in 1983 the Olympic Movement achieved a very high level of organisation on the world and continental level. In fact, the IOC is functioning throughout the world of sports, assisted by GAISF, ANOC, and also Continental Organisations in America, Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe and various subcontinental organisations.

As far as sports events are concerned, we have the Olympic Games at world level, some Regional Games and numerous Regional Subcontinental Games.

As we see, a great deal has been done; nevertheless, the Olympic Movement must be dynamic and have a constant desire for improvement.

With this in mind, we believe that the organisation of the Olympic Movement must be extended downwards, both on the regional level and with regard to sports, that is the Subcontinental or Subregional Organisations and the games they





organise. In many cases there is a duplication of efforts and saturation of international calendars. Games in the Olympic style are very expensive to the organising country and for those taking part in them. In addition, there are the World, Continental and Subcontinental Championships in the different Federations in categories involving Adults, Juniors and even children, and very often the regulations for these competitions require the organising countries to be responsible for costs of stay and allow a larger number of participants, which is why some Federations prefer to take part in such competitions.

This occurs particularly in countries far from Europe, more specifically those in the Southern hemisphere.

For this reason we should, in our opinion, tend to organise the Olympic Movement as far as sports are concerned on the basis of 4-year cycles, which is the length of an Olympiad.

The plan would be as follows : (See Annex 1)
1st year : National Games (geographical area of an NOC).

2nd year : Subregional or Subcontinental Games (an area less than a Continent).

3rd year : Regional or Continental Games (America, Africa, Asia, Oceania and Europe).

4th year : Olympic Games (Worldwide).

This cycle allows a logical progress of selection, self-improvement and competition, avoiding a duplication of efforts and saturation of games, with the consequent saving of costs.

National Games are very important for spreading the Olympic spirit domestically, providing the organisational level for major events, the training of referees and judges, the building of the regulatory infrastructure in various parts of the country and facilitating the participation of a large number of athletes in games conducted in the Olympian style. For many of the latter it will be the only time they will be able to take part in this type of competition because they cannot reach the international level.

Subregional or Subcontinental Games are at the present time many in number. In many cases they are carried out by organisations older than the regional ones. Sometimes they do not correspond to geographical jurisdictions, and on other occasions they overlap with each other. We believe that



a greater effort towards improvement is required here on the part of continental authorities. In some cases it will be necessary to revise dates, as in the case of the Mediterranean Games which take place in the 3rd year and which, according to our proposal, would be organised in the 2nd year of the Olympiad.

Regional or Continental Games are very important; though they are not played on all continents, they should be. In America they are organised regularly, as well as in Asia, but not the year before the Olympic Games ; in Africa they take place but the 4-year time period is not respected, and we hope that their regular organisation will now begin. Europe has a particular situation which must be examined and we presume that Oceania will be planning its games. In the case of Oceania, which has only 4 NOCs, perhaps the IOC should intervene, in order to add some nearby Asian NOCs to these games.

With regard to the **Olympic Games**, we won't make any comments ; however, perhaps future guidelines might be aimed at achieving a greater balance between those taking part, developing Rule 26 even further.

Our considerations are of a general nature ; we understand that each region has its own particular geographic situation and solutions may be different, with other variants being adopted without altering our plan.

Conclusions

1. The Olympic Movement has been gradually developing its organisation since its creation in 1894, adapting to the times and seeking to protect itself within the spirit impressed upon it by Baron Pierre De Coubertin.
2. At the present time it has secured a good degree of institutional organisation on the world and continental level, with the IOC, GAISF, ANOC and Continental Organisations.
3. It is necessary to revise the jurisdictions of subregional organisations for the purpose of avoiding overlap; in some cases it will be necessary to promote the creation of a different one or to merge those already existing.
4. On the sports level it is necessary to rationalise the Olympic sports programme from the continental level downwards, organising continental games where they are lacking and providing for appropriate subcontinental ones, also advising on the organisation of national games.
5. GAISF should also be involved in this task, in order to avoid competitions by federations on the same level taking place when there are regional or subregional games, just as, in the case of the Olympic Games, World Championships are not organised that year in sports which are part of the programme of the Games. The same should be done on the continental and subcontinental level.
6. In the organisation we are proposing, the greatest responsibility rests with the Continental Organisations and International Federations.
7. We understand that the task is not an easy one, but if there is anything that the Olympic Movement can boast about, it is knowing how to overcome difficulties.

