
Commission for the Olympic Games

23rd June 1894

Secretary's report*

Sirs,

The Commission responsible for looking into the matter of the Olympic Games found its role already set out in the very programme or the Congress.

The following is a list of the wishes we have formulated on the different points of the programme, and which we would be happy to see adopted by the Congress.

- Para. VIII, restoration of the Olympic Games

The Commission considered there to be no doubt about the advantages of restoring the Olympic Games, from both an athletic and a moral point of view and unanimously ... a proposal in favour of restoring these Games on a basis and under conditions in accordance with the necessities of modern life.

- Para. IX, conditions to be imposed upon competitors

Having reviewed the different sports that could be included as one or several events in the Olympic Games, the Commission expresses the wish that, except for fencing, competitions be organized solely for amateurs. Regardless of sporting qualification, the Commission, concerned by the importance of the moral character of the Olympic Games, thought also that there was a need to consider the moral qualifications of the competitors. It expressed the unanimous wish that the international committee responsible for organizing the Olympic Games introduce into its regulations a clause giving it the right to exclude any person from competition whose previous actions could harm the prestige of the institution. The Commission hopes that no country to be represented at the Olympic Games by anyone other than nationals.

- sports represented

The Commission proposes that the following sports be represented at the Olympic Games (see list).

As far as the ... group of sports is concerned, it suggests that a general athletics championship be instituted in the Olympic Games under the name of pentathlon.

THE PARIS INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN 1894 WAS CONVENED CHIEFLY TO DEFINE AMATEURISM. HOWEVER, BARON PIERRE DE COUBERTIN SKILFULLY INTRODUCED THE SUBJECT OF RE-ESTABLISHING THE OLYMPIC GAMES AND CREATING THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE. THIS IS A RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES HELD ON 23 JUNE 1894, DURING WHICH THE CRITERIA FOR TAKING PART IN THE GAMES AND THE GAMES PROGRAMME WERE DEFINED, AND THE DECISION WAS TAKEN TO ORGANIZE THE FIRST EDITION IN 1896.

SEVEN IOC MEMBERS ELECTED IN 1894 TOOK PART IN THE SECOND IOC SESSION IN ATHENS, FROM 4 TO 14 APRIL 1896. THE HAND-WRITTEN MINUTES OF THIS MEETING, TRANSCRIBED HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME, WERE TAKEN BY BARON PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, WHO WAS THE IOC SECRETARY GENERAL AT THAT TIME.

- practical organization

The Commission proposes that each country hold eliminatory events before the Olympic Games in order to designate genuine champions in every kind of sport for the international Games.

- frequency

The Commission proposes that the Olympic events take place every 4 years and that the date of the 1st event be 1896.

As regards para. XI, appointment of an International Committee in charge of preparing the restoration of the Olympic Games, the Commission was of the opinion that this matter could not be resolved by the Congress itself.

It merely wished to end its discussions regarding this committee by making a proposal it esteems to be of capital importance from the point of view of the success of our efforts: in view of the fact that the Olympic Games can only succeed with government support,

it proposed unanimously that the international committee take all the measures necessary with public authorities to guarantee their official competition.

These, Sirs, are the desiderata that the Commission for the Olympic Games was led to formulate after serious study.

May I, in concluding this report, be permitted to be its interpreter for the Commission's chairman, Mr Bikélas, Delegate of the Pan-Hellenic Society of Athens.

This second half of the 19th century has seen the restitution of great international festivals where nations Let us hope that the 1st half of the next century will not begin without having assured the revival of the great international festivals where nations will compete with each other through the living expression of their history and civilizations through their sons.

* The suspension points (...) mark illegible passages.