

## **INTERNATIONAL SPORTS MOVEMENT FOR THE DISABLED**

The International Sports Organization for the Disabled was created on June 19, 1964, at a meeting held in Paris by representatives of national sports groups for the disabled from eleven European countries.

The aim of this new organization is to unite in international cooperation the national organizations in this field in order to encourage the further development of sports programs for the disabled on the national and international levels. It is meant to provide an international forum for the exchange of opinion, results of experience and resources related to sports for the disabled ; to prepare and disseminate international principles and standards recommended for application in all programs in this field ; to plan, promote and coordinate international events and activities designed to stimulate and assist the further development of sports programs for the disabled in all nations, including specifically : international sports meetings, technical and educational seminars and conferences for the dissemination of relevant information, and international exchanges of technicians and disabled sportsmen. The organization is also to provide appropriate assistance to individuals and organizations working for the development of sports programs for the disabled.

All national organizations whose sole or principal purpose is to promote and support sports for the disabled have been invited to join the new organization which is the successor to the " International Working Group on Sports for the Disabled ". The latter

had been meeting since 1960 under the sponsorship of the World Veterans Federation.

The Working Group had been set up by a group of individuals and organizations interested in developing the means for improved international cooperation in this field. Its primary purpose was to prepare the way for a permanent international organization. Its existence led to the creation, in several countries, where sports groups for the disabled existed as committees, local groups or sections, of national federations. These are now among the founding members of the new organization.

It was under the auspices of the Working Group that an International Seminar was held, April 1962, while the First International Sports Games for the Disabled were organized, July 1963, under direct authority. Its Medical Committee set up Basic Rules for the handicapped, and its Sports Committee put out Directives governing sports activities and competitions for the disabled.

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