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Trend of Sporting Circle in China After Athletics- and Sports-Related People's Meeting

By *Kohsuke Sasajima**

China is a socialist state where the government's policies are usually translated into practice, and this also applied to the sports. For example, the Chinese government came out with a directive concerning ping-pong in 1959, which was carried out to bring the country up to the premier position in the circle of ping-pong of the world as she is in today.

During the Cultural Revolution that started in 1966, the circle of sports was regarded as part of Liu Shao-chi fraction and hard hit as a target of criticism. The sports interrupted because of the Cultural Revolution were revived around 1970, when they were still far away in ability from the pre-revolution level.

With the Gang of Four eliminated in 1976, those who had been the leaders in various fields of sports before the Cultural Revolution burst out returned to their places in the sportsdom, paving the way for their country's sporting circles to make rapid progress in capability.

In January, 1978, a national meeting of athletics- and sports-related people was held and the policy toward future development of sports in China was resolved. In this meeting, various objectives including revival of the ranking system, reorganization of spare-time athletic schools, build-up of sporting facilities and interchange with foreign countries were announced.

In a socialist country like China, the government's policies are fulfilled in most cases. For three years since the above meeting, many accomplishments have been made. As to the ranking system established in 1958 and discontinued due to the Cultural Revolution, the ranking orders for players, referees and coaches were revived in 1978, with the qualification standard for players uplifted to the world's level and

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social treatment for coaches definitely laid down. The year 1978 also saw a system of honoring the players who set a new record established.

The spare-time athletic school had been an institution where sports-loving students enrolled in various schools got together for athletic training after school. Since this system had been limited in time allowed for training and efficiency as well, it was revised to what an athletic school is today. It is basically an ordinary school but has an athletic course and an ordinary course as well and admits student players for athletic training in it. The students enrolled in the athletic course are boarded in the school.

In 1980, some spare-time athletic schools were reformed into an athletic middle-school status having middle-school and high-school courses. Among these schools, there are some that have extended their school years only to improve players.

An international event necessitates the established relationship with the I.O.C. and I.F.'s. China seceded from the I.O.C. and seven I.F.'s in August, 1958 due to the two-China dispute, followed by withdrawal from some more I.F.'s. In 1975, she filed an application with the I.O.C. for return to membership. She also asked the I.F.'s from which she had seceded to let her rejoin them. The I.O.C. and no I.F.'s except a few refused the Chinese request because China conditioned her return upon dismissal of Taiwan from membership. Later, China changed her policy. In 1979, she sent an application to the I.O.C. for return to membership, with the condition of Taiwan's dismissal deleted this time. The I.O.C. accepted it in November, 1979, subject to the I.O.C. concept that China and Taiwan should be coexistent as one country and one province.

Those I.F.'s which had refused the return of China to membership accepted her back under the I.O.C.'s method, with some more I.F.'s following suit. In 1981, the Chinese government put into effect regulations that stipulate the manners for players, referees and coaches to live up to. Along the line of the report from the national meeting of athletics- and sports-related people, China has been taking proper steps forward toward the premier stand in the circles of sports of the world.