

U. S. A. Amateur Rules

By Roger Langley in "The American Ski Annual"

ONE of the objects of the National Ski Association of America is: "To establish and maintain uniform tests of amateur standing among skiers and preservation of ski-ing on the strict plane of pure amateurism in conformity with highest ideals of gentlemanly sport."

According to Avery Brundage, President of the American Olympic Association, a member of the International Olympic Committee and many times President of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, pure amateurism is "that precious something that exists in the heart and not in the rule book."

Rules of course do not make an amateur; rules are intended to prevent infringement upon the amateur code, and to protect those who are amateur in heart and spirit from the inroads of commercialism and from association with those who do not care for one reason or another to follow the recognized rules. With a little study the amateur rules of the National Ski Association are quite clear.

There are three places to look for our amateur regulations:

1. Constitution and By-laws of the National Ski Association.
2. Amateur Athletic Union Handbook.
3. Regulations of the Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS).

First let us consider the rules in international contests such as the FIS world championships and other competitions in which the FIS minimum regulations are in full effect. An amateur in these contests is one who has not "(a) competed in return for payment, (b) competed for a money prize, (c) sold his prize, (d) procured material advantage by the exploitation of any titles gained in sport, or any prize obtained thereby, (e) knowingly competed against persons disqualified on any of the above grounds."

The above regulations do not disbar one who is a ski instructor or one who sells ski equipment. As an affiliated member of the FIS, the National Ski Association is bound by these regulations in international competitions and therefore is privileged to register skiers who meet these requirements for international contests. Ski instructors in the United States, who are eligible according to FIS standards, may be registered with the National Association as "FIS Amateurs." "FIS Amateurs" thus registered are eligible abroad in any races conducted under FIS Rules.

The full force of these regulations apply in the United States only to the few tournaments specifically sanctioned as "open" tournaments by the national or divisional associations, and

to any international tournaments held within the United States by approval of the FIS Committee. "FIS Amateurs" are not eligible to compete in the regular amateur competitions in the United States.

In the United States the minimum regulations of the FIS are not fully effective except as previously mentioned. The regulations of the FIS provide that the domestic rules of a country may be strengthened and made stricter than those for international competition. Such is the case for regular amateur competition in the United States. The amateur standards in the United States disbar a ski instructor, who receives pay for instruction, as an amateur.

The National Ski Association of America has an alliance with the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States (A.A.U.), in which both parties agree to comply with the rules of the other insofar as they are applicable. This means that the amateur rules of the National Ski Association are based on the sound interpretation of amateurism by the A.A.U. which governs practically all branches of amateur sport in the United States.

As defined in our rules, "an amateur sportsman is one who engages in sport solely for the pleasure and physical, mental and social benefits he derives therefrom and to whom sport is nothing more than an avocation."

"A person shall cease to be eligible to compete as an amateur by committing any of the following acts: (a) Fraud—by participating in any competition or exercise in any sport under an assumed name or by being guilty of any fraud or other grossly unsportsmanlike conduct in connection therewith; (b) competing for money—by directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefits in consideration of or as a reward for participating in any ski events in any public competition or exhibition or disposing of prizes for personal gain; (c) coaching for money—by directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefits in consideration of or as a reward for giving instruction in ski-ing; (d) knowingly competing against, or joining in exhibition with, in the United States, persons barred from competition by the National Ski Association of America or any of its divisional associations; or, in foreign countries, persons barred from amateur competition by the national or international ski authority there having jurisdiction; (e) capitalization of Athletic Fame—by granting or sanctioning the use of one's name to advertise, recommend, or promote the sale of the goods or ski equipment of any person, firm, manufacturer or agent, or by accepting compen-

sation, directly or indirectly, for using the ski equipment of any person, firm, manufacturer or agent.

Any skier breaking the above rules shall be immediately reported by his club to the secretary of the division of which his club is a member, together with the full report of the circumstances. If after full consideration he be found guilty, the board of directors or the executive committee of the divisional association shall declare him ineligible as an amateur."

Skiers from foreign countries upon entering the territory of our association should immediately contact our ski-ing association either directly by presenting his credentials to the national secretary, or by getting in touch with the officers of one of the five divisional associations. To be eligible to compete in our tournaments a foreign skier must meet our amateur requirements, noting that we have two classifications of amateurs; (1) "FIS Amateurs," an amateur according to the minimum requirements of the FIS, which includes ski teachers, (2) "Amateur by United States standards," an amateur according to the domestic rules of the National Ski Association of America, which excludes ski teachers.

A skier who has been declared ineligible as an amateur by his divisional association cannot be reinstated as an amateur until two years have elapsed from the time he was declared ineligible, and then only on favourable action by the body which took the original action declaring him ineligible. In the case of a skier who is an "FIS Amateur" and wishes to be reinstated as an amateur to U.S. Standards, the same rules apply excepting that according to a precedent ruling an "FIS Amateur" must wait one year before he may be reinstated as regular amateur. No skier may regain his amateur standing more than once. And a point to note in this connection is that an amateur once disbarred may not become a member of an Olympic Team.

Amateur standing is something rather sacred and worth while, a badge of true sportsmanship, for into the amateur code has been incorporated, through the years, all the laws of good sportsmanship, and if amateur ski-ing is not marked by fair play and courtesy, by an honest observance of the rules, and if it is not conducted on a lofty plane, it falls short of its object.

While the amateur rules of our association seem quite clear and are working in a very healthful manner, if a skier should have any question about the interpretation of any rule, rather than take a chance and possibly get into difficulties, it is advisable for the skier to obtain a ruling from the officers of a divisional association or from the National Committee on Precedent Amateur Interpretations, a committee set up by the Association to interpret authoritatively any question concerning amateur rules.

Sixty Years Ago

Extract from "Canadian Illustrated News,"
Montreal, February 8, 1879.



A SNOWSHOE TRIP TO QUEBEC

Mr. A. Birch, a Norwegian gentleman of Montreal, has a pair of patent Norwegian snowshoes upon which he has taken a trip to Quebec, starting on Friday last. The snowshoes are composed entirely of wood, are about nine feet long, six inches broad, and have a foot board and toe-strap. He walks with the aid of a pole, and crosses ice not strong enough to bear a good sized dog, so buoyant are these shoes in their action.

Fifty Years Ago

Extract from the "Montreal Gazette," 1887.

On Saturday evening some of our ubiquitous athletes attacked the Priests' Farm near the Montreal toboggan slide, with the "jimpactony" (Jim Paton?) shoe, as it is known in this civilized state, and in more barbarous climes as the ski or Norwegian snowshoe. The start was made from the highest point on the ground on the other side of the stone wall which separates it from Cote des Neiges Road. Of the party two were worse than greenhorns, while a third claimed experience, which, however, helped him but little—at least so far as the other two could see. The athletes met with all sorts of difficulties and the guiding staffs were of little help. After many adventures they returned homeward, exhibiting their newly-acquired skill on St. Catherine Street, under the full glare of the electric light, to a large and appreciative audience.