A THREE YEARS BIOMECHANICAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION PROJECT FOR I.A.A.F. - TOP-COMPETITIONS

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An international group of experts has proposed a biomechanic research and information programme for the most important I.A.A.F. competitions of the next three years. This programme has the following motivation:

— One basic reason for our endeavour to analyse the achievement of elite athletes is to achieve a further development of athletics without application of different types of biostimulants— which is in accordance with the rules and the general approach of the I.A.A.F. In this case, biomechanical research could seen as an alternative to the use of doping, in the sense of using all legal human resources to improve athletics.

— Biomechanical analyses also help to eliminate methods of training, physical overload and the use of equipment that can negatively influence the healthy development of the young organism. Thorough analyses can be helpful in decreasing the number of injuries, by developing better methods of training, rehabilitation and implements.

— This special biomechanic research programme could also be a great help for all those countries which cannot afford large biomechanic laboratories for support and cooperation.

Important events to be analysed:

— 1986 – 1st World Championships for Juniors in Athens
1987 - 2nd World Championships in Rome
1988 - XXIV Olympic Games in Seoul.

Another intention is to apply a new system of feedback information:

1. The feedback information will be available to all participating countries.
2. For the countries participating in the event to be analysed, the feedback information will be available 24-48 hours after the event is finished. This also means that quantity information (e.g., run-up speed) will be available after qualifying rounds.
3. The conclusions will be elaborated at the place where the meeting is held and will be finished within 5 days after the end of the meeting. The final report will be given to the I.A.A.F. in 5 copies. For each participating country, copies are available also.
4. Videocassettes can be available 1-3 days after the conclusion of the meeting and could be supplied to participating countries together with the final report.
5. Film loops will be ready within 30-45 days after the end of the meeting. (Only complete material of the special event could be copied, not single athletes).
6. Prepared written information about "biomechanics" of events as well as statistical material about the progress in athletic performance and comparison with data of top world class athletes could be given to teams for information and also to the media for more detailed and objective fundamental reporting.

Based on the grown connections and experience of such work during the last years, especially by the Czechoslovakian group, the team for Athens 1986 is made up of experts from Greece, Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic of Germany. For the next competitions of the three years programme the composition of the group will change, because it is desirable to achieve an international cooperation. On the other hand, a basic group will be retained to guarantee a continuous and successful work from both, the technical and organizational point of view - and of course the research team(s) from the country where the meeting is held will be included.

For a limited number of interested people from other countries, however, there will be the possibility to come to Athens at their own cost and to inform themselves already on the work of the biomechanic research team if this corresponds with the working capacity of that group. This should be taken as a special offer to developing countries being interested in biomechanic research work.

The overall management of the project will be with Dr. Potr Sushenka (TCH). The group of the Federal Republic of Germany will be headed by Prof. Dr. Peter Brüggemann, the Greek group by Dr. Eleftherios Tsarouchas. The organisation will be headed by Dr. M.L. Kadlec (TCH), coordination and contact to the Scientific Working Group of I.A.A.F. and its chairman Prof. Dr. August Kirsch is with Helmar Hommel (FRG).

At the council-meeting in Madrid, February 1986 the Scientific Working Group decided to start the proposed programme with the project of Athens and it will be continued given positive results in Athens. This will give a chance for worldwide international cooperation in biomechanic research in practice and, for the first time, the possibility to follow up the development of certain junior-athletes from the junior World Championships via the senior World Championships to the Olympic Games.