



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

**The President**

To:  
IOC Honorary President  
IOC Members  
IOC Honorary Members  
IOC Honour Members  
National Olympic Committees  
International Federations

Lausanne, 20 March 2020

*Dear friends and colleagues,*

It is with great sadness that the IOC has learnt of the death of Borislav Stankovic, IOC Honorary Member in Serbia, at the age of 94.

Throughout his life, Stankovic was instrumental in the development of the sport of basketball as a player, a coach and an administrator, culminating with his roles as Secretary General (1976-2002) and Secretary General Emeritus (since 2002) of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

He also gave significant contributions to the Olympic Movement in his positions as member of the Olympic Committee of Serbia and Secretary General of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) from 1976 to 2002. As a member of the IOC for 18 years (from 1988 to 2006, then an IOC Honorary Member), he featured in numerous IOC Commissions.

Mr Borislav Stankovic was a very experienced sports leader in particular in Basketball. He was always very innovative and always tried to be ahead of the time. On a personal level he was very down to earth, very friendly and very reliable. He was a man who cared until his last days about his beloved sport of Basketball and the Olympic Movement.

After early-age endeavours into tennis and table tennis, Stankovic became a basketball enthusiast in his teenage years and went on to take part in the most important national and international milestones of the sport.

He won two national championships of Yugoslavia with the Red Star Belgrade club in 1946 and 1947, earning a selection to play for the country in the first-ever FIBA World Cup game in 1950, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Coached teams to national titles in two countries (OKK Belgrade in Yugoslavia and Oransoda in Italy). And, as Secretary General of the Yugoslavian Basketball Federation, quit a ten-year career as a veterinary inspector to organise in his country, in 1970, the first World Cup to take place in Europe.

At FIBA, Stankovic built bridges between East and West during the Cold War and worked with the National Basketball Association (NBA) in the US to materialise the Dream Team with NBA players starting at the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992. He also joined the Board of Trustees of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Given his position as Secretary General of ASOIF, Stankovic represented the Summer Olympic International Federations in several IOC Commissions, namely the Olympic Movement (1982-1999), Coordination for the Olympic Games Barcelona 1992 (1989-1992) and Atlanta 1996 (1991-1996), Preparation of the XII Olympic Congress – Unity Congress (1986-1994), Eligibility (1990-1991) and Olympic Programme (1992-1994).

He also contributed to the organisation of the Olympic Games Athens 2004 as part of the Coordination Commission (2000-2004) and was a member of the Bureau for the Olympic Movement (1987-1999), as well as other IOC Commissions: Enquiry for the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in 2000 (1993), Centennial Olympic Congress Study – Congress of Unity (1994-1996), Women and Sport (1995-2006).

The IOC expresses its deepest sympathies to Borislav Stankovic's family. As a mark of respect, the Olympic flag is flying at half-mast at Olympic House.

Sincerely Yours,

Thomas A. B.