

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Culture – Public Engagement in Space through Culture (9)

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FUTURE PROSPECTS AND PHILOSOPHY OF SPORTS IN SPACE

Abstract

In the era of gathering of foodstuffs and hunting of wild animals, physical sports such as running and throwing were born. Then, in the agricultural societies, field-sports like soccer and baseball appeared. As industries developed, motor sports began to attract people. Becoming an information society, e-sports are growing increasingly popular. What will be next?

In the coming age of popular space travel and space residence, "Space Sports" will surely appear. These will definitely gain world-wide fame and popularity. Children love sports as well as space, and they will be fascinated by such questions as: "How will my body move in weightlessness?" and "When I am weightless, what sports can I do?" Their imaginations will be wonderfully stimulated. Space sports will also hold significant potential for people with disabilities, those who need rehabilitation, and seniors. Physically, in a "zero-gravity" environment, movements that cannot be performed on the ground are possible. Exercise, sports and training which cannot be done on the ground can also be realized. Sports are very important for astronauts, too. Astronauts must do physical training for two hours per day on the ISS to maintain their physical strength. But they don't enjoy boring training - they much prefer to play "sports". If we can develop sports in a weightless environment, where you can exercise your body enjoyably while helping with physical training, there will be great benefit to the minds and bodies of astronauts. Vigorous movement of their body makes a good change for them, and is also useful for relieving stress.

As IOC has agreed on sponsorship of the Olympic Games with the advertising company Dentsu Inc, we will propose a system to produce sports events in space, through collaboration between the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and Dentsu. We will create sports whereby everyone, including the disabled and children, will be able to enjoy themselves. For example, live broadcasts from the Moon of "Bird-Human" races, and of Lunar Olympic Games will inevitably attract viewers from all over the world - as the Apollo landings did even half-a-century ago. People will thereby gain awareness of the Earth in space as inhabitants in an environment that transcends races and religions without borders. Through the experience of sports in the universe, people may even reach the point of talking of "spacemanship" - a more sublime and inspiring version of sportsmanship.