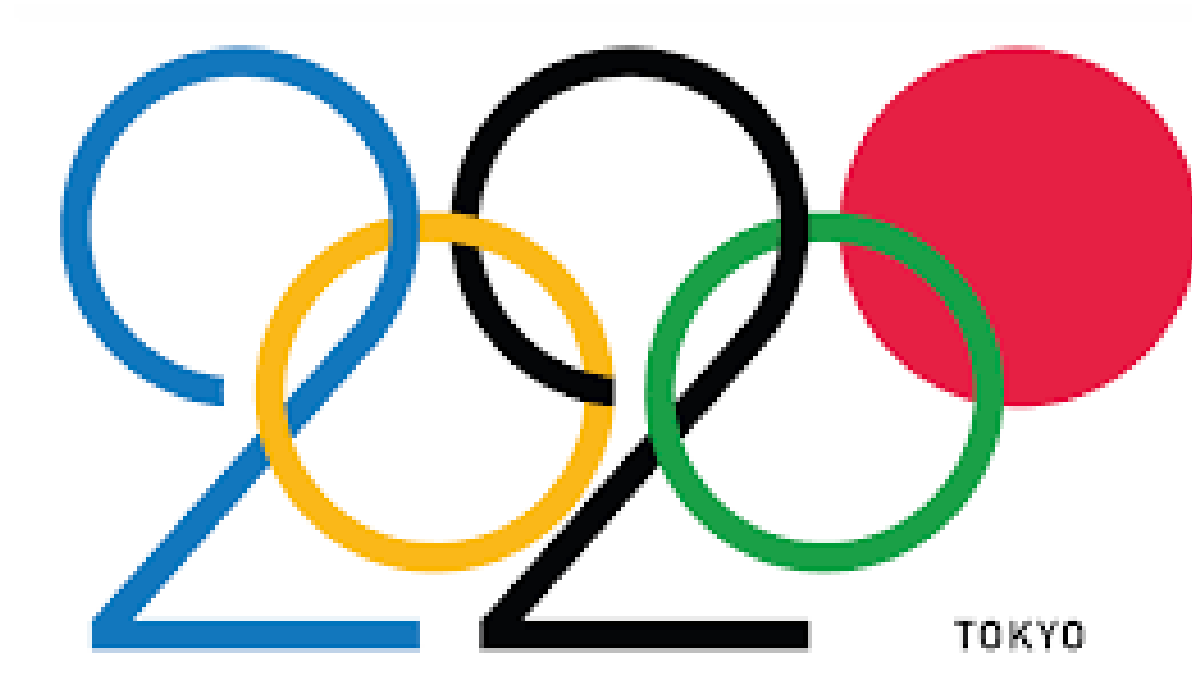


# Olympics 2020



## Olympic Goals

The Olympic Games are an international sports festival, held every four years. The ultimate goals are to cultivate human beings, through sport, and contribute to world peace. Summer Games and Winter Games are held separately.

## Ancient Games



The history of the Olympics began some 2,300 years ago. Their origin lays in the Olympian Games, which were held in the Olympia area of ancient Greece. Although there are some theories on its initial purposes, the Games have been said to have started as a festival of art and sport, to worship gods. The ancient Olympic Games, however, ended in 393 because of the outbreaks of wars in the

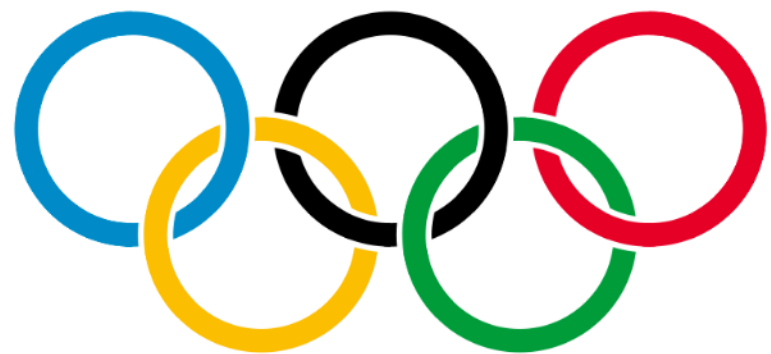
region in which they were held.

## **Modern Games**

After a 1,500 year absence of the ancient Olympic Games, the event was resumed in the late nineteenth century, thanks to the efforts of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French educator. In 1894, his proposal to revive the Olympic Games was unanimously approved at the International Congress in Paris, and the first Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece, two years later. He also devised the five-ring emblem that is familiar to most people as the Games' symbol, which represents the unity of the five continents.

## **The Olympic Rings**

The five rings represented the parts of the world — Africa, Asia, Australia, the Americas and Europe — that were then, in Coubertin's words, 'won over to Olympism and ready to accept its fertile rivalries.'



Traditionally, they appear in five different colours on a white background (though they can also be displayed individually or as a singular colour). The colours of the Olympic rings from left to right are blue, yellow, black, green and red.

Each of the Olympic rings is equal in dimension. In formation, they're interlaced with one another, with three rings on top and two on the bottom. The connection of the rings was designed to embody a unified world. Not only do they represent the union of continents but the meeting of athletes from around the world at the Olympic Games.

They also signify a bond created by the shared goals of Olympism, which are highlighted in the Olympic Charter. The three core values of Olympism are excellence, friendship and respect. Olympism promotes the fitness of mind and body, teamwork and care for humanity. It proclaims the right for all types of people to participate in the Games — and live — without discrimination. Olympic activities are designed to foster sport, culture and education with an eye toward building a better world.

The **2020 Summer Olympics**, branded as **Tokyo 2020** was an international multi-sport event held from 23 July to 08 August 2021 in Tokyo, Japan, with some preliminary events that began on 21 July.

Tokyo was selected as the host city during the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 07 September 2013. Originally scheduled to take place from 24 July to 09 August 2020, the event was postponed to 2021 in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the first such instance in the history of the Olympic Games. However, the event retained the *Tokyo 2020* name for marketing and branding purposes. It was largely held behind closed doors with no public spectators permitted due to the declaration of a state of emergency in the Greater Tokyo Area in response to the pandemic. The Summer Paralympics were held between 24 August and 05 September 2021, 16 days after the completion of the Olympics.

The 2020 Games were the fourth Olympic Games to be held in Japan, following the Tokyo 1964 (Summer), Sapporo 1972 (Winter) and Nagano 1998 (Winter) games. Tokyo was the first city in Asia to hold the Summer Games twice. The 2020 Games were the second of three consecutive Olympics to be held in East Asia,

following the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea and preceding the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China.

New events were introduced in existing sports for 2020, including 3x3 basketball, freestyle BMX and mixed gender team events in a number of existing sports, as well as the return of madison cycling for men and an introduction of the same event for women. New IOC policies also allowed the host organizing committee to add new sports to the Olympic program for just one Games. The disciplines added by the Japanese Olympic Committee were baseball and softball, karate, sport climbing, surfing and skateboarding, the last four of which made their Olympic debuts, and the last three of which will remain on the Olympic program.



*Scenes from the beginning  
and end of the Olympic  
Games.*



**The Tokyo Olympics hosted a massive 206 nations (including EOR team) with 11,656 athletes competing in 339 events in 33 sports (50 disciplines).**

BBC Sport has reported a record-breaking 104 million online viewing requests to watch the coverage of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, far surpassing Rio 2016. Five years ago, during Rio 2016 there were 74.4 million requests, which was the previous record.

In addition to the live and on-demand content on BBC iPlayer and the BBC Sport website, 36.4 million people watched Tokyo 2020 on BBC television.





The men's 100 metres final was the most-watched event on television with five million viewers tuning in to watch on BBC One, closely followed by the women's 100m, which was watched by 4.5 million people.



Britain's Max Whitlock's pommel horse gold medal victory was watched by 3.6 million people, and Bradley Sinden's men's under-68-kilogram taekwondo final match - which he won silver in - attracted 3.4 million people.

Lauren Williams' women's under-67kg taekwondo gold medal contest was the most requested online piece of coverage with 2.5 million, followed by the team dressage final, which attracted 2.4 million requests, and saw Britain win bronze.





## Paralympics

As with the Olympic Games, the **Paralympics Tokyo 2020** was also postponed to 2021. They took place between 24 August – 05 September. The 16th Summer Paralympics were the second time the Games have been hosted by the Japanese capital – 1964 was the other occasion. 537 events from 22 sports were contested, with badminton and taekwondo as the new additions to the programme.

The name of the sporting event is derived from a portmanteau of the words Paralympic and athletics – the former term itself is a portmanteau of the words paraplegic and Olympic, though it now describes athletics for all disabilities. The word 'Paralympic' derives from the Greek preposition 'para' (beside or alongside) and the word 'Olympic'. Its meaning is that Paralympics are the parallel Games to the Olympics and illustrates how the two movements exist side-by-side.



## Paralympic History

Sport for athletes with an impairment has existed for more than 100 years, and the first sport clubs for the deaf were already in existence in 1888 in Berlin.

It was not until after World War II however, that it was widely introduced. The purpose of it at that time was to assist the large number of war veterans and civilians who had been injured during wartime.

In 1944, at the request of the British Government, Dr. Ludwig Guttmann opened a spinal injuries centre at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Great Britain, and in time, rehabilitation sport evolved to recreational sport and then to competitive sport.



## Stoke Mandeville Games

On 29 July 1948, the day of the Opening Ceremony of the London 1948 Olympic Games, Dr. Guttman organised the first competition for wheelchair athletes which he named the Stoke Mandeville Games, a milestone in Paralympic history. They involved 16 injured servicemen and women who took part in archery. In 1952, Dutch ex-servicemen joined the Movement and the International Stoke Mandeville Games were founded.



The Stoke Mandeville Games later became the Paralympic Games which first took place in Rome, Italy, in 1960 featuring 400 athletes from 23 countries. Since then, they have taken place every four years.

In 1976 the first Winter Games in Paralympics history were held in Sweden, and as with the Summer Games, have taken place every four years, and include a Paralympics Opening Ceremony and Paralympics Closing Ceremony.



Since the Summer Games of Seoul, Korea in 1988 and the Winter Games in Albertville, France in 1992 the Games have also taken part in the same cities and venues as the Olympics due to an agreement between the IPC and IOC.

At the start, 16 countries were affiliated to ISOD and the organisation pushed very hard to include blind and amputee athletes into the Toronto 1976 Paralympics and athletes with cerebral palsy in 1980 in Arnhem. Its aim was to embrace all impairments in the future and to act as a Co-coordinating Committee. Nevertheless, other disability-

orientated international organisations such as the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) and International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) were founded in 1978 and 1980.

The four international organisations experienced the need of co-ordinating the Games so they created the 'International Co-coordinating Committee Sports for the Disabled in the World' (ICC) in 1982.

The International Committee of Sport for the Deaf (CISS) and International Sports Federations for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) joined in 1986, but the deaf still maintained their own organisation.



Finally, on 22 September 1989, the International Paralympic Committee was founded as an international non-profit organisation in Dusseldorf, Germany, to act as the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement.

## **Was a successful Olympics/Paralympics just what the British people needed amid the global pandemic?**

Barbara Slater, director of BBC Sport thought so as she highlighted 'the power of sport in bringing people together'.

### **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

The IOC President, Thomas Bach, highlighted their intent to achieve their peace mission through solidarity and within the remit of the Olympic Games during his opening statement in July 2021 to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council's panel discussion.



He went on to explain, 'Solidarity means more than just respect or non-discrimination. Solidarity means actively helping, sharing, and caring for one another. This is what we are doing within our remit of the Olympic Games.'



President Thomas Bach said, 'The Olympic Games are our remit. This is our responsibility. This is our commitment. As a non-governmental organisation, we have neither the mandate, nor the capability, to change laws of sovereign countries. We cannot solve human rights issues which generations of politicians were unable to solve.'

Bach continued, 'We have aligned our strategies on sustainability, gender equality and inclusion with human rights standards. We are a carbon-neutral organisation and we are committed to becoming climate-positive by 2024. We will achieve gender balance at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 for the first time in history, with almost 49 per cent women participating.'



**Most importantly,** the Olympics brings people together where people, nations, athletes, and teams take part without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, birth, or other status. The Olympic Ideal shows that major sporting events can raise awareness and promote a better understanding of human rights throughout the lifecycle of the event, for young persons around the world.

