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ROMÂN



THE ROMANIAN OLYMPIC AND SPORTS COMMITTEE



# OLYMPIC GUIDE

– SECOND EDITION –

Bucharest

2021

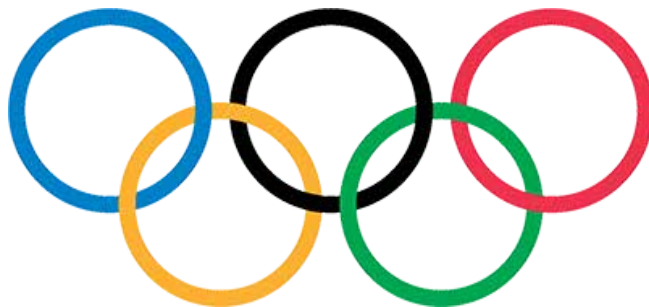


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**Editor:**

THE ROMANIAN OLYMPIC AND SPORTS COMMITTEE  
WITH THE SUPPORT OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

**Project coordinators:**

ANITA STEREA  
ALEXANDRA NICA

**Collaborators:**

SIMONA TABĂRĂ AMÂNAR  
LAURA GABRIELA CÂRLESCU BADEA  
MARIA BĂLEANU  
DIANA BIRTALAN  
CONDORIȚA TASE  
LILIANA ELISABETA RADU  
GYNETTA IONELA VANVU  
ALINA BOJAN  
NICOLETA PODIȘCĂ

**Layout:**

VIXEL MIDA STUDIO

**Translation:**

YTRANSLATIONS.RO

**Translation correction:**

MARIUS CORUȚ

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>IOA</b>	International Olympic Academy	<b>EOA</b>	European Olympic Academies
<b>ANOC</b>	Association of National Olympic Committees	<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>NOA</b>	National Olympic Academy	<b>IFs</b>	International Sports Federation
<b>ANOCA</b>	Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa	<b>EYOF</b>	European Youth Olympic Festival
<b>ROA</b>	Romanian Olympic Academy	<b>OG</b>	Olympic Games
<b>IOC</b>	International Olympic Committee	<b>YOG</b>	Youth Olympic Games
<b>IPC</b>	International Paralympic Committee	<b>OCA</b>	Olympic Council of Asia
<b>NOC</b>	National Olympic Committee	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>OCOG</b>	Organizing Committees for the Olympic Games	<b>ONOC</b>	Oceania National Olympic Committees
<b>ROSC</b>	Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>EOC</b>	European Olympic Committees	<b>PASO</b>	Panam Sports Organization
		<b>TOP</b>	The Olympic Partner Programme







*Olympic Education in Romania is the main concern of the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee, through the Romanian Olympic Academy, an organization that, during its 30 years of existence, has contributed to the promotion of Olympic values in society. Through the programs and projects implemented over the years, the ROA has become a recognized and respected presence within the great International Olympic Family. Together with all those involved in the noble mission to instill the Olympic spirit in people's hearts we take pride in that, being aware of the importance of this responsibility.*

*The working approach, projects and events of the ROA, well-known by all of us, have already become a tradition and continue to engage the younger generations in expressing Olympic ideas and values through art, culture,*

*history, literature, journalism or sports competitions dedicated to them.*

*The ROA has become, through volunteers, partners or Olympians, an elite team that brings together specialists and valuable people, both in sports and in many other fields of activity, who have fully mastered the Olympic values such as respect, friendship, excellence and fair play.*

*We thank you, the ROA! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!*

**Mihai Covaliu**

President of the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee



*It is a great honor and pleasure to foreword the second edition of the “Olympic Guide”, a publication of the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee assisted by the International Olympic Committee, and with the support of the National Olympic Academy of Romania.*

*This handbook will serve as a valuable guide for all levels of education as well as for the Olympic community in general, as it offers a variety of information and knowledge. It will also constitute a necessary tool for the whole Olympic Family that will help readers to view and comprehend Olympism as an educational philosophy which is based on three pillars: sports, culture, and education.*

*Olympism refers to the ideas of the modern Olympic movement, the innovative approach of the educational value of sports and the values originating from the ancient Olympic Games.*

*This Olympic philosophy is expressed throughout the present publication and its respective chapters that extend from the history of the ancient Olympic Games and their revival to the modern Olympic Games and their symbols, the Olympic movement and the Olympic Romania. Subsequently, it offers at the same time historical facts and analysis of the current situation in the Olympic movement.*

*The second edition of the “Olympic Guide” is an Olympic education material that will help facilitate the educational process through which young people will form their personalities in such a way that they will optimize their natural and social abilities and that they will cultivate their ethical values, their aesthetic perceptions and their humanistic conscience for the creation of a better society.*

*It is a praiseworthy publication and all those who collaborated in order for this work to come to life deserve many congratulations.*



**Professor Konstantinos Georgiadis**

Honorary Dean of the International Olympic Academy





*The Romanian Olympic Academy is a very much loved creation of the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee, with a unique worldwide structure - a branch in each county, other seven additional branches for each district of the capital, and a central branch. Thanks to the work, determination and perseverance of thousands of volunteers, the ROA has now national coverage. The 48 branches are a certain proof that passionate and dedicated people have come to understand the fundamental Olympic values promoted by the ROSC: tradition, passion, respect, excellence and fair play.*

*The ROA's activities have been constantly organized at local and central level, and some of these projects have gained international recognition. An award we really take pride in is the World Fair Play Diploma*

*received by the ROA from the International Fair Play Committee in recognition of its exemplary achievements in the world of sports, Olympics and promotion of fair play.*

*Through it all, the ROA was given the recognition and appreciation of the IOC and the entire International Olympic Movement for the national values that the Romanian Olympic Movement promotes amongst the young generations through the Olympic Education.*

**George Boroi**

General Secretary of the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee



*Olympic Education combines sport, culture and art to create a balanced lifestyle based on the value of a positive example, equality, tolerance and fair play.*

*Starting from this desideratum, the Olympic Guide was conceived as a working tool in the discovery, teaching and learning process of the Olympic education. Its purpose is to increase the awareness that sport is a common good of Humanity, and movement is health, physical and mental development, knowledge, self-control, beauty and joy. Taking into consideration all age groups, the Olympic Guide is intended for all those eager to learn, interested in discovering the history of the Olympic Movement, from Antiquity to the present.*

*I invite you therefore to go through this Guide to find out more about the international and national Olympic Movement, heroes of the Olympic editions, atypical events and curiosities occurring throughout the Games, but also to perform a series of dynamic and interactive activities designed to assess the acquired knowledge.*

*I conclude by thanking all the Romanian Olympic Academy's volunteers and the editorial team, who made possible the appearance of this didactic tool, so necessary for the Romanian Olympic Movement.*



**Simona Tabără Amânar**

Director of the Romanian Olympic Academy

*„As in the daytime there is  
no star in the sky warmer  
and brighter than the  
sun, likewise there is no  
competition greater than the  
Olympic Games.”*

**Pindar**

I

THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES

## LEGENDS AND MYTHS ON THE ORIGIN OF THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES

Numerous studies and treatises have been written about the earliest days of the ancient Olympic Games, but some still continue to be mysteries to many of us.

Gods were the first to compete at Olympia, serving as role models for all the “earthlings”. According to Greeks, the gods did not live in isolation from mortals, but intervened in their lives, bringing them full satisfaction or sorrow. The place where gods with human attributes lived was the top of Mount Olympus (Mytikas with a height of 2,917 m), always covered by clouds and fog.

The ancient Greek gods, in addition to human behavior, also shared the weaknesses of human character. Love, disgrace, intrigue, and betrayal were common feelings among them. Cronus, the son of Uranus and Gaea, the youngest of the 12 Titans, swallowed his children from birth because he knew that one day, he would be dethroned by one of them. Rhea, Cronus’ wife, was upset by his behavior, but with the help of Gaea, she managed to fool him at Zeus’ birth. Instead of Zeus, Rhea wrapped a stone in diapers, which Cronus, weak sighted, immediately devoured. Zeus grew up with the help of two nymphs, being hidden by his mother in a cave in Crete, and later defeated his father and banished him to Tartarus, the prison of the defeated gods. Zeus became the ruler of gods on Mount Olympus, the master of the entire universe, “*the father of gods and humans*”. To celebrate the victory, he called on the gods to compete in several sporting events.

Another legend says that Zeus, the god of sky and thunder, struck the earth with his lightning, from top of Mount Olympus, to indicate the place where a temple was to be erected. In the year 457 BC, the largest temple in honor of Zeus was built in Olympia. The temple was built by the Libyan architect originally from Elida (Peloponnese). It was 67.12 m long and 27.68 m wide, and at that time



it was the largest temple in the entire Greek world. The most important piece of this temple was the statue of Zeus, which was placed on a blue Eleusinian (a city in ancient Greece) marble pedestal. This statue was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and was made in 435 BC by the famous Athenian sculptor Phidias, a friend and adviser of Pericles. It was 12 m high and depicted Zeus seated on a lavishly decorated high-back throne.

On the outside, the abundance of gold, ivory, ebony and precious stones used to adorn the statue of Zeus was simply astounding. Zeus had a scepter in his left hand, on top of which stood a golden eagle, and in his right hand he held Nike, the goddess of victory, whose head was crowned with olive branches.

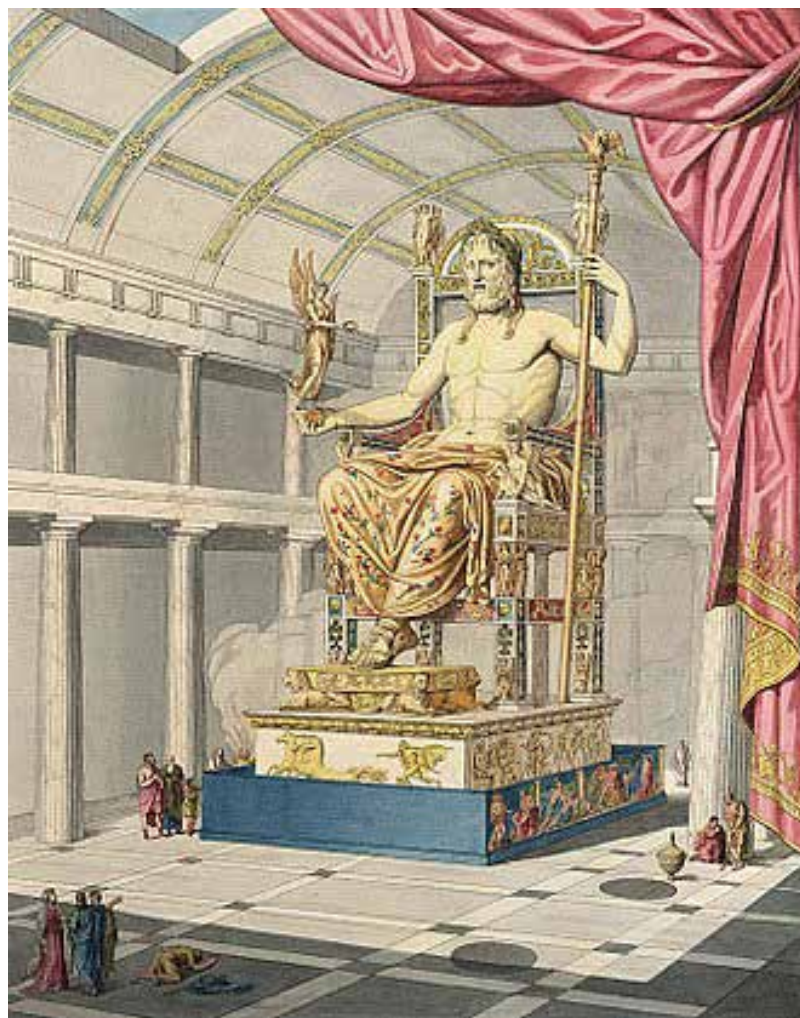


Wherever we place the gods, between myth and reality, legends reveal us that they were the authors staging at first the Olympic Games in Antiquity.

Although the whole origin of the Games is shrouded in mystery, there is evidence that, from the very beginning, they resembled a folk festival that had a twofold nature, organizing sports events and religious ceremonies.

The games originate in ancient Greece, in the religious temples made for the worship of gods, where sport played an immense role as a major part of education, a perfection of moral qualities, an offering tribute that the ancient Greeks paid to gods. Both sports and art or cultural competitions

represented and important aspect in the Greek religious ceremonies. The earliest narrative about these competitions belongs to the Greek poet and rhapsodist Homer, who depicts, in his epic Iliad (850 BC-750 BC), the ancient Greeks as great warriors rather than perfect athletes. Most likely, sporting and cultural-artistic competitions emerged as an alternative to armed confrontations, as a consequence of the political stability of Greek cities between the 8th and 6th centuries BC, and of the adoption of nobility's ideals concerning the continuous body and mental training by all social classes. The ancient Greeks saw in human beauty a blend of physical perfection and ethical character. This moral and aesthetic ideal was known as “**kalokagathia**” – a Greek term expressing the harmony between body, mind and soul, within which man was simultaneously Pygmalion (the creator) and Galatea (the perfect work).



## CIRCUIT GAMES ORGANIZED IN ANCIENT GREECE

Following the Olympic Games model, other sports competitions have arisen, which were due to be held in different years, so that all Greeks could enjoy the spectacle.

The Olympic Games (776 BC) along with the Pythian (590 BC), Isthmic (582 BC) and Nemean (573 BC) Games were part of the Circuit Games or the Panhellenic Games (pan - all, Hellenics - Greeks) – **”periodos”**, held under the protection of a deity.

**The Olympic Games** were held in honor of Zeus and in Antiquity were staged at Olympia, in the Peloponnese (peninsula in southern Greece). It is said that these Games were founded by Zeus, after defeating his father Cronus in battle. The games were founded in 776 BC and they have permanently been held for 12 centuries, being the height of Greek civilization and the symbol of Greek life. Winners received wreaths made of wild olive branches.

**The Pythian Games** started in the 6th century BC. They were held at Delphi and were dedicated to Apollo, the god of day, light and art. The name given to these Games referred to Apollo’s victory over the giant serpent, Python. The first competitions were artistic (music and performance), the sports events were later introduced, but the artistic ones always had priority. Only Greek citizens participated in the Olympics. The prize that rewarded winners’ efforts was a wreath of laurel leaves (laurel or bay was the plant dedicated by Apollo to his great love, the nymph Daphne) brought from the Tempe valley, located in the northeastern region of Thessaly in Greece.

**The Isthmian** or Corinthian Games began in the 6th century BC (582 BC) and took place in a pine forest in Corinth, a Greek city on the Corinthian isthmus. They were dedicated to Poseidon (brother of Zeus), the god of the sea, praised and feared for his power, embodied by the famous

trident. These Games included running, jumping, throwing, pentathlon, pankration, horse and chariot racing. In addition to sports competitions, there were musical and literary competitions (recitation contests). The winners received a wreath of pine branches.

**The Nemean Games** started in the 6th century BC (according to the mythology beginning with the year 573 BC) and were celebrated in Nemea, being held in honor of Zeus (as the Olympics). In Nemea, Heracles (called Hercules by the Romans) killed the Nemean lion who terrorized the land. The winner of the Games received a wreath of green stalks of wild celery brought from the city of Argos (Peloponnese), a plant that praised the beauty of youth. The interest in these Games was very high and it is said that all the athletes of Antiquity, who wanted to become “**periodonikes**” (winner of the four great ancient competitions), **began and ended their careers** at this competition. One of the most famous “periodonikes” was the boxer Diagoras from Rhodes. In Antiquity, the Olympic Games addressed exclusively free Greek men, but ancient Greeks did not exclude physical training from women’s culture and lifestyle. However, the Greek families did not support their daughters in practicing sports, excepting the city of Sparta, where it was believed that a robust woman would be able to give birth to vigorous sons.

**The Games of Hera** (after the name of Zeus’ sister and wife, protectress of marriage), would constitute a sports competition dedicated to women, which also took place in Olympia, every 4 years, a month before or after the Olympics. The only event was the 500-foot Olympic race (one Olympic foot measured 0.320 m), that is approximately 160 m, organized by three age categories: children, teenagers and single women. It is said that these Games were set up by Hippodamia (Pelops’ wife) as a tribute to her marriage, along with other 16 women of Greek origin. Pausanias mentioned that “*the competitions were organized and supervised by a committee of 16 women from the city of Elis.*” Spartan female contestants competed like men, completely



naked, being the only ones opting for this form of participation. Athletes from other cities ran with their hair unbound, wearing a short tunic called “**chintos**”, leaving their right shoulder exposed. Men could also take part in the Heraean Games, considering it a good opportunity to choose their future wives.



## ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES

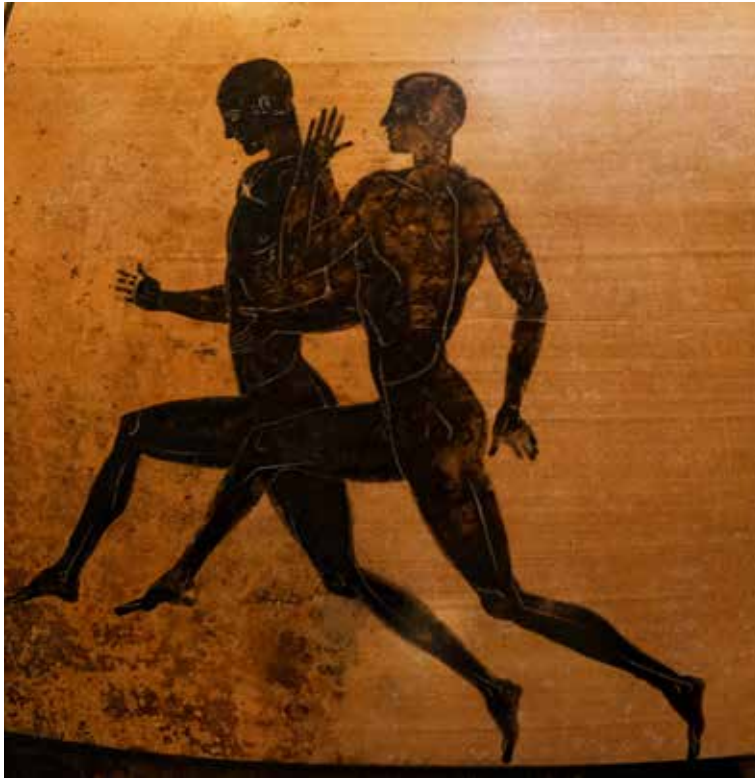
Reaching their ideal of harmony, of physical and moral beauty, needed an impulsion, a confirmation, which materialized through the sporting events of the ancient Olympic Games.

It was the greatest sports competition of the ancient Greece, a festival of strength and beauty of the human body. The Greek educator Kleanthis Palaiologos wrote in his book “The Legends of Olympia” the following: “In Olympia, a strong and well-trained body is not enough if you lack intelligence and wisdom.” The ancient Olympic Games were attended by many participants, following their own rules, which had to be strictly observed by athletes and officials. The Games played a major part in the temporary unification of Greek cities and colonies, being a good opportunity for the exchange of ideas, products, speeches, artistic representations, etc. As if to confirm this, Emmanuel Microyannakis, a Greek professor of ancient history, was stating in one of his works: “*The Games were like a binder holding the Greek poleis together*”.

All sports competitions took place in Olympia, a religious, cultural and sports center of ancient Greece, located in the city of Elis. The settlement included temples, altars and palaestrae (places designed for various events and sports competitions), being the venue for the Olympic Games, from 776 BC until 393 AD (according to other sources 394 AD).

The Greeks gathered here in Olympia, on the confluence of the rivers Kladeos and Alpheus, at the foot of Mount Kronion, to honor Zeus, to win the crown of wild olive branches called “**kotinos**”, but also the winning title of the Olympics “**olimpionike**” (Olympic champion).

Many grand buildings were built in Olympia, some of them closely related to rituals, and others serving the administrative and organizational requirements of the Games. Here are some examples: **Heraion** was the oldest temple in Olympia dedicated to the goddess Hera. It was placed parallel to



the temple of Zeus. **The Prytaneion** was the building where prizes were awarded to the winners and the place hosting the banquet offered in their honor. **The gymnasium** was provided with specific equipment for physical exercises, baths and massage rooms, and the training of athletes for gymnastics, wrestling and jumping was performed in the **Palestra**. The stadium at Olympia was the original one in ancient Greece, being built between the 8th and 6th centuries BC. It had the shape of an elongated horseshoe, and the track size was of a **stadium** or a

**sports ground** (equivalent to 192.27 m). A legend says that this distance was measured by Heracles himself (who once defeated Apollo) and summed up his 600 steps. **The racecourse** was an oval construction, used for horse racing, having a double length compared to the stadium track. Even to this day, the hippodrome could not be identified by archaeologists in Olympia.

The Olympic Games were organized with astronomical accuracy, every four years, during the period called "*hieromenia*" - "*sacred moon*", in the first week with a full moon after the summer solstice, at the temple of Zeus.

The birth of the ancient Olympic Games is from the beginning related to the idea of peace on the territory of ancient Greece which was divided back then into independent cities in a permanent state of war. The legend from the 9th century BC tells us about Ifitos, the ruler of Elis, who went to see the renowned priestess Pythia, at the famous oracle of Delphi, whose rituals and prophecies were conducted in a room placed underneath Apollo's temple. The answer to his question, "*How can I end the wars that are falling upon my kingdom?*" was somehow unexpected. The oracle spoke of organizing a sports competition in Olympia (an area in the kingdom of Ifitos), every four years, during which



a “truce” (a temporary suspension of any military operations) was to be proclaimed throughout the Greek territory.

“*The Olympic armistice or peace*”, “**ekecheiria**” (in Greek mythology) was temporarily set up, and soon became a true tradition in the ancient Greek world. Greek athletes, as well as those from nearby Greek colonies (starting with distant Iberia in the west, to the Black Sea in the east) participated in the Games, but “ekecheiria” never applied to the states outside Greece, remaining mainly a tradition of the Greek system.

“*The Olympic armistice*” was introduced in all the Greek cities and on the hills of the Mediterranean and Aegean sea shores. This was an agreement, concluded in the 9th century BC, more precisely in 884 BC, between Ifitos, king of Elis, Cleisthenes of Pisa and Lycurgus, king of Sparta, with the aim of putting an end to the Peloponnesian wars. The pact engraved on a bronze disc was being kept in the temple of Hera in Olympia. Today, the disc is displayed at Olympia, inside the archeological museum dedicated to the ancient Olympic Games. Ignoring the “*Olympic truce*” and non-compliance with the regulations by the participants were severely sanctioned. Competitors who deviated and disregarded the rules were fined and excluded from the Games. The money paid in fines went to building bronze statues, known as **Zanes**, with the cheaters’ names inscribed on the pedestal. These statues were located along the passage at the entrance to the stadium, as a warning to those who would further try to do the same.

The historian Thucydides relates a violation of the armistice by the Spartan army in 420 BC, which entered the territory of Lepreum in Elis.

The strongest competitors in the Greek cities were summoned by the **spondophori** (messengers). After the announcement of the “*armistice*” (which was maintained for about 3 months), participants, philosophers, Greek personalities and spectators from all Greek cities and Mediterranean colonies began their journey to Olympia.

Participation in the Olympic Games was conditioned by certain criteria: ethnicity, only men of Greek origin being admitted - free citizens; socially, women and slaves did not have access (not even the right to watch the competitions); morally, the participants had to prove a good reputation and an honest morality; technically, only athletes who could provide adequate physical training participated.

Women were not accepted at competitions held at the stadium of Olympia, with the exception of teenagers and the priestess of Demeter (goddess of agriculture and fertility). And yet, history mentions such a violation. The only woman who managed to attend the races, despite the ban, was Kallipateira



(according to other sources: Pherenike), the mother and coach of a pugilist. She disguised herself in manly clothes and decided to sneak into the crowd to enjoy the fruits of her efforts and witness the success of her son. After her son's victory in pugilism, she hurried to enter the field, but her clothes slipped, and that gave her away. Thus, her secret

was revealed, but the referees exonerated her from sentence, taking into account the glorious past of the family she belonged to: no less than six Olympic champions, including the son she had trained. From this starting point, the rule of body examination was enforced, while the athletes were required to perform with the naked body during the competition, which was mandatory for the coaches as well. In the 8th century BC (more precisely in 720 BC) nudity was already a practice at Olympia competitions.

The four-year period between two editions of the Olympic Games was (and still is) known as the “**Olympiad**” and was used as a time measurement method. The idea belongs to the ancient Greek historian Ephorus. The first “*Olympiad*” in history was between 776-772 BC. During this four-year period, the youths were physically, mentally and morally trained. Admission to the Games was made according to very strict rules. Ten months before the Games started, the athletes trained in their hometowns and took an *Oath* at the end of their training. A month before the Games, the athletes came to Elis (a settlement 58 km distant from Olympia) where they trained under the supervision of **the hellanodikai** (Greek referees), performing exhausting workouts and following a strict diet. Some athletes were accompanied by personal trainers and, those who had material resources, benefited from specialized medical assistance. Coaches received significant sums to train the wealthy young people, and the athletes who could not afford a personal trainer were supported with the necessary money by their cities of origin.

First there were two hellanodikai, but later their number increased to ten, and their assignment was made a year before the Games. They completed the list of competitors in the Games, they established the order of their participation in competitions, being responsible for the organization, progress and functionality of the Games, serving to fully check the contestants' skills and interfere in case of conflicts. During the Games, hellanodikai wore bright red cloaks, and laurel wreaths on



their foreheads, and they sat in a lodge, observing and supervising the competition according to its rules and procedures. Thus, the organizers made these Olympic Games truly competitive and worthy of interest.

**The herald** (announcer) announced the name of each competitor, including the name of the father and the city he came from. The morality and honesty of the participants were checked very carefully. The herald asked the spectators to confirm if the participants were worthy to compete in the Games, and if they were aware of any deviation they had to announce it. Only when their answer was “*Axios, Axios, Axios*” (“*He’s worthy, worthy, worthy*”), the competitor met the moral conditions to enter the Olympic competition.

Two days before the start of the Games, they left Elis along the coast heading to Olympia, travelling the road by foot, on *the Sacred Way* or *the Olympic Way*. Competitors offered sacrifices to the gods to be favored in competition, and their victories were always dedicated to their protector gods.

There are several options for the Olympic athletics programme. In fact, it is not possible to say exactly how the competition programme evolved, we only know that, starting with the 5th century BC, the calendar was more compact and more complete than the inaugural editions.

The games took place over a day until 684 BC, when the duration of the competition got extended to three days, and over time, more precisely in the 5th century BC, the duration was extended to five days. The first day was dedicated to the religious procession and sacrifices (100 cattle were sacrificed) in honor of Zeus and the most important gods in the Greek pantheon, and the next



three days to the sports events, while the last day was reserved for the Games closing ceremony, the winners parade and the somptuous banquet given for them in Prytaneion.

At the beginning of the competition, the contestants took the *Oath* before the altar of Zeus, promising to honorably attend the Games, observing the rules, and the referees' decisions, who were committed in their turn to judge objectively and keep the competitors' privacy confidential. In front of the altars of Zeus and Hera was lit a *Flame*, the symbol of sun and life, which burned throughout the Games. The flame symbolized the fire stolen from gods, more precisely from Hephaestus by Prometheus. He was the son of the titan Iapetus and the nymph Clymene (in Greek mythology) and the one who defended the mortals against Zeus, who had deprived them of fire.



## PROGRAM AND DISCIPLINES OF THE OLYMPIC CONTESTS

At the first edition of the year 776 BC, the competition consisted only of the “**dromos**” sprint (a stadium or stadion, i.e. 192.27 m). Later “**diaulos**” running races were introduced (two stades) and “**dolichos**” (7-24 stades), wrestling, pugilism (the predecessor of boxing), pancratium (a combination of wrestling and boxing), pentathlon (long jump, spear and discus throw, speed running and wrestling), chariot racing (quadriga races), horse racing and the race in armour (hoplites).

Thus, periodically, new sports competitions were introduced in the programme of the ancient Olympic Games as follows:

776 BC	the stadium race (192.27 m) - dromos
724 BC	the double-stadion race - diaulos
720 BC	the 7-24 stade race (long distance) - dolichos
708 BC	the wrestling and pentathlon competition
688 BC	the pugilism
680 BC	the chariot races, with four horses - quadriga
648 BC	the pancratium and horse races
632 BC	the competitions for youths and teenagers (efebi) aged between 12 and 17 years. This took place on the second day of the Games, and the youths competed in pentathlon, wrestling, pancration, horse races, but also in the
520 BC	the racing in armour (hoplites), on 2 - 4 stades (400-800 m)
408 BC	the chariot races with two horses

The race of one stadium (**dromos**) was also spectacular due to the fact that the winner was declared **eponymous** (magistrate), which granted him to give his name to the Olympics (a total period of 1457 days, 10 hours and 40 minutes).

**Pentathlon** was considered the hardest discipline as it involved the engagement of different parts of the body to make a sustained physical effort. All events took place after noon in the stadium. The competitors had to run, fight, jump in length, throw the discus and the spear. The athlete who won three of the five events was declared the winner. Legend says the founder of this athletic event was Jason, leader of the famous expedition of Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece in Colchis. According to the same legend, the first winner of the pentathlon was Peleus, the father of demigod Achilles, the main character of the “*Iliad*” and the greatest hero of the Trojan War. The Greek scientist and philosopher Aristotle referred to pentathlon, saying that “*the winner of pentathlon is the most skilled athlete and was given by the gods with strength, speed, skill and courage to win.*”

**Discus throw**, one of the five events, was performed without an initial work-out, with a disc of stone, iron, lead or bronze, which had the same shape as today and weighed between 4 and 5 kg. In the beginning, all the competitors used the same disc.

**Spear** was thrown at a distance and at the target (the latter in two ways: in standing position with feet on the ground and in running, from horseback).

**When performing the long jump**, the athletes held in their hands some weights (dumbbells) of stone or lead, in order to improve their force, length and accuracy of landing. Competitors were entitled to five jumps, being accompanied by the flute’s sing.



**The wrestlings** took place in the stadium, on an area marked with a circle. Before entering the competition, the fighters applied olive oil to their bodies and covered themselves with fine sand. After the contest, to get that muddy mixture of dust, oil, perspiration and often blood off their body, the competitors used a curved tool called a “**strigilis**”. There were two different versions of Greek wrestlings: the bare-knuckle stand-up wrestling (won by the one who slammed his

opponent down to the ground three times) and the ground wrestling (loser was the one who raised his right hand with the forefinger outstretched).

**The speed race** was carried out within a distance of one stadium, i.e. 192.27 m.

**Pugilism** is one of the oldest sports of the Greeks, consisting of a bare knuckle fight. Pugilists' fists were nevertheless wrapped in cloth, and their wrists were supported by soft straps called "**himantes**". When one of the pugilists declared himself defeated by extending his hand with his thumb raised, that was the sign the fight was over.

**Pancratiun** was a tough sports event, where various grips and kicks were allowed. The ultimate goal of this discipline was to put down your opponent using all means of physical force. The Greeks believed that it was founded by the famous Athenian warrior and hero Theseus (son of the Aegean king), when, following a fierce battle, he defeated the Minotaur (the ferocious beast half man and half bull) in the labyrinth underneath the palace of King Minos from Knossos.

Other athletic events in which the ancient Greeks competed were: **the chariot race** (quadriga on two wheels pulled by two horses) and the **horse races** that took place on the hippodrome, but also the **racing in armour** (the equipment weighed around 27 kg), performed by foot soldiers, equipped with cloth or leather leggings to protect their feet, leather or metal helmets and weapons used for attack or defense (large spears and shields). **Horse races** took place over a distance of six stades (below 1200 m) and were divided into two categories: foals and mares. It was characteristic of these contests running alongside your horse in the last part of the race.

**In chariot races**, the crown of wild olive branches was offered to the horse, and the Olympic champion was considered the owner of the quadriga (not the one who competed and drove the chariot). Thus, the list of winners included names of emperors, tyrants or women.

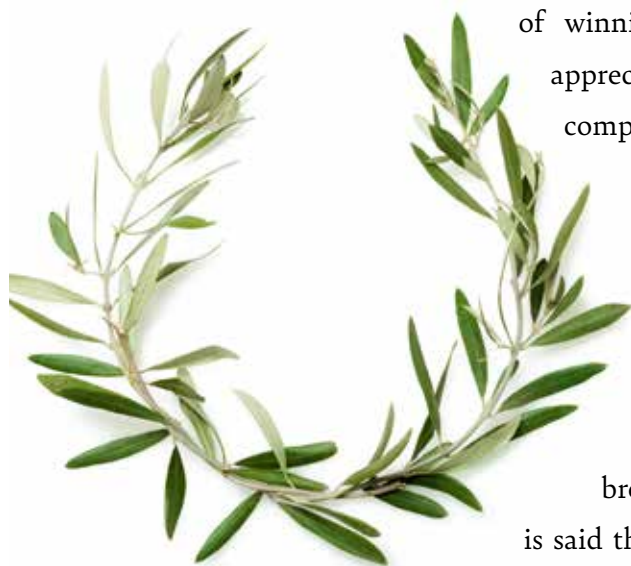


## AWARDS OF THE WINNERS AT THE GAMES

The winners were awarded with wreaths of wild olive branches -"**kotinos**" (since 752 BC), which were cut by ephebes (teenagers) with a golden sickle, from the olive tree of Heracles, located in front of the temple of Zeus. Immediately after the contest, the winners also received a red wool ribbon - the "**taenia**", which they laid around their heads and hands, as well as a palm leaf, a symbol of victory, too. A statue of the famous sculptor and theorist Polykleitos, dating from the second half of the 5th century BC, depicted a winner with a ribbon around his head. A bronze copy of the statue, called "*Diadoumenos*" is at the entrance of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The strong desire of triumph at the Games and of winning the crown of wild olive branches raised appreciation and admiration, which reflected upon the competitor, the family he came from, but also the city he represented.

The winners were adored by the crowd that took pride in them, they had their own statues, poems were dedicated to them, and on their return home they were solemnly welcome. The surrounding wall of the fortress was symbolically broken, and they entered in a triumphal chariot. It is said that the city that had a champion at the Olympic Games did not need walls and gates anymore. The inhabitants



of the cities felt entitled to believe that they were favored by gods when one of them won the Olympic title.

The honors given to the champions were so great that the Athenian legislator Solon (around 638- 558 BC), who was one of the “Seven Wise Men” of ancient Greece, initiated some regulations so that the manifestations would not exceed the limits of decency. The Olympic champions received gifts consisting of jars full of olive oil, various goods and enjoyed fame throughout their lives, being considered demigods and elevated to the rank of heroes.

Throughout the 1172 years, 293 editions of the ancient Olympic Games have taken place, totaling over 4,000 Olympic champions. However, only the names of 921 winners have been known so far. The first official document

with the names of the Olympic champions dates from 776 BC. The Greek philosopher Hippias of Miletus (5th century BC) was the one who began to record the names of Olympic champions, and later on his initiative was taken by Aristotle, one of the most important philosophers of ancient Greece.

The ancient Olympic Games were distinguished by the fact that the appreciation and reputation was directed solely to the winner, and the names of the athletes that ranked second and third were not remembered. At these Olympic Games the team spirit did not exist as the participation was individual.

The winner of the stadium race gave his name to the respective edition of the Olympic Games. The Koroibos athlete from Elis, chef by profession, was the first winner at the ancient Olympic Games, in the **dromos** speed discipline (192.27 m).





The most famous runner of the Ancient Olympic Games, who earned 12 Olympic victories in a 26-year sports career, more precisely for four editions (between 164-152 BC), was Leonidas of Rhodes. He won three athletic events at each edition: a stadium, diaulos and racing in armour.

Milo of Crotona (southern Italy), a student of the philosopher Pythagoras, was the best warrior of the ancient Greek world in the second half of the 7th century BC. He was crowned six times at Olympia (540-516 BC), seven times at the Pythian Games, nine times at the Nemean Games, and 10 times at the Isthmian Games. A model of Olympian dynasty is the family of Diagoras of Rhodes, who was the best pugilist of Antiquity in 464 BC, and later on his son and nephew also became **“Olympians.”**

Kyniska, daughter of the king of Sparta - Archidamos, was the first female Olympic champion. She owned a quadriga that won the 96th and 97th Olympics between 396-392 BC. Later, a monument was built in her honor at Olympia, even though women were not allowed to attend the Olympics, in



chariot racing. At these races it was the owner of the horses who was declared the winner and not the one who drove the cart.

Theogenes of Thasos have gathered about 1,300 victories in 22 years in pugilism and pancratium competitions. He and Milo of Croton were considered by the ancient Greeks to be the most powerful people on Earth, after Heracles.

After the conquest of Greece by the Roman Empire, other competitors gained the opportunity, as well, to participate in the Olympics, and since 212 BC the Games became international beyond the borders of the Greece. With the adoption of the ancient Olympic Games by the Romans, women were allowed to participate in chariot racing. Prizes consisted in wreaths of olive branches, taking part in cattle slaughter in honor of the goddess Hera, and also the right to own a work of art depicting their faces.

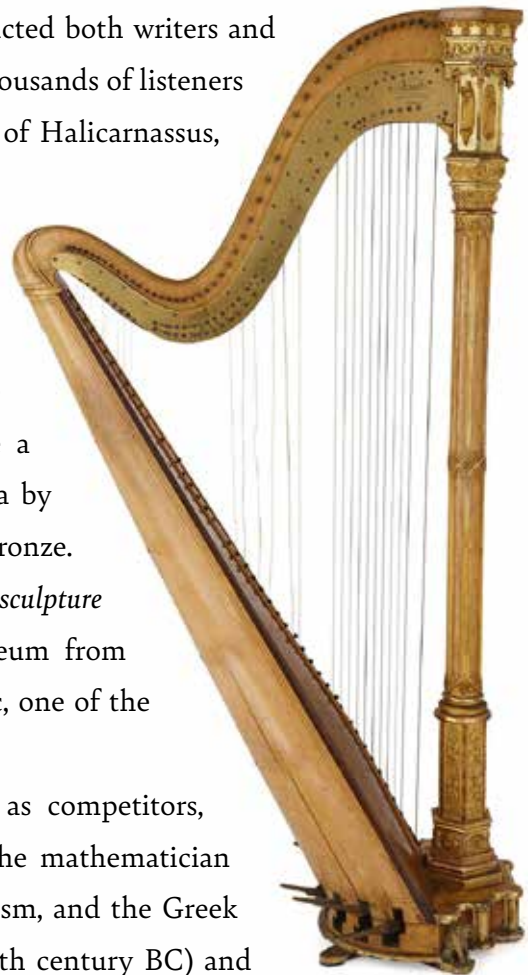


## OLYMPIC GAMES AND ART

At the Olympia Games, in addition to sports competitions, there were art, history, theater and music contests. The Olympics attracted both writers and poets, who came to recite from their works in front of thousands of listeners from the entire Greek world. It is said that Herodotus of Halicarnassus, known as the “*father of history*”, read for the first time from his work “*History*” at Olympia.

The beauty and elegance of the sports competitions at Olympia inspired the most outstanding artists of Greece, whose works would last over the centuries. The great museums of the world dedicate a great deal of exhibition space to the ancient Greek era by displaying numerous sculptures in stone, marble and bronze. Such an example is the marble copy of *Myron’s bronze sculpture “Discobolus”*, which is currently in the National Museum from Rome. This statue depicts the athlete releasing the disc, one of the events of the ancient Olympic pentathlon.

Famous personalities of Antiquity participated as competitors, in various editions of the Olympic Games, such as: the mathematician and philosopher Pythagoras (6th century BC) in pugilism, and the Greek poet Euripides, known as “*the tragic poet by excellence*” (5th century BC) and



the philosopher Plato (disciple of Socrates and teacher of Aristotle) in fighting in the 4th century BC. Plato stated *“music is to the soul as the exercise is to the body.”* Lyrical poems and epinician odes were dedicated to the winners.

Greek poets dedicated many odes to triumph, to moral and physical virtues, manifest in the heroes of stadiums, palaestrae and gymnasiums. The celebrated ancient poet of Thebes, Pindar (512-438 BC), wrote the famous *“Triumphal Odes”* divided into four books, *“Olympics”*, *“Pythics”*, *“Isthmics”* and *“Nemean”*, in honor of the Olympic winners. Pindar is the one who wrote odes for 52 years, most of them dedicated to the champions of horse or quadriga races.

The fame of the Olympics and the desire of competitors to return victorious to their cities also prompted those outside Greece to ask permission to participate, with the hope, of course, of being accepted, and be able then triumph in the contests. The Roman emperor Nero did not resist the temptation to compete in the chariot race at the Olympia Games. Therefore, in the year 67 AD, he took advantage of his political power and unjustly came out victorious in the chariot race with 10 horses - faking the results. He won six competitions in a single edition of the Olympics.



## THE END OF THE ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES

The Olympic Games began about 800 years before the birth of Jesus Christ and continued for almost 400 years after His death.

After the 4th century AD the principles guiding those who were organizing the Olympics started to be violated. The glory days of Greek culture began to fade, and in the process, the Olympic Games too. Exercise has increasingly turned from a means to an end in itself. Professional competitors came up, and performing at the Olympics started to be their exclusive occupation.

The games took place for more than a millennium until the year 393 AD (and according to other sources 394 AD), when the Roman emperor Theodosius I (reigning over the Eastern Roman Empire), an enthusiastic supporter of Christianity, banned the Games, considering them manifestations of pagan rituals.



All the buildings in Olympia were burned and ruined by the order of Theodosius II in 424 AD (and according to other sources 426 AD). Numerous robberies were added to the destruction of the vestiges (it is said that the statue of Zeus was transported to Constantinople, and soon it totally disappeared), as well as natural disasters (earthquakes,





floods, landslides). Thus, the city of Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympic Games, was forgotten. Only 1,500 years later, in the middle of the 19th century (1875-1881), a German team of specialists, led by Ernst Curtius, discovered the wonderful treasure of Olympia as a result of their archeological excavations. And since 1896, when humanity rediscovered some of the educational values of the Olympic Games, Olympics would be revived at the initiative of the French baron Pierre de Coubertin.

The success of the ancient Olympic Games was due to the joy and love the Greeks had for competition, respect for physical and spiritual beauty, and the right fight in their pursuit of balance of mind, body and soul. The brilliance of the Games at Olympia lies in the world's unique idea to honor the beauty and harmony of the human body, the honest and incorruptible character of the fight, the energy and courage of the competition.

*„Olympism is for sport what  
culture is for humanity.”*

**Pierre de Coubertin**

II

OLYMPIC GAMES REVIVAL

## OLYMPIC GAMES REVIVAL

Even if the Olympics have been interrupted for centuries, their memory was however preserved in the consciousness of people. The games of the ancient Greece had a significant influence on culture all around the world.

During the European Renaissance era (the end of the Middle Ages, in the 15th and 16th centuries), the great scholars evoked in their writings the glorious image of the ancient Olympic Games and the attempts to resume them. The concern for their revival was determined by the high importance that the people of Renaissance gave to Greco-Latin Antiquity. After the oppressive period of the Middle Ages, people found that their social and cultural life was much poorer without the Olympic Games, and their resumption became first and foremost an ideal and then a necessity. Thus, the Olympic Games reappeared in a selective and scattered way, during the 17th and 19th centuries, making small gains in representation, and being narrowed down to certain areas, over a short period of time. It was till the mid 19th century that the attempts to revive the ancient Olympic Games in a modern sophisticated form - while maintaining the original fundamental principles - found the echo predicted by their initiators.

There have been several attempts, at different times and places, to renew the tradition of the Olympic Games.

History confirms that the idea of resuming the “Olympic Games” has been permanently present in people’s consciousness, materializing from time to time, in the form of sports festivals in different countries such as: Great Britain, Greece, Germany, France etc..



Starting with the 17th century (1601-1612 AD), the “*Olympic Cotswold Games*” were founded, based on the ideas of the lawyer Robert Dover, with principles similar to those of the ancient Olympic Games. Initially, these Games took place simultaneously with the celebration of the Trinity, near Chipping Campden (a small town between Cotswold and Gloucester) in the United Kingdom.

The “*Olympic Cotswold Games*” took place for about 200 years and intended to revive the glorious golden age of the ancient Olympic Games.

Another attempt to revive the ancient Olympic Games belonged to a Greek poet, Panagiotis Soutsos (he was also a newspaper editor). In 1834, he sent a memorandum to the then Greek Prime Minister in support of bringing the Circuit or Panhellenic Games to the forefront.

Soutsos saw these competitions as a possible connecting factor for the Greeks spread across Europe. In 1836, together with a group of Greek scholars, Soutsos suggested that the model of organization should be taken from Antiquity, and the cities of Athens, Tripoli, Hydra and Missolonghi should host the competitions to commemorate the liberation of Greece from Ottoman rule. The games were to start on March 25 (a religious holiday - the Annunciation, and the National Day of Greece) and to take place every four years. Although initially the prime minister and King Otto of Greece were willing to support Soutsos, the support did not come, perhaps because of the rather difficult political and economic situation in Greece during those years. Ten years later, Soutsos appealed the king and government again for the resumption of the Olympic Games, but again to no avail. Someone who was thrilled however by Soutsos’ idea: Evangelos Zappa (1800-1865), a Greek merchant, who in 1833 settled in Romania. In 1858, he promoted to King Otto of Greece the notion of reviving the Olympics. Zappa had made public his position on the resumption of the Olympic Games since 1843, but he did not achieve his dream until 1859, when he donated the necessary funds for the organization of this competition and for the construction of some buildings.

An important part, as well, in the history of the Olympic Movement played the “*Olympian Games*” organized in the town of Much Wenlock in Shropshire, Great Britain by Dr. William Penny Brookes, since 1850. In the UK, the idea of a sport competition called the “*Olympian Games*” developed rapidly, from local to regional and then to national level. Thus, in 1865 (19th century), Brookes, together with two contributors, founded, in Liverpool, the National Olympic Association, which had the mission to organize in 1866, in London, the “*Olympian Games*”. Seeing this impressive development in his own country, early in 1880, William Penny Brookes had the courage to send a letter to King George I of Greece asking for his



William Penny Brookes

support in organizing an international Olympic competition. The king's response was affirmative, but the political situation was unfavorable to its organization. Two years later, William Penny Brookes learned from the newspapers about Baron Pierre de Coubertin and his ideas. The two began to correspond by mail, and in 1890 Brookes invited Coubertin to Much Wenlock, Great Britain, to attend the "*Olympian Games*". Until he met Brookes, Coubertin was not interested in re-establishing the ancient Olympic Games in a modern world. The baron was mainly passionate about the values-based education using sport. Exploring the ancient Olympic institution, Coubertin also found the means by which he could implement this philosophy in relation to sport, people and society. These "*Olympian Games*" had a significant impact on the prospects and activities of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the initiator of the modern Olympic Games' revival.

All the Games organized between the 17th and 19th centuries actually promoted the notion of resuming the Olympic tradition. But it was the French educator, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who pursued and succeeded in implementing the idea of reviving the Olympic Games in the 19th century. He benefited from the favorable conjuncture, and turned to reality an idea that had emerged almost a century ago, developing from one generation to another.



## EVANGELOS ZAPPA

Evangelos Zappa (1800-1865) was a Greek merchant born in Labova in Northern Epirus (today's Albania), who settled in 1833 in Romania, in Broșteni, a place located in Ialomița County, 60 km away from Bucharest.

Zappa's achievements in various fields have not gone unnoticed over time, but today these things are little known to the general public. Few people know that the Evangelos Zappa also served art and literature. He contributed to the editing of fundamental literary works such as: "*Grammar of the Romanian language*" written by Timotei Cipariu and "*Dictionary of the Romanian language*" elaborated by A. T. Laurian and I. C. Massim. He also contributed to the foundation of the Romanian Literary Society, known as the "*Romanian Academy*", to the works' translation of Greek and Latin classics, to the foundation of schools, places of worship, art, science and sports in Romania, Greece and Albania.



Evangelos Zappa

The revival of the Olympic Games, in his home country, Greece, was his greatest contribution to the modern history of the Games.

In 1858, Zappa made the proposition to King Otto of Greece (the first king of modern Greece) “of *“restoring the Olympic Games, which are to be celebrated every four years, according to the teachings of the ancient Greeks, our ancestors”*. Zappa wanted to impose the spirit of the ancient Olympic Games on the modern age. The Games were organized, but restricted only to Greek participants, following their ancient model.

Thus, the Olympic Games were revived on Hellenic ground in 1859, in Athens. The Greek government has requested to be held together with the industrial and agricultural exhibitions. Zappa sketched and financed the construction of an exhibition complex in Athens, called the *“Olympic Establishment”*, known as the *“Zappeion”* (inaugurated in the same year as the Romanian Athenaeum – 1888), one of the most important buildings in the history of Modern Greece (being used for political speeches, signing international treaties, public events etc.). In front of the Zappeion, on the left side, was placed a statue of Evangelos Zappa, made by the sculptor Ioan Coso and carved in marble by Pendeli. During the first edition of the Athens Olympic Games (1896), *fencing and gymnastics competitions took place in Zappeion*, and at the 2004 Olympic edition in Athens, this complex hosted the press center.

Although Zappa’s wish was for the Games to be held every four years, like the ancient ones, it failed to materialize. The games had a modest participation in terms of numbers, a limited character (only for Greek citizens) and took place at irregular intervals. Known as the *“Olympics”*, they took place in 1859, 1870, 1875 and 1889 (and according to other sources, in 1888), being organized by Zappa’s successors.

In Broșteni can be found the ruins of Evangelos Zappa’s former mansion, his funeral monument (located in front of the church altar) and his brothers’ tombs, as well as the Church *“Sf. Nicolae”*, built with his help, too.

The Romanian journalist Victor Bănciulescu emphasized in one of his articles the great importance that the Greek philanthropist had in reviving the Olympic phenomenon: *“With his idea born on the Romanian territory, Evangelos Zappa deserves his place in the Olympic pantheon.”*



## PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AND HIS DREAM

In the winter of 1892, in the auditorium of the Sorbonne University in Paris, Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937) gave a speech on “*Physical Exercise in the Modern World*”. He made public his intention to revive the ancient Olympic Games, but no one at the time imagined the greatness of this notion.

Preparing the ground for the revival of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin studied the history of the organization and the development of the Games in ancient Greece. He supported the use of ancient traditions as a source of inspiration for the modern world, but these certainly had to be adapted to the needs of contemporary society. Pierre de Coubertin used sport as a factor, also, in strengthening peace and harmony between nations. When he took this initiative to revive the Olympic Games,



Pierre de Coubertin

following the model of those held in Antiquity, Pierre de Coubertin stressed that these competitions must be universal.

Seeing that the idea was appreciated and benefiting from a favorable conjuncture, Coubertin convened in 1894 an International Athletic Congress at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France, where the cause was debated. Hearing of the idea of reviving the Olympic Games, King George I of Greece wrote to Coubertin and asked him to accept in the Congress, as representative of Greece, the writer Demetrius Vikelas.

A number of 79 delegates, representing 49 sports organizations from 12 countries, unanimously supported the decision to hold the first modern Olympic Games.

At that International Athletic Congress, on June 23, 1894, the International Olympic Committee was established and, with the acceptance of the idea of organizing the Olympic Games, modern Olympism was born - a phenomenon that led to the Olympic Movement. Greece was given the honor of hosting the first edition of the modern Olympic Games in Athens in spring 1896.

Demetrius Vikelas became the first IOC President (1894 - 1896), and Pierre de Coubertin was elected Secretary General.

In the year 1894, Baron Pierre de Coubertin explained his decision to revive the Olympic Games as follows: *“Why did we revive the Games? To dignify and invigorate the sport, to ensure its independence and longevity and to help it fulfill its educational role in the modern society”*.

Pierre de Coubertin managed to get involved in this Olympic phenomenon several prominent personalities of those times: Colonel Viktor Gustaf Balck from Sweden, known as *“the father of Swedish sports”*, Jiri Stanislav Guth-Jarkovsky - sports promoter in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic), William Milligan Sloane - the founder and first president of the American Olympic Committee, General Alexei Dmitrijewitsch Butowsky from Russia - founding member of the IOC etc..

In 1896, the father and beating heart of modern Olympism, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, was elected President of the IOC, a position he held until 1925. He died in 1937 in Geneva, Switzerland. It could be said that the idea of reviving the Olympic Games never faded, as sports competitions always had great fame in the Greek folk tradition, but the Olympic Movement, as it is known today, is due to the promoters of the 19th century Dover, Soutsos, Zappa, Brookes, Coubertin and Vikelas. Each of them contributed to the gradual development and implementation of this great idea of restoring the ancient Olympic institution and, therefore, they can be listed as founders of the modern Olympic Games.



# OLYMPISM

*“As a universal phenomenon by excellence, a bridge and embodiment of justice and equality between nations, Olympism polarizes the noblest national ambitions at the same time, empowering knowledge and energies, bundling emotions and hopes.” (Lia Manoliu)*

When did this phenomenon appear, which is aimed at the entire human constitution, body and mind?

The term “Olympism” was not used in Greek Antiquity, it is a modern philosophical term, emerged with the revival of the Olympic Games?

Olympism assumed the model of the “*harmonic ideal of the golden age*” of Pericles (Athenian general, orator and statesman) and adopted the idea of Dr. Thomas Arnold (English educator and



historian), according to which the young man develops by himself his own personality based on a complex of values brought into action by playing sports.

Considered as the father of Olympism, Pierre de Coubertin predicted that this imposing state of mind, based on the principles of the “*Olympic Charter*”, would last over time, contributing to human development and the harmonization of social relations.

Pierre de Coubertin and his generation succeeded in revolutionizing Olympism, certifying it as one of the spiritual landmarks of the modern age. They approached the phenomenon in the light of its universality and saw the Olympic Games, the Olympic Movement and Olympism as necessary components of the history of civilization.

Olympism is neither a socio-economic perspective, nor ideology, nor political system or religion, but it is fundamentally:

- a state of mind, a value of life, a general-human vision;
- a high court of “nobility and moral purity,” an academy for character and excellence;
- a competition of the self with itself;
- the effort to elevate man’s notion of honor and dignity to the height of physical enthusiasm;
- the unceasing affirmation of man.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin and his associates drafted the main objectives of the Olympic Movement:

- to promote the development of physical and moral qualities serving as a basis for sport;
- to encourage young people towards sport in order to better understand and develop friendship;
- to promote Olympic principles throughout the world;
- to gather, every four years, athletes from around the world to celebrate the greatest sports festival - the Olympic Games.

Today, the Olympic Charter defines Olympism as a *life philosophy, elevating and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. By combining sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life founded upon the joy of effort, educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles. The purpose of Olympism is to generally put sport at the service of harmonious development of man, encouraging the creation of a peaceful society, concerned with the preservation of human dignity.*

Also, the fundamental values of Olympism were defined:

- the development of the human being, balanced from a physical, mental and spiritual point of view;





- establishing a link between sport, culture and education;
- establishing a lifestyle based on joy in effort;
- respect for universal ethical and fundamental principles;
- harmonious human development;
- creating a pacifist society;
- respect for human dignity;
- building a better new world by involving young people in sports competitions;
- playing sports without any discrimination;
- mutual understanding, in the spirit of friendship and fair play.

The implementation of the fundamental values of Olympism (excellence, friendship, respect, balance, tolerance, fair play and team spirit etc.) prepares the man in training to integrate into society, using the principles of democracy in everyday life.

Pierre de Coubertin, in his book “Olympic Memoirs”, wrote that it is only when sporting honor and altruism are as developed as muscular vigor *that the Olympism becomes an academy for character and moral purity, for endurance and psychic energy only when sporting honor and altruism are as developed as muscular vigor.*

Olympism includes mainly all the ideas accepted by the members of the Olympic Movement, on how sport can be placed at the service of the harmonious development of man and the creation of an advanced society.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

*“The sport consecrates an ethic and a system of values that are its own. It embodies a sportsmanship based on fair competition, respect, friendship, the fight for excellence and the elimination of any form of obstacle. The environment, like sport, knows no borders, no territorial limitations. The athletes, in their capacity as main actors of the sports movement, are called to be role models. We must fight to achieve the most noble goals, to help our communities and - more importantly - the environment on which we all depend.”*  
*Excerpt from the Message of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program*

The environment is the third pillar of the Olympism, and its state concerns us all, as athletes, coaches, officials, but also responsible citizens. To have an ecological behaviour means to be environmentally friendly, rationally consuming resources, nurturing respect for everything that is natural and clean.

The sport and the environment are inseparable, their relationship being marked by several significant moments:

- 1972, Munich Summer OG. The representatives of the National Olympic Committees brought and planted in the Olympic Park a tree from their country;
- 1992, Barcelona Summer OG. The National Olympic Committees signed the “Earth Package”;
- 1994, Lillehammer Winter OG. The IOC and the United Nations Environment Program signed a collaboration agreement.
- 1996, Atlanta Summer OG. The Olympic Charter have been amended to concludes a paragraph concerning the environmental protection “... the IOC watches that the OG to be organised



responsibly towards environmental issues”. The commission “Sports and Environment” was also created within the IOC.

- 1999, the “Olympic Movement Agenda 21” was adopted;
- 2000, Sydney Summer OG. The environmental issues were integrated into decision-making processes;
- 2002, Salt Lake City Winter OG. An integrated environmental management system has been launched, with particular emphasis on the recycling of desert areas, the reduction of pollutant emissions and reforestation;
- 2004, Athens Summer OG. A program for resizing sports facilities has been developed, for the creation of an ecological national park in the area of the Schinias.
- In **2006**, the Turin winter edition reached a record in terms of greenhouse gas offsets as 70% of the emissions resulted during the Games were reduced through environmental and sustainable development projects;
- In **2008**, the Beijing Summer Olympics marked the start, as well, of a project for the urban transformation and improvement of air and water quality by moving polluting industries out of the city. Also, after the closing of the Games, the water from the Olympic swimming pool was used for plants and flowers in the central park of the Chinese city;
- In **2010**, the Vancouver Winter Olympics brought environmental care to the spotlight. Part of the sports infrastructure benefited from the wood from the forests destroyed by the infestation with mountain pine beetles. Rainwater fed toilets from all Olympic Village during the Games;
- In **2012**, the London edition came up with one of the most ambitious plans for sustainable development and environmental protection. One of the most visible achievements of London 2012 was the creation of the Olympic Park on an industrial land contaminated in the past, which became the largest urban park in Europe. Also, more than half of the materials used were recycled materials. A unique thing was also the Olympic Park Energy Center, which was built for sustainability, using innovative biomass boilers that burn wood chips and other sustainable fuels to provide heating and cooling to buildings throughout the Olympic Park;
- In **2014**, the Sochi winter edition came with many challenges, especially by choosing a natural national park with the greatest diversity of Russian species to host the Olympic edition. Unfortunately, a large part of the Natural Park was affected by the constructions occurred for



the Olympic competition, so the Organizing Committee thus failed to fulfill the promises in the application file on environmental protection and sustainable development;

- In **2016**, the Rio de Janeiro Olympics had a major challenge concerning the environmental protection program. Although there were many stages to implement, the Rio 2016 sustainability program followed best practices and was fully met. The use of various technologies played an important role, and this led to a visible reduction in carbon emissions;
- In **2018**, the PyeongChang Winter Olympics brought up a sustainable program to strengthen the local economy, celebrate diversity, promote innovation and education through sports, both during the Games and outside the competition;
- In **2020**, the Tokyo Summer Olympics came up with an ambitious plan for environmental protection and sustainable development. “Be better together - For the planet and people” was the sustainability concept of the Games. Technology played an even greater role, and the biggest challenge in implementing this program has been the coronavirus pandemic.



## 2020 OLYMPIC AGENDA

The 2020 Olympic Agenda is a set of 40 recommendations that reveal the strategic path for the future of the Olympic Movement. The recommendations were discussed and voted unanimously between 8th and 9th of December, 2014 at the 127th IOC Session in Monaco, where the IOC Executive Board had the task of determining priorities for their implementation.

The idea of the 2020 Agenda and the recommendations emerged from the desire for a greater openness, a better understanding and transparency of the IOC.

Therefore, after dealing with various topics, the 14 working groups proposed 40 recommendations aiming to shape the future of the Olympic Movement. As a vision of the Olympic Movement, they have been implemented in the following years.

These recommendations were built around five important themes as follows:

**I. The uniqueness of the Olympic Games**

**II. Athletes, the heart of the Olympic Movement**

**III. Olympism in action. How to keep Olympism alive 365 days a year**

**IV. The role of the IOC: unity in diversity**

**V. Structure and organization of the IOC**

## THE IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS OF THE 2020 OLYMPIC AGENDA

85% of the recommendations of the 2020 Olympic Agenda have been met. This is the conclusion reached at the Advisory Meeting of the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee in December, 2020. The 2020 Olympic Agenda led to profound changes and great progress within the Olympic Movement and set a solid foundation for the future.

### Olympic Games

- The IOC has completely reformed the way the Olympic Games are awarded by introducing the two future host commissions, winter and summer, making the whole procedure more cooperative and directed. By maximizing the use of existing or temporary infrastructure,

addressing service levels and other measures, the IOC has significantly reduced the organizing costs of the Olympic Games.

- Gender equality will be achieved at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, with exactly the same number of participating male and female athletes. At the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, the rate of 48.8% of participating women was reached. At the London 2012 Olympics, before the 2020 Olympic Agenda, women accounted for 44.2%.

### **Athletes**

- Over 100,000 Olympians, elite athletes and members of their entourage have signed up for Athlete365, a multilingual one-stop shop and a dedicated platform providing specially adapted programs and resources in six languages.
- The Sports Harassment and Abuse Prevention initiative was adopted and implemented at each edition of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympic Games, providing a rescue framework that includes an educational component, a rescue officer and a reporting process.

### **Protection of sober athletes**

- As a result of the 2020 Olympic Agenda, \$ 60 million have been invested in protecting clean athletes.

### **Good governance**

- The memorandums of Understanding with INTERPOL, the United Nations Drug and Crime Office and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development encourage cooperation with governments on sports credibility. Together with its partners, the IOC developed new guidelines to mitigate the risks of corruption.
- The independence of the IOC Ethics Commission was strengthened by the IOC session when the chair and members of the Commission were elected. The majority of Commission members is independent of the sports movement.

### **Solidarity**

- The IOC shares 90% of its revenues with the Olympic Movement.





- During the 2020 Olympic Agenda, the budget allocated to Olympic Solidarity to support athletes and the National Olympic Committees was increased by 90% for the 2021-2024 Olympiade.
- During the coronavirus crisis, the IOC actively supported the athletes, the NOCs and the international federations through an additional aid program. This supported more than 1.600 athletes with Olympic scholarships for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, allowing them to continue their preparations for the Olympic Games postponed for the following year.
- The IOC created the IOC Refugee Olympic Team. Supported in their preparation by the *Olympic Solidarity*, 10 athletes competed for the first time at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, sending a message of hope to refugees and displaced people around the world. Olympic Solidarity has supported a group of more than 50 refugees. 29 athletes joined the Olympic Team at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

### **The importance of sport in society**

- The IOC and the UN signed a memorandum of mutual understanding at the beginning of the 2020 Olympic Agenda, and that led to the highest level cooperation ever.

- In the resolution setting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, sport was recognized as an “important factor in a sustainable development”.
- The IOC has extended its collaboration with the World Health Organization by signing a cooperation agreement in the middle of the global coronavirus pandemic. The agreement strengthens the joint efforts of the IOC and the WHO to promote a healthy lifestyle, including the physical activity and sport, as a tool for global health, and in line with the goal of sustainable development. This found its expression in a global campaign called #HealthyTogether, which is a common brand of IOC, UN and WHO.
- The IOC consolidated its commitment to inclusion by signing a long-term agreement with the International Paralympic Committee, taking the partnership to a new level by at least 2032. This cooperation ensures the organization of the Paralympic Games and provides the financial stability of the IPC as the governing body of the Paralympic sport. As part of the agreement, the IOC will continue to require any Olympic Games host to organize the Paralympic Games, as well.
- The Olympic House, the new home of the IOC, inaugurated in 2019, is one of the most sustainable buildings in the world.
- The IOC is now a carbon-neutral organization and is committed to becoming a positive climate organization by 2024.
- As part of its commitment to move from a carbon-neutral organization to a climate-positive organization, the IOC will contribute, with the support of the UN Environment Program, to the Great Green Wall project - the emblematic initiative of the African Union to combat the effects of desertification - by planting an “Olympic forest” starting with 2021.

### **Gender equality**

- Today, the number of women in the IOC is 37.5%, up from 21% at the beginning of the 2020 Olympic Agenda. The representation of women on the IOC Executive Board is 33.3%, compared to 26.6%. Women represent 47.8% of the IOC commission members, compared to 20.3%.
- IOC has asked all NOCs to include at least one woman and one man in their teams, for the first time in history, at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. The guidelines of the IOC protocol have



been modified to allow one female athlete woman and one male athlete from each National Olympic Committee to be the flag bearers together during the opening ceremony.

### **Olympic Channel**

- A digital strategy has been implemented, since the launch in 2016 of the Olympic Channel, the “always on” platform to connect the Olympic Movement with the general public.



## **2030 AGENDA**

At the September 2015 Summit on sustainable development, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, a comprehensive global development action program that promotes balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental.

The 2030 Agenda includes 17 sustainable Development Goals, informally brought together under the name of Global Goals. An Agenda for Action for the next 15 years was set this way to eradicate extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and protect the planet until 2030.



The UN has recognized the contribution of sport to development and peace many years ago. Collaboration between the International Olympic Committee and the UN has played a central role in promoting sport as a means of achieving internationally agreed development goals. In 2015, sport was officially included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and was considered an “important facilitator” for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the plenary meeting of the General Assembly in July, 2020, the United Nations adopted, by mutual agreement, a resolution reaffirming the role of sport as a global accelerator of peace and sustainable development for all and in building global resilience to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

The resolution was submitted during the debate on the Secretary General’s biennial report: “Sport: a global accelerator of peace and sustainable development for all”. Prepared in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the report highlights the important role of physical activity and sport in mitigating the pandemic impact on health and well-being. It also considers ways to build global resilience to counter future shocks through investment and innovation in sport and sport-related policies.

A very important point is that the resolution acknowledges the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on all aspects of sport and encourages “the UN Member States to include sport and physical activity in COVID-19 recovery plans, to integrate sport and physical activity in national strategies for sustainable development, observing the contributions that sport brings to health, in order to promote safe sport as a contributor to the health and well-being of individuals and communities”.



At the same time, the resolution approves the Olympic Charter and the principle of non-discrimination and “supports the sport independence and autonomy, as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic Movement and the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic Movement.”



## 2020+5 AGENDA

The new IOC strategy was adopted unanimously on 12 March, 2021 at the IOC Session. Consisting of 15 recommendations, it is based on the achievements of the 2020 Olympic Agenda and shall guide the work of the IOC and the Olympic Movement for the next five years. The recommendations are:



- Strengthen the uniqueness and the universality of the Olympic Games
- Foster sustainable Olympic Games
- Reinforce athletes' rights and responsibilities
- Continue to attract best athletes
- Further strengthen safe sport and the protection of clean athletes
- Enhance and promote the Road to the Olympic Games
- Coordinate the harmonisation of the sports calendar
- Grow digital engagement with people
- Encourage the development of virtual sports and further engage with video gaming communities
- Strengthen the role of sport as an important enabler for the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Strengthen the support to refugees and populations affected by displacement
- Reach out beyond the Olympic community
- Continue to lead by example in corporate citizenship
- Strengthen the Olympic Movement through good governance
- Innovate revenue generation models

*„To be the first, to surpass  
yourself, to respect the  
opponent! These are the  
essential teachings of the  
Olympism.”*

**Pierre de Coubertin**

III

OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

## OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

The Olympic Movement - whose vision revolves essentially around the Olympic Games - is the established, organized, universal and permanent action exercised under the supreme authority of the IOC, of all the persons and entities inspired by the values of Olympism.



### OLYMPIC CHARTER

IN FORCE AS FROM 17 JULY 2020



The aim of the Olympic Movement is to help building a better and more peaceful world by educating young people through the practice of sports in accordance with Olympism and its values. It extends to all continents. The Olympic Movement reaches its climax during the reunion of world athletes at the great sports festival represented by the Olympic Games. Its *symbol* consists of the five chained rings (*Olympic Circles*).

Sport encourages diversity in a cultural world. Everyone should have the opportunity to practice sports in an Olympic spirit, without any



discrimination based on religion, sex, race or political affiliation, which implies mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity and fair play. Any form of discrimination against a person or a country, for various reasons, is incompatible with the membership in the Olympic Movement. Membership in the Olympic Movement requires compliance with the Olympic Charter and acceptance by the IOC.

The Olympic Charter is the codification of the fundamental principles of Olympism, the rules and implementing texts adopted by the IOC. It governs the organization, actions and functioning of the Olympic Movement and sets the conditions for the celebration of the Olympic Games. Any person or organization belonging to the Olympic Movement is bound by the provisions of the Olympic Charter and must comply with the decisions of the IOC.

The three main parts of the Olympic Movement are the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Sports Federations (IF) and the National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

In addition to the three constituent parts listed, the Olympic Movement also includes the Organizing Committees of the Olympic Games (OCOGs), the Associations of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), athletes whose interests are the fundamental element of the Olympic Movement, as well as referees, coaches and other officials, and sports technicians. It also includes other organizations and institutions approved by the IOC.

Since the beginning, the Olympic Movement has developed rapidly (the number of affiliated countries has grown steadily), the IOC reaching today more member states (206) than the United Nations (193). The desire, shown by so many countries, to integrate in the Olympic Movement is not only proof of the interest raised among athletes, but also of the adherence to the ideals of peace, respect, perseverance, understanding and friendship that Olympism has always represented and promoted.

## INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

The International Olympic Forum was established soon after the International Athletic Congress held at the University of Sorbonne (one of the most prestigious universities in the world) in Paris, on June 23, 1894, through the efforts made by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who is responsible for the initiative to revive the Olympic Games of ancient Greece. The IOC is headquartered in Chateau de Vidy (since 1968) in the city of Lausanne (symbolically named "*Olympic Capital*" in 1994) in Switzerland.

The International Olympic Committee is a permanent international non-governmental, non-profit organization, operating in the form of an association with legal status, recognized by the Swiss federal court.

The IOC is the guiding force and, at the same time, the ultimate authority in the Olympic Movement, owning all the rights to the Olympic properties in terms of Symbol, Flag, Motto, Anthem, Emblem, Flame and Olympic Torch.

The main responsibility of the International Olympic Committee is to promote Olympism, organize, conduct and supervise the Summer and Winter Olympics, as well as the Youth Olympic Games. The official languages of the IOC are French and English.

The IOC is involved in a variety of activities that encourage peace, the practice of sports across the world, the promotion of fair play, the fight against violence and discrimination.



## MISSION AND ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

The IOC's mission is to promote the fundamental principles and core values of Olympism around the world and to lead the Olympic Movement.

The role of the IOC is to:

- encourage and support the promotion of ethics in sport, as well as the education of young people through sport in the spirit of fair play, prohibiting violence, unfairness and doping;
- stimulate and support the organization, development and coordination of sport and sports competitions;
- ensure the regular celebration of the classic Olympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games;
- collaborate with the competent public or private organizations and authorities, in order to put sport at the service of humanity and to support peace;
- act in order to strengthen the unity and protect the independence of the Olympic Movement;
- oppose to any form of discrimination that would affect the Olympic Movement;
- encourage and support the promotion of women in sport, at all levels and in all structures, with a view to implementing the principle of equality between men and women;
- lead the fight against doping in sport;
- encourage and support measures to protect the health of athletes;
- oppose the abusive, political or commercial use of sport and athletes;
- encourage and support the efforts of sports organizations and public authorities to ensure the social and professional future of athletes;
- stimulate and support the development of sports for everybody;
- encourage and support a responsible approach to environmental issues, promote sustainable development in sports, and require that the Olympic Games are held accordingly;



- promote a positive legacy of the Olympic Games for host cities and countries;
- encourage and support initiatives that make sports part of culture and education;
- stimulate and support the activities of the International Olympic Academy (IOA) and other institutions dedicated to the Olympic education.

## **PRESIDENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

In more than 100 years since the establishment of the International Olympic Committee, only nine personalities have so far held the position of President.

They are:

1894-1896	Demetrius Vikelas, Greece
1896-1925	Baron Pierre de Coubertin, France
1925-1942	Count Henri de Baillet-Latour, Belgium
1946-1952	Juhamnes Sigfrid Edstrom, Sweden
1952-1972	Avery Brundage, United States of America
1972-1980	Lord Killanin Michael Morris, Ireland
1980-2001	Marquis Juan Antonio Samaranch, Spain
2001-2013	Jacques Rogge, Belgium
2013-	Thomas Bach, Germany

## **MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

The IOC members are individuals, personalities of international sport life, and their number cannot exceed 115. They represent and support the interests of the International Olympic Forum and the Olympic Movement in their countries, but also in the organizations they serve. Their term of office is eight years and they can be re-elected for one or more terms. The age limit is 70 years old.

The IOC currently has 103 active members, 44 honorary members, an honorable member. Up to his pass away, in August 2021, Honorary President was Jacques Rogge. The honorary members and the honour member are elected for life. However, they do not have the right to vote.



In 1981, Flor Isava Fonseca from Venezuela was the first woman to have the chance to enter the international Olympic structures as an active member of the IOC, and in 2021 the number of women reached 37.

## SESSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

The session represents the general assembly of the IOC members. It is the supreme body of the IOC, and its decisions are final. The Ordinary Session shall be held once a year, and the Extraordinary Session may be convened by the President or at the written request of at least one-third of the members of the IOC.



The Sessions elect the members of the IOC, the President, the Vice-Presidents and the other members of the Executive Committee, the Honorary President, the Honorary members and the Honour members; decide the host city of the upcoming Olympic Games; establish the city in which the Ordinary or Extraordinary Session will take place (the President has the authority to determine the city in which it will take place); the the IOC's annual report and balance sheets are approved; they are called the IOC censurers; decide the affiliation or disaffiliation of the National Olympic Committees to the IOC, of the Associations of the National Olympic Committees, the International Sports Federations, the Associations of the International Sports Federations, but also of other organizations; exclude the IOC members or withdraw the status of Honorary President; decide on all issues assigned to it by law or by the Olympic Charter.

At the Session, the President of the IOC shall be elected from among its members, by secret vote, for a term of eight years, which may be renewed once for a term of four years.

## OLYMPIC CONGRESS

The Olympic Congress is organized when the members are convened by the IOC President. The Olympic Congress brings together representatives of the constituent parts of the Olympic Movement, at intervals



determined by the IOC, having an advisory role. The members, the Honorary President, honorary and honour members of the IOC, as well as delegates representing the International Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees participate in the Olympic Congress; it may also bring together representatives of the organizations approved by the IOC. In addition, the Olympic Congress is attended by athletes and personalities invited in person or as representatives.

The IOC Executive Board sets the agenda for the Olympic Congress after consulting the International Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees.

The Olympic Congresses are scheduled on a regular basis. The place and date are set at the IOC Session. Over the 100 years of existence, 13 Olympic Congresses have been organized. The first one took place in 1894 in Paris, and the most recent in 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

## COMMISSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

The IOC commissions have been set up to advise the Session, the Executive Committee or the IOC President when appropriate.

The IOC President is a full member of all committees or working groups. The IOC President sets up the working groups called commissions (29 in number) to deal with specific issues. Among these we mention a few: the “Olympic Solidarity” commission, the “Women in sport” commission, the medical commission, the athletes commission, the “Olympic culture and education” commission, the ethics commission, the “Sport and environment” commission, the “Sport for all” commission, the commission for international relations, the commission for Olympic programs, the “Olympic Channel” commission, the “Sustainability and Legacy” commission.



## OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY

The purpose of Olympic Solidarity is to provide assistance to the National Olympic Committees, especially to those who request it. Assistance is in the form of specific programs developed jointly by the IOC and the NOCs, receiving technical assistance from International Sports Federations, if necessary. These programs are administered by the "Olympic Solidarity" Commission.

The objectives of the "Olympic Solidarity" programs are to contribute to:

- promoting the fundamental principles of Olympism;
- supporting the National Olympic Committees in preparing athletes and their teams for participation in the Olympic Games;
- developing the technical knowledge of athletes and coaches;
- improving, with the help of scholarships, in cooperation with the National Olympic Committees and the International Sports Federations, the technical level of athletes and coaches;
- training of sports administrators;
- collaborating with organizations and entities that seek to promote sports and Olympic education;
- encouraging bilateral or multilateral exchange programs between the National Olympic Committees.



## SPONSORSHIP OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

The sponsorship of the Olympic Games began on the date when the historic decision of holding the first modern Olympic Games in Athens was approved (1896). Prince Constantine of Greece formed a committee specially to promote the Athens Games and called on the Greek nation to voluntarily participate to the Olympic Games fund. George Averoff, a great Greek businessman, brought an important sponsorship to the restoration of the Panathenaic Stadium. Large sums of money were also raised from the sale of philatelic stamps and tickets to competitions.

Prior to 1920, a part of the IOC expenses were borne by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

Modern Olympic sport is actively supported by the business environment. Many multinational corporations have linked their names to the Olympic Movement, as sponsors of the International Olympic Committee for a certain period of time, sharing the same values.

Since 1985, at the initiative and personal involvement of the IOC President, at that time the Marquis Juan Antonio Samaranch, a special Olympic partnership program called "TOP program" has been implemented.

The Games attract billions of viewers in front of the TVs, helping to raise funds for the host country, with many sponsors and partners joining the Olympic Movement, thus supporting sports development.

Nowaday, the TOP partners of the Olympic Movement are: Airbnb, Alibaba Group, Allianz, Atos, Bridgeseone, Coca-Cola & Mengniu, Dow, GE, Intel, Omega, Panasonic, P&G, Samsung, Toyota, Visa.





## INTERNATIONAL SPORT FEDERATIONS

Each Olympic sport is managed by an International Sports Federation, establishing the rules and controlling their observance in the respective sports disciplines. The IOC awards the right of a total of 34 International Sports Federations to organize competitions for sports included in the program of the Summer Olympic Games and for seven International Sports Federations for sports included in the winter program. The Olympic program consists of sports, disciplines and events.

In addition to the traditional sports included in the Olympic programs, there are 33 sports recognized by the IOC. The decision to include a discipline or event in the Games program is the responsibility of the IOC.

Each IF has a status, practices and activities in accordance with the Olympic Charter, including the adoption and implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code. Subject to the above, each IF maintains its independence and autonomy in its own sports management.

The first International Sports Federations were established in the second half of the 19th century, before the creation of the IOC. For example, the International Gymnastics Federation was created in 1881, and the International Skating Union in 1892.

International Sports Federations:

- establish and implement, in accordance with the Olympic spirit, the rules for the practice of the sport concerned;
- ensures the development of the sport throughout the world;
- contribute to the achievement of objectives set by the Olympic Charter, in particular through the spread of Olympism and Olympic education;



- express its opinions on the technical aspects of the venues used for the Olympic events;
- establish the eligibility criteria for Olympic Games competitions, in accordance with the Olympic Charter;
- provide technical assistance in the implementation of Olympic Solidarity programs.



International Sports Federations are responsible for promoting sports, regulations, equipment, venue, referees etc..



Panathenaic Olympic Stadium

## NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

Each nation participating in the Olympic Games has its own National Olympic Committee, which is unique and conforms, without exception, to the Olympic Charter. It is the necessary criterion and mandatory for a NOC to be admitted by the IOC.

The National Olympic Committees have the exclusive competence to participate with a delegation of athletes in the summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games, in the regional, continental or world multi-sport competitions sponsored by the IOC.





The role of the National Olympic Committees is to develop and support the Olympic Movement in their countries, as follows:

- promotes the fundamental principles and values of the Olympism in their countries, supporting Olympic education programs at all levels (in schools, physical education and sports institutions and universities) and encouraging the creation of institutions dedicated to the Olympic education (National Olympic Academies, Olympic Museums), but also cultural programs related to the Olympic Movement;
- ensures compliance with the Olympic Charter in their countries;
- encourages the development of high performance sport as well as sport for all;
- helps training sports administrators by organizing courses, ensuring that they effectively contribute to the spread of the fundamental principles of the Olympism;
- acts against any form of discrimination and violence in sport;
- adopts and implements the World Anti-Doping Code.

The mission of the National Olympic Committees is to develop, promote and protect the Olympic Movement in their countries, according to the Olympic Charter.

There are currently 206 National Olympic Committees members of the International Olympic Committee.

## ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

The Association of National Olympic Committees was established to celebrate the foundation of the General Assembly held in June 1979 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The National Olympic Committees approved by the International Olympic Committee are affiliated to the ANOC. The National Olympic Committees belong to one of the following five continental associations:

Africa: Association of African National Olympic Committees - 53 states

America: Pan American Sports Organization - 41 states

Asia: Asian Olympic Council - 44 states

Europe: European Olympic Committees - 49 states - ROSC is a rightful member of the EOC.

Octavian Morariu was one of the EOC Executive Committee members between 2009 and 2015. And since 2021, Mihai Covaliu, president of the ROSC, is part of the EOC Executive Committee.

Oceania: Oceania National Olympic Committee - 17 states.

The mission of the ANOC is:

- to deal with all matters of general interest to the National Olympic Committees;
- to recognize and support continental associations approved by the IOC;
- to make recommendations for the development of the National Olympic Committees and to implement their objectives in connection with the national and international Olympic Movement;
- to collaborate with the IOC, the International Sports Federations, the National Olympic Committees, with other organizations and institutions interested in sports, physical and Olympic education, in accordance with the Olympic Charter.



# INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY

The International Olympic Academy acts as a multicultural interdisciplinary center that aims to study, to enrich and promote the Olympism.

The IOA was officially inaugurated on June 14, 1961 in Olympia, Greece, and brings together under its spiritual umbrella 149 National Olympic Academies from all continents. The first National Olympic Academy was established in Spain in 1968.

Originally, the activity of the International Olympic Academy was limited to the international sessions for the young participants. Since 1970, the IOA has gradually introduced new educational programs.

The variety of educational sessions, academic programs and in-depth research studies that are provided, enhances the vision of the Academy to explore and improve the contribution of the Olympism to humanity.

The purpose of the International Olympic Academy is to preserve and disseminate the Olympic spirit, to study and implement the educational and social principles of the Olympism, and to strengthen the scientific basis of the Olympic ideal in accordance with the principles defined by the ancient Greeks and the restorer of the contemporary Olympic Movement, Pierre de Coubertin.

The mission of the Academy is:

- to function as an International Academic Center for Olympic Studies and Research;



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY



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- to act as an international forum for free speech and the exchange of ideas between Olympic Family, intellectuals, scientists, athletes, sports administrators, educators, journalists and young people;
- to bring together people from all over the world, in the spirit of friendship and cooperation;
- to motivate people to use the experience and knowledge gained in the sessions organized to promote the Olympic ideas in their countries;
- to serve and promote the ideals and principles of the Olympic Movement;
- to cooperate and assist the National Olympic Academies and other institutions dedicated to Olympic education.

Featuring the intellectual expression of the Olympic Movement, the Academy offers students, academics, athletes, journalists and officials around the world the opportunity to exchange ideas and share that "state of mind" specific to the Olympism.

## THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN OLYMPIC ACADEMIES

The Association of European Olympic Academies was created in September 2018 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and the Romanian Olympic Academy is a founding member



along with 23 other member states. the EOA has currently 28 member states. The President of the European Olympic Forum is the German Manfred Lämmer, who is assisted in exercising his duties by Maria Bulatova from Ukraine and Lozan Mitev from Bulgaria as Vice Presidents. The headquarters of this Olympic forum is in Frankfurt, Germany.

The discussions on a possible European organization to bring together the national Olympic academies from the old continent started in 2012, at a conference organized by the German Olympic Academy in Wiesbaden. After that reunion, two more European meetings have taken place in 2014 in Baku and in 2017 in Albena where the project of the association of European Olympic Academies has taken important steps. The dream came true in 2018 in Ljubljana. The project of the Association of European Olympic Academies has benefited from the constant support of the International Olympic Academy, as well as the European Olympic Committees.

The European Forum has four commissions: the Communication Commission, the Olympic Education Commission, the Development and Cooperation Commission and the Olympic Heritage Commission. The only ROA member in the Olympic education commission is Simona Tabără Amânar who has been elected at the 2019 Cyprus session as a member of this commission.

The Association of EOA aims to bring together continental Olympic academies to promote Olympic values, ideals and education through joint projects and exchange of experiences.



## THE OLYMPIC ARMISTICE

The Olympic armistice, in Greek "*ekecheiria*", is an ancient Greek tradition which enabled the organization of the Olympic Games for more than 1,200 years. In antiquity, the Olympic peace represented the temporary cessation of all wars for the development in good conditions of the Olympic Games in Olympia.

In the modern world, the Games were stopped by the two World Wars, and for that reason in 1992 the IOC would bring back to life the tradition of the ancient Olympic armistice. The Olympic armistice was revived by the 48/11 United Nations Resolution of 25 October, 1993, as well as by



the United Nations Millennium Declaration on World Peace and Security.

Nowadays, before each summer or winter Olympic edition, the UN adopts a resolution called "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal", and the world states are asked to respect the Olympic arena and the attending athletes, and solve any international disagreement by peaceful and diplomatic means.



## OLYMPIC DAY

The Olympic Day is an international activity of the Olympic Movement whose purpose is to promote participation of all the people in sports regardless of age or sports skills. It is celebrated every year, on June 23, the day the IOC was founded at Sorbonne in 1894.

The idea of celebrating the "Olympic Day" was approved at the 42nd Session of the IOC, at St. Moritz in Switzerland, in 1948.

The "Olympic Day" was celebrated for the first time on June 23, 1948, and a number of nine National Olympic Committees hosted ceremonies in their countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Switzerland, Greece, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Uruguay and Venezuela.

In the Olympic Charter from 1978, the IOC recommends the National Olympic Committees for the first time to organize a regular "Olympic Day", in order to promote the Olympic Movement.

Since 1987, on "Olympic Day", at the impulse of the IOC, the National Olympic Committees, have been organizing run races to celebrate the Olympic Movement. The first "Olympic Day" Run took place over a distance of 10 km with the participation of 45 NOCs.

The idea of organizing events for an entire week was added to the 1990 edition of the Olympic Charter.



## OLYMPIC DAY



Children, young people, adults and the elderly participate in sports and cultural activities: run races, educational seminars, exhibitions, communication sessions, meetings with Olympic medalists, etc..

Based on three keystones, Move, Learn and Discover, the National Olympic Committees organize sports, cultural and educational activities.

Romania celebrated the Olympic Day for the first time in 1987 at Constanța. where 3,000 runners participated in the run organized on that occasion. Among them were Ion Draica (Olympic wrestling champion at the Los Angeles 1984 Olympics), Ilie Floroiu (Olympian athlete at the Montreal Olympics and Moscow Olympics in athletics) and Elena Frîncu (world vice-champion in handball).



## OLYMPIC MUSEUM

The Olympic Museum is the result of an idea born 99 years before its inauguration, with the founding of the International Olympic Committee in 1894. Baron Pierre de Coubertin was the initiator of the idea, but the one who managed to put this project into practice was the 7th President of the IOC, Marquis Juan Antonio Samaranch. The Olympic Museum was inaugurated in Lausanne on June 23, 1993.

The Olympic Museum was built of white Thassos marble to commemorate the Greek origins of the Olympic Games, and in order to integrate into the environment two of the five floors were built underground. The Museum's mission is to allow its visitors to understand the true dimension of the Olympic Movement.

Sport, arts and culture represent the three pillars of the Olympism, and the Museum area allows the association of these elements in a common space.

The halls of the Olympic Museum host permanent and temporary exhibitions, depending on the events. The exhibits allow visitors to experience emotions similar to those of the participants in the Olympic Games, to feel the desire and joy of victory.





From ancient exhibits to the library, reading room, historical archive, photographs, films, documents, objects, posters, mascots, souvenirs, equipment and medals donated by Olympic medalists, the museum impresses with its harmony between classic and modern.

In 1995, the Olympic Museum in Lausanne received from the Council of Europe the award "*European Museum of the Year*".

Jacques Rogge, the 8th President of the International Olympic Committee, said: "*The Olympic Museum is addressed to sports enthusiasts and, to the same extent, to those who want to know the Olympic Movement and are interested in history, culture and arts, and in the future of the contemporary society.*"

Recently, the Olympic Museum in Lausanne has been restored, reorganized and modernized.



## THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

The Paralympic Games are a sports competition for people with disabilities. The Paralympic movement started to be organized



**INTERNATIONAL  
PARALYMPIC  
COMMITTEE**

immediately after World War II. Thus, the first competitions were organized in 1948, at the same time as the Olympic Games in London, for wheelchair athletes, most of them war veterans. Since 1960, these competitions started to be organized on a regular basis. Starting with the 1992 Barcelona edition, the Paralympic Games are always held three weeks after the Olympics in the same host city, using the entire existing infrastructure.

The International Paralympic Committee, created in 1989, is in charge of organizing these competitions, as an institution in permanent contact with the IOC.

The first Paralympic winter edition was in 1976. In addition to the Paralympic Games, there are other competitions for athletes with hearing or cognitive impairments.

Romania made its debut at the Paralympic Games 1976. Cyclist Carol Eduard Novak is the most awarded Romanian athlete at a Paralympic edition, with a record of four medals, including a gold medal obtained in London in 2012 and three silver medals in 2008, 2012 and 2020. Judoka Alex Bologa follows him in ranking with two bronze medals obtained in 2016 and 2020.

*„In the glory days of  
Olympia, literature  
and arts harmoniously  
accompanied sport, which  
gave the Olympic Games a  
certain grandeur. This must  
be recurrent in all future  
Games.”*

**Pierre de Coubertin**

IV

MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES  
AND OLYMPIC SYMBOLS

## MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES AND OLYMPIC SYMBOLS

On June 23, 1894, at the Sorbonne University in Paris, during the International Athletic Congress held at the initiative of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the International Olympic Committee was set up, a body destined to deal with the preparation and development of the modern Olympic Games. At that time, Pierre de Coubertin, a teacher by profession, launched the idea that a complete and balanced education was the key to the future development of society: *“The Olympics are a great lesson of philosophy that humanity is giving itself. The Olympics are a reflection of happiness, perfection and love.”*

Today, the Olympic Games are, in addition to sports competition, a cultural, pedagogical and humanitarian event, constituting a link between Antiquity and the modern era. As in Antiquity, the OG value human qualities, the physical ability and the desire for self-transcendence above all.



The Olympic Games are rather a competition between athletes, participants in individual or team events, and not a contest between nations. The competition brings together qualified athletes (based on criteria) and invited athletes (based on allocation process) selected by the National Olympic Committees whose entries have been





Panathenaic Olympic Stadium

accepted by the IOC. The athletes compete under the technical leadership of the International Sports Federations.

The Olympic Games take place in various host cities every four years. Through this system of organization, which respects the idea of alternating and running the Games on all continents of the globe, their universality was pursued and achieved. The preceding scientific congresses, art exhibitions, prose and poetry contests, the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games, as well as the two weeks of live competitions, give a unique background, a moment of spiritual and organizational unity of the entire Olympic Movement.

The Olympic Games are classified into *Summer Olympic Games* or “*Olympiad Games*”, as they celebrate an “*Olympiad*” (four consecutive years, between two editions of the Olympic Games), organized at the beginning of it, and *Winter Olympics* (which allows only sports that are practiced on snow or ice). The Summer and Winter Olympics are the most important sports competitions in the modern world.

There are 32 editions in the history of modern Summer Olympics, of which only 27 were actually played. Although three editions did not take place for objective reasons (the two World Wars), they were numbered at the suggestion of Pierre de Coubertin, according to ancient tradition.

As a tribute to ancient Greece, after more than 1,500 years of interruption, the inauguration of the first Games was held on April 5, 1896, in Athens. At the Panathenaic Stadium - built of white marble (brought from Mount Penteli), King George I of Greece declared open the first edition of the modern Olympic Games. In the spirit of the ancient Greek tradition, women did not take part in these first Olympic competitions.

From that moment on, Greece officially stated its view that all future editions should take place on Greek soil, but the IOC did not consider this option, convinced by the need to universalize the Games to achieve its goals.

With very few exceptions, the conditions prevailing at the end of the 19th century did not allow athletes to access specialized and long-lasting training. For this reason, their participation in this first edition was determined by the desire for affirmation of those well-endowed from the physical point of view. Some of them were foreign students, travelling to Greece on holiday, and others just happened to be, at that time, in Athens. Of course, there were also trained athletes, familiar with international competitions, but for many of them the Olympic Games were still of no interest.

At the last summer edition of the Olympic Games, Tokyo 2020, the program included 33 Olympic sports (50 disciplines): athletics, badminton, basketball, baseball and softball, boxing, canoeing, rowing, horseback equestrian, sport climbing, cycling, football, gymnastics, golf, weightlifting, handball, hockey, judo, karate, wrestling, swimming, modern pentathlon, rugby sevens, fencing, skateboarding, surfing, taekwondo, tennis, table tennis, shooting, archery, triathlon, volleyball and yachting.

The Winter Olympics record 23 editions that have been held since 1924 until today (2021).

The first Winter Olympics took place in 1924 in Chamonix, France and doubled the summer Olympic Games.

For a better organization and media coverage, the IOC decided that the 1992 editions would be the last to be held simultaneously. In 1994, the first edition of the Winter Olympics was held



in Lillehammer (Norway), taking place in the second year after the Summer Olympics (Barcelona, 1992), this interchange became permanent.

At the last winter edition of the Olympic Games, PyeongChang 2018, the program included 7 Olympic sports (15 sporting disciplines): biathlon, bobsleigh and skeleton, curling, ice hockey, skating, luge and skiing.

The modern Olympic Games have survived the two World Wars, as well as other forms of political conflict. The two world conflagrations have prevented the 1916, 1940 and 1944 editions from taking place. Several countries have boycotted the Olympics in 1956, 1976, 1980, 1984. The boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow and respectively the Los Angeles 1984 Olympics (Cold War) was the climax of confrontation in the sports arena between the two superpowers: USA and USSR.

In our times, the Olympic Movement has often been challenged by vehement ethical accusations, especially related to doping cases among athletes, but also to corruption among some leaders of international sports forums.

Regardless of the large number of obstacles, the Olympic Movement emerged triumphant and became greater because of the solid moral foundation and its guiding core values. The Olympic Games have shown over time that they had the force to overcome all possible difficulties, and their consistency over time is a reality that brings confidence and positivity.

The whole humankind finds itself, at least once every four years, watching with emotion and joy the greatest sports show in the world. Every one of us identifies with the best of the best, wanting to be the fastest, to rise as high as possible and to be the strongest. When our own representatives walk up the Olympic podium, the feeling of national pride rounds up the emotional experience.

## HOST CITIES OF THE SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

1896	Athens (Greece)
1900	Paris (France)
1904	Saint Louis (USA)
1908	London (Great Britain)
1912	Stockholm (Sweden)
1916	undisputed
1920	Antwerp (Belgium)
1924	Paris (France)
1924	Amsterdam (Netherlands)
1932	Los Angeles (USA)
1936	Berlin (Germany)
1940	undisputed
1944	undisputed
1948	London (Great Britain)
1952	Helsinki (Finland)
1956	Melbourne (Australia)
1960	Rome (Italy)
1964	Tokyo (Japan)
1968	Mexico City (Mexico)
1972	Munich (Germany)
1976	Montreal (Canada)
1980	Moscow (USSR)
1984	Los Angeles (USA)
1988	Seoul (Republic of Korea)
1992	Barcelona (Spain)
1996	Atlanta (USA)
2000	Sydney (Australia)
2004	Athens (Greece)
2008	Beijing (People's Republic of China)
2012	London (UK)
2016	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
2020	Tokyo (Japan)
2024	Paris (France)
2028	Los Angeles (USA)
2032	Brisbane (Australia)

## HOST CITIES OF THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

1924	Chamonix (France)
1928	Saint Moritz (Switzerland)
1932	Lake Placid (USA)
1936	Garmisch Partenkirchen (Germany)
1940	undisputed
1944	undisputed
1948	Saint Moritz (Switzerland)
1952	Oslo (Norway)
1956	Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy)
1960	Squaw Valley (USA)
1964	Innsbruck (Austria)
1968	Grenoble (France)
1972	Sapporo (Japan)
1976	Innsbruck (Austria)
1980	Lake Placid (USA)
1984	Sarajevo (Yugoslavia)
1988	Calgary (Canada)
1992	Albertville (France)
1994	Lillehammer (Norway)
1998	Nagano (Japan)
2002	Salt Lake City (USA)
2006	Turin (Italy)
2010	Vancouver (Canada)
2014	Sochi (Russia)
2018	Pyeongchang (Republic of Korea)
2022	Beijing (People's Republic of China)
2026	Milano Cortina (Italy)



# SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

The Summer Olympics (or the Games of the Olympiad) take place every four years. The interval of four consecutive years between two editions of the Olympics is called “Olympiad”. The history of the Summer Olympics began in 1896 and only the Two World Wars interrupted their course, and the coronavirus pandemic caused the 2020 Tokyo Olympic edition to be postponed for the following year.

## ATHENS, GREECE, 1896

Ancient Greece was the birthplace of the Olympic Games, so the 1894 International Athletics Congress in Paris established the organization of the first modern edition in Athens in 1896. The women were not admitted to enter the competitions of the inaugural edition. Great Britain, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Denmark, Switzerland, France, Germany, USA, Sweden, Hungary and Greece, the host country, were the nations present at this first edition. 241 athletes competed in athletics, cycling, artistic gymnastics, weightlifting, Greco-Roman wrestling, swimming, fencing, tennis and shooting.



The games took place under the patronage of King George I of Greece.

*The Olympic anthem* was first sung on March 25, 1896 (Greek Independence Day) at the opening ceremony held on the Panathenaic Stadium, in the interpretation of a choir with members from the Greek music societies. The song performance generated enthusiasm among the spectators who requested an encore. The first Olympic champion of the modern Olympics was the American athlete James Brendan Bennet Connolly, who won the triple jump. Greek athlete Spiridon Louis won the 40 km marathon, organized on the same route (from Marathon to Athens) that the hoplite Filippides had crossed 2,386 years ago (490 BC) to announce the victory of Athenians over the Persians (the route was about 34.5 km).



The most awarded athlete of the Games was the gymnast Hermann Weingartner from Germany, who won three gold, two silver and one bronze medal.

At the first edition, winners received wreaths of olive branches from the organizers.

## ■ PARIS, FRANCE, 1900



The IOC decided that the second edition of the modern Olympic Games should be hosted in Paris, as a recognition of Pierre de Coubertin's efforts to revive modern Olympism. The Olympic Games were included in the trade and entertainment events of the World's Fair. The Olympic competitions accompanied the exhibition over the entire period (more than five months), throughout the city, and their importance was diminished by the great expanse of time. Athletes from 24 countries participated in the Games. Their organization in another country provoked objections



from the Greek sports forums, which wanted the Olympic competitions to take place only across Greece's territory.

Football, rowing, yachting and equestrian events (men's events) were then introduced in the Olympic program of the Games.

Women attended the Olympic competitions for the first time, in golf and tennis. Tennis female player Charlotte Cooper from Great Britain became the first Olympic champion in the Games history.

The most medaled athlete of this edition was the American athlete Alvin Kraenzlein who won four gold medals in sprint on the distance of 60 m, 110 m and 200 m hurdles, and also in the long jump.

The Games did not have opening and closing ceremonies, and no medals were offered to the winners.



## ■ SAINT LOUIS, USA, 1904

The Olympic competitions in the state of Missouri were included in the program of the International Fair, organized to celebrate the reclaiming of the Louisiana territory from the French. Pierre de Coubertin did not participate in this edition of the Games. Due to transportation costs, only 12 delegations attended, and the dominance of American athletes was evident.

For the first time in the history of athletics, the jury decided to sanction the wrong start (so the one who failed, took the start one meter behind the other competitors).

Boxing, wrestling and decathlon were launched in the Olympic program.

The hero of the edition was the American gymnast Anton Heida, who won six medals: five gold and one silver.





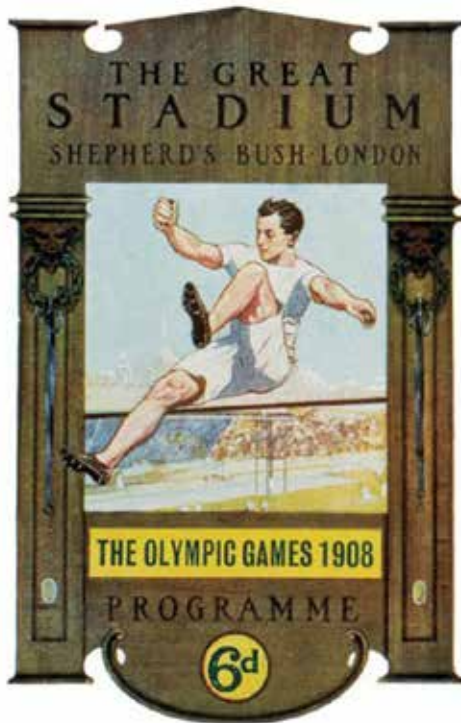
It was the first edition of the modern Olympic Games in which the top three winners were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals.

In 1906, the IOC approved the organization of an interim edition in Athens to mark the 10th anniversary of the Olympic Games' revival. However, the recorded results were deemed unofficial.

The most successful athletes were: the American gymnast George Eyser who won six medals (three gold, two silver and one bronze) and the American cyclist Burton Downing who won six medals (two gold, three silver and one bronze).

## ■ LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN, 1908

Initially, this edition had to be hosted by Rome, but due to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1906, which devastated the city of Naples (located 10 km east of it), the Italians could not financially support the Games (the funds being allocated to rebuilding the affected city). Athletes from 22 countries attended this edition in London. Finland and Turkey made their debut at the Games.



During the opening ceremony, the parade of the delegated nations marched for the first time. Australia and New Zealand presented themselves as a single delegation under the name "*Australasia*". The organizers have built and arranged a stadium and a swimming pool especially for these Games.

Figure skating, javelin throwing, diving, field hockey and football were launched in the Olympic program. The athletic competitions included the relay race, where the athletes ran over 200 m, 400 m and 800 m, and the



discus throw was performed following the standing (ancient Greek) technique and the spin (modern) technique.

The Englishman Henry Taylor became three-time Olympic swimming champion and was called the “*star of the competition*” by the press of the time. American athlete Melvin Sheppard also won three gold medals.

The aphorism “*the important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning, but taking part,*” was launched here at a religious service by the Bishop of Pennsylvania, Ethelbert Talbot. This aphorism was taken over and modified by Pierre de Coubertin.

## ■ STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, 1912

It was the first edition in which athletes from all five continents participated, with the presence of 28 countries. Japan’s Olympic delegation participated in the Olympic Games for the first time.

The first art and literature competition (sculpture, literature, architecture, music and painting) took place here, and the literary contest has been won by Pierre de Coubertin (under the pseudonyms Georges Hohrod and Martin Eschbach from Germany) with his work “*Ode to Sport*”.

The Olympic program included modern pentathlon and women’s swimming and water diving competitions. The boxing competition remained undisputed, as the Swedish law prohibited the practice of the sport at the time.

Electronic timing, photo finish (photo on arrival) and a sound system were used.

The star of the Games was the Finnish athlete Hannes Kolehmainen who competed in six cross-country races, winning three gold medals (5,000 m, 10,000 m and individual cross country) and one silver (team cross country).

The most titled sportsman of the edition was the Swede G. Vilhelm Carlberg, who won three gold and two silver medals in shooting.



American athlete Jim Thorpe won the pentathlon and the decathlon. Subsequently, the IOC withdrew his medals, as the athlete has been accused of playing baseball in a professional team. In 1972, the International Olympic Committee re-examined the case and decided to return the two gold medals, post-mortem.

This was the last edition where solid gold medals were awarded to the winners. The Modern Olympic medals are made of silver, coated with a thin layer of gold.

## ■ BERLIN, GERMANY, 1916

The 6th edition was to be hosted by the German capital, but did not take place due to the outbreak of the First World War.

Even though the edition did not take place, it was numbered, because Pierre de Coubertin considered that: *“an Olympiad may not be celebrated, but its number lasts in time. That was the ancient tradition.”*



## ■ ANTWERP, BELGIUM, 1920



Initially, this edition was to be hosted by the city of Budapest but, following the conclusion of Hungary's alliance treaty with Germany, got moved to Antwerp. 29 National Olympic Committees participated, but Austria, Bulgaria, Turkey, Hungary and Germany (the countries defeated in the First World War) were not invited to the Games. Argentina, Brazil, Monaco and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia) debuted at these Games.

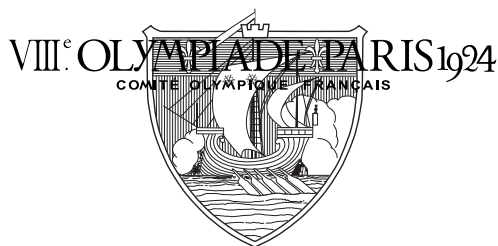
For the first time, the *Olympic Flag* was hoisted, the *Olympic Oath* was taken by an athlete (Victor Boin - fencing), pigeons were released as a symbol of peace, and the right to enroll athletes in the Games went to the National Olympic Committees.



There were competitions in figure skating and ice hockey, and korfbal was introduced as a demonstration sport.

The most awarded athletes of the edition were the Americans Willis A. Lee who won seven medals (five gold, one silver and one bronze) in shooting and Lloyd Spooner who won seven medals (four gold, one silver and two bronze) in shooting.

## ■ PARIS, FRANCE, 1924



It was the last edition of the Olympic Games that took place under the presidency of Baron Pierre de Coubertin. 44 Olympic delegations took part, including their representatives in athletics, boxing, rowing, cycling, equestrian events, football, gymnastics, weightlifting, swimming, wrestling, modern pentathlon, polo, rugby,

yachting, diving, fencing and shooting.

At this edition, *the Olympic motto* “*Citius, Altius, Fortius*” (“*Faster, higher, stronger*”) was introduced for the first time, as well as the closing ceremony ritual of raising the flags of the IOC, the host country and the country hosting the upcoming Games.

The Olympic competitions were broadcast live for the first time on the radio. The swimming competition took place in a 50 m long pool, delimited by distinct colors, marked with strips for each competitor. Women participated in the Olympic fencing competition (foil). This is where the tennis tournament took place for the last time, returning then at the Seoul 1988 Olympics Games edition. Demonstration sports were volleyball, baseball and Basque Pelota.



Ville Ritola

At this edition, the participants were accommodated for the first time in a space built of wood (some booths located around the stadium).

The stars of the edition were the Finnish athlete Paavo Nurmi (five gold medals) and Ville Ritola (four gold and two silver medals).

## ■ AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, 1928



Athletes from 46 countries participated in the 9th edition organized in the “*Land of tulips*”. Malta, Panama and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) participated in the Games for the first time. Competitions were organized in athletics, boxing, rowing, cycling, football, gymnastics, weightlifting, field hockey, wrestling, swimming, yachting, fencing and modern pentathlon.

It was the first edition to feature a program of competitions over a period of 16 days, which became standard for future Games. Prior to this edition, the competitions were extended over a period of several months.

Here the ceremony of igniting the *Olympic Flame* was initiated, and the parade of nations began with the delegation of Greece (the cradle of the Olympic Games) and ended

with the organizing country. It was the first edition to be called the “*Summer Olympics*”.

Women competed together with men in the athletic competitions (in a small number of events - 100 m, 800 m, 4x100 m, high jump and discus throw) and in gymnastics.

Gymnast Georges Miez from Switzerland was the most awarded athlete of the edition, successfully winning three Olympic titles and two silver medals.



## LOS ANGELES, USA, 1932

The "City of Angels", California's largest city, hosted the 10th annual Jubilee Summer Olympics. Due to its positioning, high travel costs, but also the great economic crisis (1929-1930), the number of participants was reduced at only 37 Olympic teams. Columbia debuted at the Games. The European athletes traveled by boat to New York, crossing from there the American continent by train (it took them three weeks to travel) to finally reach the host city of the Games.

At this edition, in the individual events, each National Olympic Committee had the right to enter a limited number of three athletes.

The athletes were accommodated in the *Olympic Village*, specially arranged for this competition (model for the upcoming Games), while the female athletes were accommodated at the hotel.

American football was the demonstration sport.

The awarding ceremony procedure for each of the events was established, due to take place immediately after the event was carried out. The first three ranked athletes walked up the podium, were awarded medals and raised the flags of their countries of origin while the national anthem of the winner was sung.

There was also a technological upgrade, as the electronic timing within 100ths of a second was introduced.

The greatest performers were the gymnast Romeo Neri from Italy and the swimmer Helen Madison from USA, each of them winning three gold medals.

# X<sup>TH</sup> OLYMPIAD

LOS ANGELES  
1932



## BERLIN, GERMANY, 1936

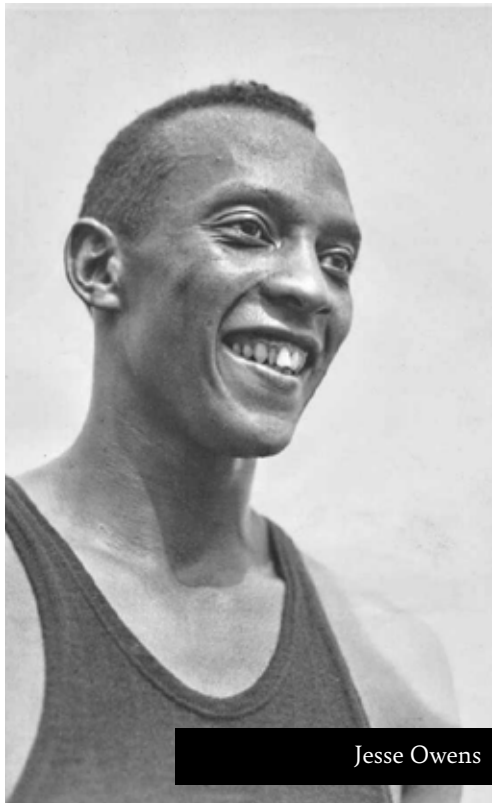
For the first time, the IOC's decision to grant Germany the organization of the Games led to political protests. It was the most controversial edition. The proposition was that the venue should be changed or the host country would have to face boycott, the protest being directed against the racist policy proclaimed by the ruling National Socialist government. However, 49 national Olympic

delegations attended, enrolling their athletes in 19 sports. Afghanistan, Bermuda, Costa Rica, Bolivia and Liechtenstein competed in the Games for the first time. The Games ceremony was opened by Adolf Hitler.

*The Olympic Flame and The Torch Relay* ceremony was introduced, based on the idea of Dr. Carl Diem. *The Olympic Flame* was lit in Olympia, and a torch was carried by relay on the territories of seven countries (Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Germany), before reaching the Olympic Stadium in Berlin.

The Olympic program included new sports such as: men's handball, basketball and kayak-canoe with men's and women's events. Demonstrative sports were baseball and wushu. The winners received medals, wreaths of olive branches and an oak tree seedling in a pot.

The star of the edition was the American athlete Jesse Owens, who won four Olympic titles in 100 m, 200 m, 4x100 m relay and long jump.



Jesse Owens



The Games were aired live on television (closed circuit) and the movie ("Olympia" - directed by Leni Riefenstahl) was broadcasted on 25 screens installed around Berlin. which allowed locals to watch the Games.

The most awarded athletes were the gymnasts Takshi Ono (Japan) who won six medals (three gold, one silver and two bronze) and Konrad Frey (Germany) who also won six medals (three gold, one silver and two bronze).

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 canceled the organization of the next two editions of the 1940 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, due to the conflict between China and Japan (relocated to Helsinki, Finland), and of the 1944 Summer Olympics in London, Great Britain.



## LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN, 1948

The 14th edition of the Olympic Games was organized after a break of 12 years. 59 Olympic teams participated in the “*Austerity Games*” (as they were called due to the post-war economic climate), whose representatives competed in 17 sports. Athletes from Burma, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Lebanon, Puerto Rico, Myanmar, British Guyana (Guyana), Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Korea, Pakistan, Singapore, Syria, Trinidad Tobago and Venezuela made their debut. Germany and Japan, held directly responsible for the outbreak of World War II, were banned from the Games. Russia did not want to send representatives.



The athletes were not accommodated in the *Olympic Village*, but in student dormitories and military camps (barracks), and the female athletes in London colleges.

The block start was introduced in the athletic sprint events (100 m - 400 m), and the swimming events took place in the first Olympic indoor pool.

The IOC decided to award diplomas to the top six in each event.

Athlete Fanny (Francina) Blankers-Koen from the Netherlands won four gold medals in the 100 m and 200 m, 80 m hurdles and the 4x100 m relay.

Athlete Alice Coachman (USA) was the first African-American female athlete to win the Olympic gold. She participated in the long jump.

This is where the first Summer Olympics full TV broadcast took place, although there were few people with a TV. It was the last edition where the art and literature contest was organized.

## HELSINKI, FINLAND, 1952

In the “*land of a thousand lakes*” 69 Olympic delegations were present. Israel, The Bahamas, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Netherlands Antilles, Nigeria, Thailand, Vietnam and USSR attended for the first time in the history of the Games.

Here started the “Numismatic Olympiad” and the first commemorative coin of the modern Olympic Games appeared, made between 1951-1952.

Mixed events were introduced for the first time in the equestrian competition and individual events for women in the artistic gymnastics competition.

*The Olympic flame* was lit by two of the most famous long-distance runners, Paavo Nurmi and Juho Peter Hannes Kolehmainen, known as the “Flying Finns”.

It was the first time when a woman, Estrella Puentes from Uruguay, carried the flag.

The star of the edition was Emil Zatopek (photo), known as the “Czech locomotive”, who won three gold medals in the 5,000 m, 10,000 m and marathon, a unique case in the Olympic history.

The most awarded female athlete was the gymnast Maria Gorokhovskaya from the USSR who won seven medals (two gold and five silver).



Emile Zatopek

As a curiosity, this edition of the Olympic Games has not been officially closed. The IOC president at the time, Zigfrid Edstrom, had a long and significant speech, but overwhelmed by emotion, he forgot to add the final words: “*I declare closed the 15th edition of the Olympic Games*”, as required by the Olympic Charter.



## ■ MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, 1956

It was the first edition to take place in the southern hemisphere (in Australia), outside of Europe and North America. At the “Friendship Games”, 72 National Olympic Committees accepted the invitation to participate. Athletes from Ethiopia, Fiji, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda and Malaysia debuted at the Games. There were countries that did not send representatives because of the Soviet oppression in Hungary



(the Hungarian anti-communist uprising in Budapest), but also due to the international crisis triggered by the Suez War (as France, Britain and Israel have been attacking Egypt for regaining control over the Suez Canal). East and West Germany marched together, as a single team (in this edition and the next two), under the black, red and yellow flag, with the imprinted *Olympic Circles*, in tune with the anthem “*Ode to Joy*”, from the 9th Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven.

For legislative reasons, regarding the entry of animals (horses) into Australian territory (which required a quarantine period of six months), the riding competitions took place in Stockholm, Sweden, in June (five months before the Games). It was a singular organizational derogation from the regulation, but it was the second time that an edition of the Games took place in two countries, following the Olympic yachting event from the 1920 Games in Antwerp (Belgium), actually held in Dutch waters. Along with the official sports included in the Olympic program, Australian football and baseball were present as demonstration sports.

The electric foil was introduced, and during the opening ceremony a work by the Polish composer Michel Spisak was sung as an anthem.

Until this edition, the athletes paraded at the closing ceremony grouped by country, but in Melbourne, starting from John Ian Wing’s idea, an Australian carpenter born in China, a change has been introduced. A decision was made that all athletes can parade together, not by nations, as a symbol of world unity.

The star of the edition was the gymnast Agnes Keleti (Hungary) who won four gold and two silver medals.



Agnes Keleti

## ROME, ITALY, 1960

Athletes representing 83 National Olympic Committees participated in the “*Eternal City*”. For the first time, athletes from Morocco, Sudan, San Marino and Tunisia participated in the Olympic competitions.

The Italians created a unique atmosphere and setting for sports competitions, using ancient vestiges. The gymnastics competitions took place inside the *Baths of Caracala*, the wrestlings took place between the walls of the *Basilica of Maxentius*, and the marathon route took place on *Via Apia*, with the arrival point under the *Arch of Constantine*.

Ethiopian Abebe Bikila (Amharic “*flower that grows*”) reedited the legend of the Marathon soldier, without a tragic ending. He ran barefoot and came first under the *Arch of Constantine*, becoming the Olympic marathon champion. Cassius Clay from the USA, known as Muhammad Ali,



triumphed in the boxing competition, winning the Olympic title.

The Olympic Games in Rome were broadcast live in some European countries, members of Eurovision.

The most awarded male athlete was the gymnast Boris Shakhlin from the USSR who won seven medals (four gold, two silver and one bronze).

## TOKYO, JAPAN, 1964

For the first time the Games were organized in the world of the Far East. In Japan, or the “*Land of Crysanthemum*”, a nation with an ancient culture and civilization, athletes from 93 countries competed in 19 sports. Algeria, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Ivory Coast, Dominican Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal and Senegal debuted at these Games.

Several records were registered at this edition, giving its symbolic name of “*The Olympics of Records*”.

It is the Japanese that actually have the expression “*A day without sports is a meal without rice*”.



The *Olympic flame* was lit, in a symbolic gesture, by Yoshinori Sakai (photo) - "*The Child of Hiroshima*", a young man born on August 6, 1945, the day when one of the two atomic bombs, dropped by the Americans, exploded at Hiroshima.

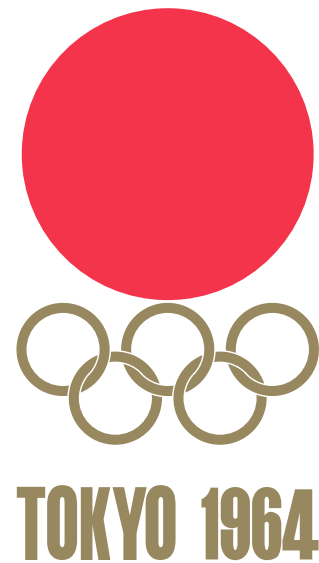
Men's judo, men's volleyball (women's also) and women's pentathlon were introduced for the first time in the Olympic program. The first women's team sport in the history of the Games was volleyball. It was the first time the pole vaulting poles were made of fiberglass instead of aluminium.

American Arthur Donald (Don) Schollander won four medals in swimming in the 100 m and 400 m freestyle, as well as in the 4x100 m and 4x200 m freestyle relays.

The games were broadcast live on televisions around the world.

The first IOC "*Fair Play*" Award given by the Japanese Olympic Committee, was offered to the Swedish brothers Lars Gunnar and Stig Lennart Kall, who showed a remarkable example of sportsmanship. They gave up the chance to win a yachting medal to help two competitors whose boat had sunk.

The most awarded athletes were the gymnasts from the USSR Boris Shaklin who won seven medals (four gold, two silver and one bronze) and Larisa Latynina who won six medals (two gold, two silver and two bronze).



Yoshinori Sakai

## ■ MEXICO CITY, MEXICO, 1968

It was the first edition of the Games hosted by Latin America and was attended by representative athletes from 112 National Olympic Committees. Athletes from Barbados, British Honduras (now Belize), the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guinea, Honduras, Kuwait, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Sierra Leone and the Virgin Islands participated for the first time.

The Olympic competition took place at an altitude of 2,300 m above sea level and was preceded by the Tlatelolco massacre, where some of the protesters, students and teachers, were killed by Mexican security forces, just 10 days before the opening ceremony.

The words “*We offer our friendship to all the peoples of the world*” were posted on the electronic board in the University Stadium.

The *Olympic Flame* was lit at Olympia, and the *Olympic Torch* relay followed the steps of Christopher Columbus (Italian-Spanish navigator), who almost five centuries ago had had his first expedition from Greece, through Italy and Spain to El Salvador, entering then Mexico, which is the New World (America). For the first time, the *Olympic Flame* was lit by a woman, Mexican athlete Enriqueta Basilio de Sotelo.

Manual and electronic timing was used in athletics, cycling, rowing, kayaking, swimming and horseback riding, but only electronic times were officially taken into account. In athletics, the running tracks were covered for the first time with a synthetic surface called “*tartan*”. Also, for the first time the winner was subjected to a doping control. Two demonstration sports were introduced: tennis and basque pelota.

Gymnast Vera Caslavka from Czechoslovakia won four gold and two silver medals. American and African athletes protested against racial discrimination. American sprinters Tommie Smith (1st place) and John Carlos (3rd place), walked - after the end of the 200 m race - up the award podium



barefoot (with no sneakers on, only black socks), with their heads bowed and their fist clenched and raised, dressed in a black glove, enacting the “*Black Power*” greeting. Their gesture was considered inappropriate to the Olympic standards and, therefore, they were expelled from the *Olympic Village*.

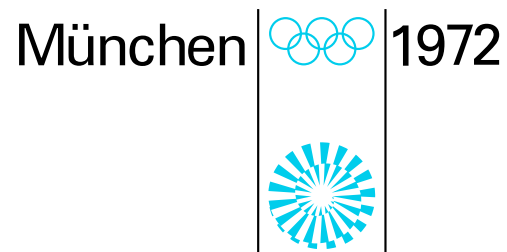
These were the first Games where the closing ceremony was color broadcasted around the world, the first to be hosted in a developing and a Spanish-speaking country.

## ■ MUNICH, GERMANY, 1972

The capital of Bavaria (in West Germany at that time) hosted the 20th edition of the Olympic Games. The official motto of the Games was “*Happy Games*”, with the chosen logo of a blue solar concept, (the “*Strong Sun*”), using the Dachshund “*Waldi*” as the *official mascot*. 121 Olympic delegations attended, whose representatives competed in 21 sports. Albania, Dahomey (now Benin), Gabon, North Korea, Lesotho, Malawi, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Swaziland (now Eswatini), Togo and Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso) attended the Summer Olympics for the first time. It was called the “*Short Distance Olympics*” due to the proximity of the sports venues.

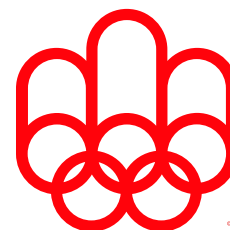
At this edition, the Olympic Oath was taken for the first time by referees and officials. The *Olympic Flame* was lit in Olympia (Greece) and a relay of almost 6,000 young people carried the torch until it reached the *Olympic Stadium*. After 52 years of absence, archery was reintroduced in the Games program (its first appearance was in 1920). Indoor handball and canoe slalom made their debut, and badminton and water skiing were the demonstration sports. The hero of this edition was the American swimmer Mark Spitz who won seven gold medals and broke as many world records. At this edition, the rooms of the Israeli athletes from the *Olympic Village* were taken by assault by a commando entitled “*Black September*” formed by eight Palestinian terrorists, who made 11 victims. The IOC president at the time, Mr. Avery Brundage appealed to participants, claiming that the “*Games must go on!*”. The competitions resumed after a 34-hour break.

The most awarded female athlete was the gymnast Ludmilla Ivanova Tourischeva from the USSR who won four medals (two gold, one silver and one bronze).



## ■ MONTREAL, CANADA, 1976

The edition hosted in Quebec entered the history of world sport through the exceptional evolution of the gymnast Nadia Comăneci. Athletes from 92 countries took part and it was the first time in the history of the Summer Games that the host country did not win at least a gold medal. This had happened before at the 1924 Winter Olympics in Chamonix and in 1928 at St. Moritz.



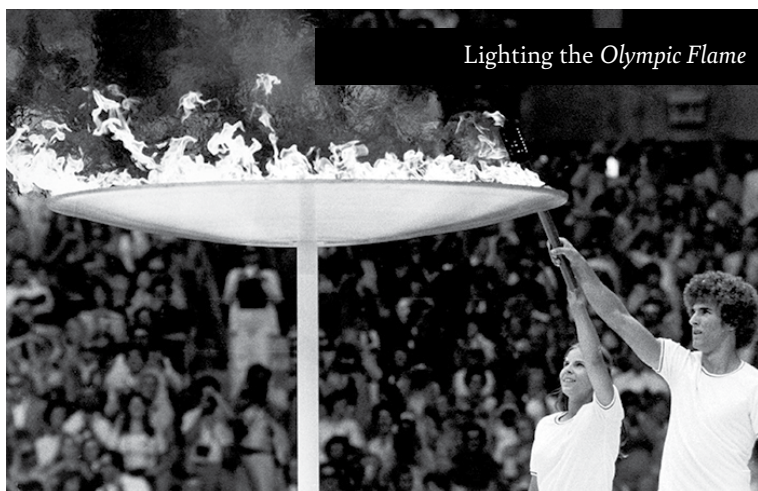
**Montréal 1976**

A boycott was organized by the African countries (22 states), which protested against the presence of the New Zealand rugby team at a competition in South Africa, where apartheid policy was in force. The only countries from Africa that did not boycott the Games were Senegal and the Ivory Coast.

After the *Olympic Flame* was lit at Olympia, it was carried by relay to Athens. A ceremony was held at the *Panathenaic Olympic Stadium*, which hosted the first edition of the Modern Olympic Games (1896), and a special laser beam system picked it up and transmitted it by satellite to Quebec, from where it continued its journey to Montreal.

Women's basketball, handball and rowing were introduced in the Games program. Field hockey was also played for the first time on a ground covered with synthetic material (artificial grass).

The most titled athlete of the Games was the Russian gymnast, Nikolay Andrianov, who won



seven medals (four gold, two silver and one bronze). The most awarded female athlete was Kornelia Ender from East Germany who won five medals (four gold and one silver).

A short artistic show carried out by the organizers of the next edition of the Moscow Olympic Games was part of the closing ceremony.

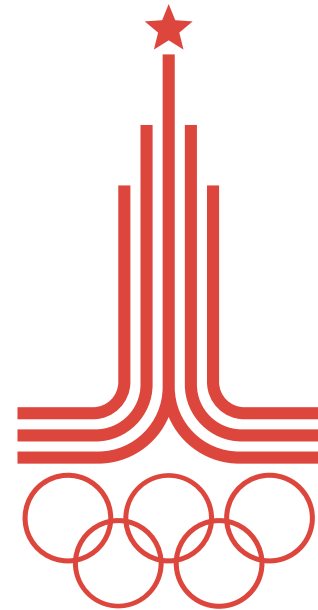


## ■ MOSCOW, USSR, 1980

It was the first edition organized in a socialist country in Eastern Europe. The United States launched a boycott in protest of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979. The decision was followed by 65 countries, with only 80 participating in the Games. Some countries supported the boycott, but allowed athletes to decide for themselves. Countries such as Angola, Botswana, Laos, Nicaragua, the Seychelles, Mozambique, Cyprus and Jordan made their debut.

The yachting competitions were held in Tallinn, and some of the preliminary matches and quarterfinals of the football tournament took place in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Kiev and Minsk.

Gymnast Aleksandr Ditiatin was the first athlete to win eight medals in a single edition (three gold, four silver and one bronze) and the first person in history to earn the mark 10 on the device called “*pommel horse*”. The most awarded female athlete was the swimmer Ines Diers from East Germany who won five medals (two gold, two silver and one bronze).



**MOCKBA 1980**

## ■ LOS ANGELES, USA, 1984



After 52 years, the state of California got to be again the host of the Summer Olympic Games. The Americans were actually the only ones who applied for their organization. This time there was a boycott initiated by the USSR, but only 14 Eastern European countries and Cuba chose not to participate in this edition. The exceptions were Romania (the signatory country of the Warsaw Pact), Yugoslavia and China. In the capital of the “*Wild West*”; athletes from 140 countries gathered to nominate their laureates for the 23 sports included in the Olympic program.



These were the first Games organized without any government funding. The organizers used advertising to cover the costs. Thus, the cycling races were held on “7-Eleven” velodrome, the swimming competitions in “McDonald’s” swimming pool etc..

At each sporting event, honorary diplomas were awarded to the first eight athletes ranked.

At these Games, two exclusively women’s events debuted in the Olympic program, unattainable by men: rhythmic gymnastics and synchronized swimming. Women’s marathon and road cycling events were also introduced in the Olympic program.

The most awarded male athlete of the edition was the gymnast Li Ning from the People’s Republic of China who won six medals (three gold, two silver and one bronze), and the most awarded female athlete was the Romanian gymnast Ecaterina Szabo who won five medals (four gold and one silver).

## ■ **SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 1988**

The Games were hosted by Republic of Korea for the first time. 159 National Olympic Committees joined this edition. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea), which wanted to co-host the Games, and Cuba did not participate in this edition. Aruba, American Samoa, Brunei, the Cook Islands, Guam, the Maldives, Vanuatu and South Yemen attended the Games for the first time. The motto of the Games was “*Harmony and Progress*”.

It was the most “*computerized*” edition, computers being used everywhere, from the transmission of results to the most different organizational and technical details. The television continuously and fully broadcast all sports competitions, from preliminary to final competitions, on 23 channels, one for each sport included in the Olympic program.



Table tennis made its debut, and field tennis returned in the Olympic program after a break of 64 years. Bowling, a little-known sport in Korea, was the demonstration sport along with badminton, baseball, women's judo and taekwondo.

Swedish fencer Kerstin Palm became the first female athlete to participate in seven editions of the Olympic Games.

Female swimmer Kristin Otto from East Germany won six gold medals (50 m freestyle, 100 m freestyle, 100 m butterfly, 100 m backstroke, 4x100 m freestyle and 4x100 m medley relay) in three different styles (crawl, backstroke and butterfly) and set four world records.

The most awarded athletes were: the American swimmer Matt Bondi who won seven medals (five gold, one silver and one bronze) and the Romanian gymnast Daniela Silivaş who won six medals (three gold, two silver and one bronze).

This edition led to the biggest doping scandal (with steroids) of the modern period, when Canadian athlete Ben Johnson has been disqualified, after winning the 100 m race, setting a new world and Olympic record.



## ■ BARCELONA, SPAIN, 1992

The capital of Catalonia, the city of residence of the IOC President (at that time), Juan Antonio Samaranch, organized the 25th jubilee edition. The representatives of 169 national Olympic delegations competed in 23 sports and 257 events. South Africa participated for the first time in the Games after a 32-year absence (as they have been banned since 1960 from participating due to their apartheid policy).

The Barcelona Olympic Games brought back after many decades in the *Olympic Family* a unified Germany, and all athletes from the former USSR participated for the first and last time, under the colors of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The motto of the Games was “*Forever Friends*”.



For the first time the IOC allowed the participation of professional basketball players, including the US team of the famous “*Dream Team*” (featuring Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Larry Bird).

New disciplines made their debut in the Olympic program: badminton, baseball and women’s judo. Three demonstration sports were included in the program of the edition: Basque Pelota, roller hockey (quad) and taekwondo.

*The mascot of this edition, the dog “Cobi” was the most popular in the history of the Games.*

Gymnast Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus competed under the banner of the Unified Team (EUN) and won six gold medals (of which four in a single day).

For the first time, the IOC has called for the respect of the “*Olympic truce*”.

## ■ ATLANTA, USA, 1996

Atlanta, the capital of the state of Georgia, hosted the 26th edition, celebrating a century since Pierre de Coubertin’s dream has come true and the ancient Olympics have been resumed in their modern version. It was the first Summer Olympic Games organized in other year than the Winter Olympics. The American metropolis had been appointed to host the Games in September 1990, at the 96th Session of the IOC in Tokyo. It was the first edition attended by all 197 National Olympic Committees admitted by the IOC. Although there was controversy, this jubilee edition was the most modern, as the latest technology was put to use in organizing the sporting events.

*The Olympic Village* had the largest capacity in the history of the Games, 15,000 seats.

The one who lit the *Olympic Flame* was the famous boxer Cassius Clay, alias Muhammad Ali.

Ecuador, Syria and Costa Rica won gold medals for the first time.

Women’s football was included in the Olympic program along with beach volleyball, mountain biking, lightweight rowing and women’s softball. Returning for the second time in the history of the Olympic Games as an official sport, baseball seemed to be a gift that the IOC made to the United States.



**Atlanta 1996**



The star of the edition was the swimmer Amy Van Dyken from the USA, who won four gold medals. The most awarded male athlete was the Russian gymnast Alexei Nemoov who won six medals (two gold, one silver and three bronze).

For the first time in history, the Olympic Games had an official website.

## ■ SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, 2000

The famous port of South East Australia, known as the “Gateway of Australia”, the capital of New South Wales hosted the last Olympic Games in the second millennium of the modern era.

More than 10,000 athletes from all 199 invited countries attended, with the NOCs recognized by the IOC, competing in 28 sports. Eritrea, Micronesia and Palau made their debut. The two Koreas paraded under the same flag (following the Korean War 1950-1953), having a blue map of the Korean Peninsula imprinted on a white background, but competed nevertheless separately. Four athletes from East Timor (a small country near Indonesia) attended individually under the *Olympic Flag*. Afghanistan was not allowed to take part in the Games because of the extremist rules of the Taliban (oppression and prohibition of women’s sports). The motto of the Games was “*Dare to dream*”.

Sydney was the city that committed itself to hosting the Games in a clean, green environment. The organizers erected a monument in memory of the more than 500 Olympic athletes from all over the world who fell on the front lines in the two world conflagrations. Sydney celebrated 100 years since women have been accepted into the Olympic arena. *The Olympic torch* was made by stylized reproduction of the famous building model of the “Opera” in Sydney, and the *Olympic Flame* was lit by the athlete Cathy Freeman (of Aboriginal origins), as a symbol of reconciliation with the aboriginal population.

For the first time, women disputed their Olympic medals in weightlifting, modern pentathlon and polo; and women’s triathlon (swimming, cycling, athletics), trampolines and taekwondo made their Olympic debut.

The bronze medals were made by melting down coins of one and a half cents, which were withdrawn from circulation by the Australian authorities in 1992. The bouquets offered to the medalists had white oak leaves embedded.





Representatives of the World Anti-Doping Agency, an independent body, attended the Games to monitor all procedures. Erythropoietin (EPO) tests and blood tests were carried out at Olympics for the first time.

The Australian swimmer Ian Thorpe was the star of the edition, winning three gold and two silver medals.

The most awarded male athlete was the Russian gymnast Alexei Nemov who won six medals (two gold, one silver and three bronze).

## ATHENS, GREECE, 2004



ATHENS 2004



The first Olympic Games of the 21st century returned to the capital of Greece, the birthplace of ancient and modern Olympism, and took place under the motto “*Welcome Home!*”. At these Games attended all 201 National Olympic Committees admitted at the time by the IOC, with athletes competing in 28 sports. Two states made their debut: Kiribati and East Timor.

Many of the events in Athens were organized with the intention of reminding the participants of the inaugural modern Olympics. The most difficult athletic event, the marathon, took place on the same route



organized more than a century ago, including the arrival scheduled at the Panathenaic Stadium, the host of the 1896 Olympic Games. The shooting competition also took place in Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympic Games.

*The Olympic Flame* made, for the first time in its history, a world tour, being carried by relay in 34 cities from 26 countries spread on all five continents.

For the first time, women's wrestling and sabre (fencing) competitions were included in the Olympic program.

The most titled athlete of the Games was the American swimmer, Michael Phelps, who won eight medals, of which six gold and two bronze.

## ■ BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 2008

The most populated country on the planet hosted the 29th edition. It was the third time the Summer Olympics were held in Asia, after Tokyo in 1964 and Seoul in 1988. The equestrian competitions took place in Hong Kong, in two arenas: Shatin and Beas River. 204 National Olympic Committees attended, and the athletes competed in 28 sports and 302 events. The Games were attended for the first time by athletes from the Marshall Islands, Montenegro and Tuvalu.

The Olympics started on 8/8/08, at 08.08 hrs (03.08 hrs Romanian time). These data were not randomly chosen. Number 8 is associated in Chinese culture with prosperity. The slogan of the Games was "*One world, one dream*" and expressed people's desire to live in peace and understanding. *The Olympic Flame* was carried by relay, high up above, to the top of Everest, at an altitude of 8,848 m.

The most impressive arena was the National Stadium in Beijing, called for its design (the avant-garde architecture) as the "*Bird's Nest*". The opening and closing ceremonies of the Games took place here.

In athletics, the women's 3,000 m steeplechase, the BMX (flat-track and cross-country motocross) cycling and the 10 km swimming marathon were introduced. Wushu was the demonstration sport.





The winner of the Games was again the American swimmer Michael Phelps, who won eight gold medals. The most awarded female athlete was the American gymnast Natalie Coughlin who won six medals (one gold, two silver and three bronze).

The Games were fully broadcast on TV, for the first time in high definition. An audience record was set, as over two-thirds of the population watched at least one event at the Olympics.

## ■ LONDON, UK, 2012



*“The International Olympic Committee has the honor to announce that the 30th Olympic Games in 2012 will be hosted by the City of London,”* said the IOC President Jacques Rogge on July 6, 2005, in Singapore, where occurred the 117th Session of the forum he also conducted. Thus, London became the first city in modern history to be appointed as host of the Summer Olympics for the third time, after the 1908 and 1948 editions. The chairman of the Games



Organizing Committee was the athlete Sebastian Coe, two-times Olympic champion in the 1,500 meters, in Moscow (1980) and Los Angeles (1984).

All 204 National Olympic Committees joined with their athletes at the start of the Olympic race, competing in 26 sports. For the first time, athletes from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei participated in the Games. Three athletes from the Dutch West Indies (their National Committee was no longer admitted at the IOC Session in July 2011) and an athlete from South Sudan (unadmitted NOC) participated independently under the *Olympic Flag*.

Women's boxing debuted, and mixed doubles event was reintroduced in tennis (first time after 1924). For the first time was submitted the *Olympic Oath* by coaches together with the athletes and officials (the speaker was the canoe coach Eric Farrell).

The American Michael Phelps was considered for the third time in a row the star of the edition, winning four gold and two silver medals. He won 18 gold medals in his Olympic career!

## ■ RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, 2016

At the 121st IOC Session from October, 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark, President Jacques Rogge announced that the city of Rio de Janeiro would host the 2016 Olympic Games, beating the other nominated cities, Madrid, Tokyo and Chicago. The Rio de Janeiro edition brought for the first time the Olympic competition in South America and in a Portuguese speaking country. More than 11,400 athletes representing 207 National Olympic Committees took part in the Olympic competition. Kosovo and South Sudan, as well as the Refugee Olympic Team, participated in the Olympic events for the first time. Also, for the first time in history, VR (virtual reality) images were broadcasted from the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as from various sporting events.

The Olympic program included 28 sports, among which golf and rugby in seven, which had been introduced in the Olympic program in 2009. The 2016 edition was preceded by certain issues such as concerns about the Zika virus, but also the doping scandal in which the Russian delegation was involved, which resulted in the suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee from the Olympic edition. It was a measure that





has been taken for the first time in Olympic history.

Another novelty presented by the Organizing Committee of the 2016 Olympic Games was the renunciation to the flowers usually offered to the Olympic medalists. Instead of flowers, they received a small sculpture representing the Rio 2016 logo. This solution was chosen as it obviously was more sustainable

and environmentally friendly.

Among the most awarded athletes at this edition it can be mentioned: American swimmer Michael Phelps who won six medals (five gold and one silver medal); American swimmer Katie Ledecky who won five medals (four gold and one silver); American gymnast Simone Biles who won five medals (four gold and one bronze).

## ■ TOKYO, JAPAN, 2020

During the IOC Session 2013 in Buenos Aires, Tokyo was given the right to host an Olympic edition for the second time after the edition 1964. It took three voting rounds until one of the finalist cities (Istanbul, Madrid and Tokyo) was successfully assigned. For the first time in Olympic history, the Games were postponed by one year, taking place between July 23-August 8th, 2021, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Also for the same reason, the Olympics were organized without spectators and in compliance with strict public health measures.

For the 2020 edition, the Organizing Committee built a new stadium on the site of the old 1964 Olympic Stadium. New sports such as 3x3 basketball, BMX freestyle have been introduced in the Olympic program. At the same time, the IOC allowed the Organizing Committee to add new sports to the Olympic program only for one edition. Thus, baseball, softball, karate, sport climbing, surfing and skateboarding were also introduced. Olympic skateboarding champion



Momiji Nishiya created a great sensation with her performance at just 13 years old, becoming the third youngest champion in Olympic history after Marjorie Gestring from Germany, who won the 1936 Olympic gold medal in water jumping and Klaus Zerta from West Germany who won the gold medal at the Rome Olympic Games in 1960.

The Tokyo Olympics was a combination of technology and environmental care, and that is why the medals awarded throughout the competition were made by recycling more than eight tons of electronics and mobile phones.

The Olympic program included 33 sports for 50 sporting disciplines. For the first time, countries such as Bermuda, the Philippines and Qatar won their first Olympic gold medal, and Burkina Faso, San Marino and Turkmenistan won their first Olympic medal.

Australian swimmer Emma McKeon was the athlete with most medals at the competition in Japan. She won seven medals, including four gold and three bronze, becoming the most awarded swimmer in a single Olympic edition.

The most awarded male athlete was the American swimmer Caeleb Dressel, who won five gold medals.



## ■ PARIS, FRANCE, 2024

During the IOC Session that took place on September 13, 2017 in Lima, the IOC President announced, for the first time in the history of Olympism, two cities to host the next two editions of the Summer Olympic Games, respectively: Paris in 2024 and Los Angeles in 2028.

The Paris Olympic Games shall be the edition in which gender parity will be achieved, with exactly the same number of participating male and female athletes. Paris thus becomes the second city, after London, to host three editions of the Olympic Games after those from 1900 and 1924.



## LOS ANGELES, USA, 2028



The announcement of the winning city took place during the IOC Session in Lima on September 13, 2017. It was a historic decision with the IOC President Thomas Bach saying he took advantage of a “golden opportunity”: “Both cities have truly embraced the Olympic Agenda 2020 in different ways, but especially in the way they intend to use a record number of existing and temporary facilities.” The IOC appreciated the financing method of this edition, which is based entirely on sources from corporations.

While most of the host cities have seven years to prepare for the Olympics, Los Angeles shall have 11 years at its disposal. The Los Angeles application file was based on major existing bases. Other facilities are already under construction or have been planned regardless of the organization of the Olympic Games.

## BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, 2032



**Brisbane 2032**

Olympic and Paralympic  
Games Host

*Queensland*



















































Brisbane, Australia will host the 35th Olympiad in 2032. The city was selected during the 138th IOC Session that took place on July 21, 2021 in Tokyo.

The IOC President Thomas Bach said: “Brisbane 2032 is the first future host to be chosen and has fully benefited from the new flexible approach on the selection of Olympic hosts. The reforms allow the IOC to work in partnership with cities, regions and countries to encourage Olympic projects using a high percentage of existing and temporary bases, aligning with long-term development plans and having a powerful vision for sport and local communities.” The new rules reduced the cost of the candidature process, encouraging cities with current infrastructure to request to host an edition of the Olympic Games.

Australia shall be among the countries to have hosted three editions of the Olympic Games, after the Melbourne 1956 edition and Sydney 2000 edition.














Place	Flag	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1		United States of America	1.180	959	841	2.980
2		USSR	473	376	355	1.204
3		United Kingdom	296	320	332	948
4		Germany	293	293	306	892
5		France	258	289	327	874
6		Italy	257	224	261	742
7		China	275	227	194	696
8		Sweden	205	222	234	661
9		Australia	169	178	215	562
10		Japan	183	172	200	555
11		Russia	196	164	187	547
12		Norway	192	176	160	528
13		Canada	144	172	209	525
14		German Democratic Republic	192	165	162	519
15		Hungary	182	156	180	518
16		Finland	144	148	180	472
17		Netherlands	140	148	163	451
18		Switzerland	109	124	125	358
19		Republic of Korea	127	116	114	357
20		Austria	83	115	128	326
21		Poland	79	96	145	320
22		Romania	90	97	122	309
23		Federal Republic of Germany	67	82	94	243
24		Cuba	85	71	85	241
25		Bulgaria	55	90	85	230
26		Denmark	48	79	79	206
27		Spain	49	72	50	171




























Place	Flag	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
28		Czechoslovakia	51	57	60	168
29		Belgium	44	56	61	161
30		Brazil	37	42	71	150
31		Ukraine	38	37	72	147
32		New Zealand	53	34	53	140
33		United Team of Germany	36	60	41	137
34		United Team	54	44	37	135
35		Greece	35	45	41	121
36		Kenya	35	42	36	113
37		Turkey	41	26	37	104
38		Belarus	21	35	47	103
39		Czech Republic	28	32	38	98
40		Yugoslavia	28	34	32	94
41		South Africa	27	33	29	89
42		Jamaica	26	36	25	87
43		Kazakhstan	16	24	40	80
44		Argentina	21	26	30	77
45		Iran	24	23	29	76
46		Mexico	13	24	36	73
47		Russian Olympic Committee	20	28	23	71
48		Ethiopia	23	12	23	58
49		Democratic People's Republic of Korea	16	17	23	56
50		Croatia	18	19	15	52
51		Azerbaijan	7	14	28	49
52		Slovenia	10	14	21	45
53		Estonia	14	11	18	43
54		Georgia	10	12	18	40



Place	Flag	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
55		Slovakia	13	18	9	40
56		Egypt	8	11	19	38
57		Indonesia	8	14	15	37
58		Uzbekistan	11	6	20	37
59		Chinese Taipei	7	11	18	36
60		India	10	9	16	35
61		Ireland	11	10	14	35
62		Thailand	10	8	17	35
63		Colombia	5	13	16	34
64		Latvia	5	14	11	30
65		Mongolia	2	11	17	30
66		Portugal	5	9	14	28
67		Nigeria	3	11	13	27
68		Lithuania	6	7	13	26
69		Mixed teams	11	6	8	25
70		Morocco	7	5	12	24
71		Serbia	6	7	11	24
72		Trinidad Tobago	3	5	11	19
73		Venezuela	3	7	9	19
74		Armenia	2	8	8	18
75		Algeria	5	4	8	17
76		Olympic Athletes from Russia	2	6	9	17
77		Bahamas	8	2	6	16
78		Tunisia	5	3	7	15
79		Philippines	1	5	8	14
80		Chile	2	7	4	13
81		Israel	3	1	9	13

Place	Flag	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
82		Malaysia	0	8	5	13
83		Australasia	3	4	5	12
84		Dominican Republic	3	5	4	12
85		Uganda	4	4	3	11
86		Liechtenstein	2	2	6	10
87		Pakistan	3	3	4	10
88		Puerto Rico	2	2	6	10
89		Uruguay	2	2	6	10
90		Hong Kong	2	3	4	9
91		Qatar	2	1	5	8
92		The Russian Empire	1	4	3	8
93		Zimbabwe	3	4	1	8
94		Kyrgyzstan	0	3	4	7
95		Cameroon	3	1	2	6
96		Moldavia	0	2	4	6
97		Ecuador	3	2	0	5
98		Ghana	0	1	4	5
99		Namibia	0	5	0	5
100		Singapore	1	2	2	5
101		Vietnam	1	3	1	5
102		Bahrain	2	2	0	4
103		Bohemia	0	1	3	4
104		Costa Rica	1	1	2	4
105		Ivory Coast	1	1	2	4
106		Iceland	0	2	2	4
107		Lebanon	0	2	2	4
108		Luxembourg	1	3	0	4



Place	Flag	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
109		Peru	1	3	0	4
110		Saudi Arabia	0	2	2	4
111		Syria	1	1	2	4
112		Tajikistan	1	1	2	4
113		Fiji	2	0	1	3
114		Grenade	1	1	1	3
115		Jordan	1	1	1	3
116		Kosovo	3	0	0	3
117		Kuwait	0	0	3	3
118		Panama	1	0	2	3
119		San Marino	0	1	2	3
120		Independent Olympic Participants	0	1	2	3
121		Afghanistan	0	0	2	2
122		Bermuda	1	0	1	2
123		Botswana	0	1	1	2
124		British West Indies	0	0	2	2
125		Burundi	1	1	0	2
126		Haiti	0	1	1	2
127		Mozambique	1	0	1	2
128		Nigeria	0	1	1	2
129		Northern Macedonia	0	1	1	2
130		Serbia and Montenegro	0	2	0	2
131		Sri Lanka	0	2	0	2
132		Suriname	1	0	1	2
133		United Republic of Tanzania	0	2	0	2
134		United Arab Emirates	1	0	1	2
135		Zambia	0	1	1	2

Place	Flag	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
136		Independent Olympic Athletes	1	0	1	2
137		Barbados	0	0	1	1
138		Burkina Faso	0	0	1	1
139		Cyprus	0	1	0	1
140		Djibouti	0	0	1	1
141		Eritrea	0	0	1	1
142		Gabon	0	1	0	1
143		Guatemala	0	1	0	1
144		Guyana	0	0	1	1
145		Irak	0	0	1	1
146		Mauritius	0	0	1	1
147		Montenegro	0	1	0	1
148		Netherlands Antilles	0	1	0	1
149		Paraguay	0	1	0	1
150		Samoa	0	1	0	1
151		Senegal	0	1	0	1
152		Soudan	0	1	0	1
153		Togo	0	0	1	1
154		Tonga	0	1	0	1
155		Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
156		Virgin Islands	0	1	0	1

Depending on the political developments over time, in this ranking there are National Olympic Committees that have participated under different names and even appear several times with a separate record.



## WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

The Winter Olympic Games appeared after the Summer Olympic Games. At the IOC Session in 1921 Lausanne, representatives of France, Canada and Switzerland called for the organization, also, of the Winter Olympics. Their proposal was put to the vote, despite the opposition of the Norwegian and Swedish officials. At the Prague IOC Session in 1925, it was stated that the host city of the Winter Olympics would be chosen concomitant with the Summer Olympics and that the winter competitions would precede the summer ones. Before the organization of Winter Olympics, two winter sports had already been included in the program of several editions of the Summer Games: figure skating (London 1908 Olympics and Antwerp 1920) and ice hockey (Antwerp 1920).

Unlike the Summer Olympics, whose numbering continues every four years, no matter if an edition takes place or not, the Winter Olympics bear only the number of the actually held editions.

### ■ CHAMONIX, FRANCE, 1924

The nearly 100 year history of the Winter Olympics began in the French resort of Chamonix, located at the foot of the Mont Blanc massif, under the name of “*International Winter Sports Week*”. These competitions were admitted by the IOC only in 1926, at the 25th Session from Lisbon, Portugal.

16 countries participated in this first edition, competing in military patrol, bobsleigh, Nordic combined, curling, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, ski jumping and cross-country.



French skier Camille Mandrillon (military patrol) was the first athlete to take the *Olympic Oath* at the Winter Games.

The first Olympic champion of the Winter Games was the American Charles Jewtraw in 500 m speed skating. In speed skating events stood out Clas Thunberg (Finland), nicknamed “*Nurmi on Ice*”, who won five Olympic medals (three gold, one silver and one bronze).

At the opening ceremony, the athletes paraded with their specific equipment (used for the event in which they were going to compete) on their shoulders. The medal ceremony took place during the Games closing ceremony, before the speech given by Pierre de Coubertin.

The sports competitions in Chamonix have far exceeded the most important competitions previously organized (Nordic Games or ski competitions in Holmenkollen, Norway).

## ■ SAINT MORITZ, SWITZERLAND, 1928

The competitions took place in the oldest mountain resort in Europe, nicknamed the “*Pearl of the Engadine*”. 25 Olympic delegations attended the Winter Games. The first participation of Asian (Japanese) sportsmen is mentioned here. Argentina, Estonia, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands and Romania made their debut at the Winter Games.



Athletes competed in bobsleigh, Nordic combined, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, ski jumping, cross-country and skeleton (newly introduced in the Olympic program, similar to sled, only that the athlete’s position is opposite from the direction of travel).

There were competitions in two demonstration sports: military patrol and skijoring (a skier being pulled by a horse) - a popular sport in Sweden and Norway.

The star of the edition was the Norwegian female skater Sonja Henie, known as the “*Ice Fairy*”, who recorded her first victory at the Winter Olympics at only 15 years old (she will also win the supreme title of the next two editions).



The most awarded athlete was the Norwegian Bernt Evensen, who won a gold, a silver and a bronze medal in speed skating.

Temperature fluctuations made it impossible to perform all the events included in the Olympic program.

## ■ LAKE PLACID, USA, 1932

The North American continent hosted for the first time an edition of the Winter Olympics. The long distance and high transport costs in the midst of the economic crisis caused the attendance of a small number of participants. Competitors from only 17 countries attended.

For the first time, the figure skating and the ice hockey competitions were held in an indoor arena. Also, for the first time, the podium was introduced for the medals ceremony of the first three ranked in each event. The ceremony took place at the end of each competition.

The women's speed skating event was introduced as a demonstration sport along with curling and dog sledding.

At the opening ceremony, the first woman holding a country flag at Winter Games was the British Mollie Phillips. The hero of the edition was the American J. Hubert Stevens, who won two gold and one bronze medal in the bobsleigh competitions. The American Edward Eagan won a gold medal in bobsleigh after winning the gold medal in boxing at the Antwerp 1920 Summer Olympic Games.

The Olympic competitions were commented live on the radio.

## ■ GARMISCH - PARTENKIRCHEN, GERMANY, 1936

The 4th edition of the Winter Games was attended by athletes from 28 countries in the following competitions: Nordic combined, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, ski jumping, skiing and cross-country. Australia, Bulgaria, Greece, Liechtenstein, Spain and Turkey debuted at the Winter Olympics.





It is worth mentioning that an *Olympic Flame* was symbolically lit throughout the Games, and at the end of the closing ceremony, a fireworks show took place for the first time.

The alpine skiing (downhill and slalom) were part of the Olympic program. The *Eischiessen* (a kind of curling) and the military patrol (for the third time) were included in the program as demonstration sports.

The Norwegian Ivar Ballangrud was the main competitor of this edition, winning three gold medals in speed skating (500 m, 5,000 m and 10,000 m) and one silver (1,500 m).

*The 1940 Winter Games - Sapporo (Japan) and the 1944 edition - Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy) were canceled due to World War II.*

## SAINT MORITZ, SWITZERLAND, 1948



Chilean, Danish, Icelandic, Korean and Lebanese athletes participated for the first time in the “*Renaissance Games*”, as these Games were called. Germany and Japan were not invited. A total of 28 nations competed in military patrol, bobsleigh, Nordic combined, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, ski jumping, skeleton (reintroduced into the Olympic program after an absence of 20 years), skiing and cross-country. The winter pentathlon was introduced in the competition program for the first and last time where the athletes had to participate in the following events: cross-country, shooting (compressed air pistol - 20 shots), alpine skiing (huge slalom), fencing and equestrian event.

An *Olympic Flame* was symbolically lit at this edition.

The French skier Henri Oreiller, nicknamed the “*crazy downhiller*”, was the only athlete to win three medals (two gold in downhill and Nordic combined, one silver in slalom) at these Games, in alpine competitions.



## OSLO, NORWAY, 1952

The national Olympic Committees from 30 states have sent their representatives to the winter Olympics in the land of fjords, northern lights, white nights, but also eternally snowy mountain slopes. Norway was the first Scandinavian country to host a winter Olympics. It was also the first edition to take place in a country's capital. Portugal and New Zealand debuted at the Games, and Germany was represented only by its Western athletes.

There were bobsleigh competitions, Nordic combined, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, ski jumping, skiing and cross-country. The only demonstration sport was “bandy”, a hockey nordic version (practiced in Finland, Norway and Sweden), played on an ice hockey rink the same size as a football pitch, with two teams each with 11 players. They handled clubs (sticks about 1.2 m long) quite similar in shape to those used in field hockey, and hit a ball instead of a puck (used in ice hockey).

The *Olympic flame* was lit in the town of Morgedal (valley in the Tellmark region, 220 km from Oslo), considered the origin of winter sports. Here was organized the first Winter Olympic relay (with 94 skiers), and Eigil Nansen (the grandson of the explorer Fridtjof Nansen who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1922) was the last exchange.

At this edition, the *Olympic Flag* was raised, donated by the City Hall of Oslo, becoming later the official flag of the “White Olympics”.

Computers were used for the first time in the figure skating events to instantly calculate and display the scores granted by referees for the mandatory and free programs. For the first time, the 10 km cross-country events for women and the giant slalom for women and men were launched in the Olympic program.

The star of this edition was the Norwegian Hjalmar Andersen called “*Ice Zatopek*”, who won three gold medals in speed skating (1,500 m, 5,000 m and 10,000 m).



It was the first time in the history of the white Games that a woman, Princess Ragnhild of Norway, declared the Winter Olympics open (instead of King Hakon VII who was in England at the funeral of King George VI).

## ■ CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, ITALY, 1956



For the first time the Winter Games were organized in Italy. “*The Queen of the Dolomites*” (as the resort was called) drew athletes from 32 countries on its slides. The representatives of Bolivia, Iran and USSR debuted at the Winter Olympics. The two Germanies attended with a single delegation. The athletes competed in bobsleigh, Nordic combined, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, ski jumping, alpine skiing and cross-country. Two new events were launched: men’s cross-country on a distance of 30 km and the women’s 3x5 km cross-country relay.

The competition venues were very close to each other with a single exception. The speed skating took place on Lake Misurina (natural ice), about 13 km from Cortina d’Ampezzo.

An *Olympic Flame* was symbolically lit in the old Capitol in Rome.

The *Olympic oath* was taken, for the first time, by a sportswoman, the Italian skier, Giuliana Minuzzo-Chenal, bronze medalist in alpine skiing, in the downhill race from 1952, in Oslo.

The history of winter sports will be linked to the name of Anton (Toni) Sailer, Austrian skier, three-times Olympic champion in alpine skiing (downhill, slalom and giant slalom) and Swedish skier Sixten Jernberg, nicknamed the “*snow marathoner*”, who took the start in all long distance races and won four medals (one gold, two silver and one bronze).

It was the first televised Winter Olympics.

## ■ SQUAW VALLEY, USA, 1960

The 8th edition was attended by 30 Olympic teams. South Africa debuted at the “*White Games*”. The competitions were organised in biathlon, combined Nordic, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, ski jumping, alpine skiing and cross-country. The history of Squaw



Valley resort starts with these Winter Olympics. Until the application, this little town was just a settlement with only a few private properties. The resort was built virtually from scratch for the 1960 edition, later becoming one of the most important mountain resorts in the United States.

The *Olympic flame* was flown from the Morgedal Valley, Norway (where it was lit), across the Atlantic Ocean to Los Angeles. From there, 600 athletes carried the torch, through relay exchanges, to the Squaw Valley.

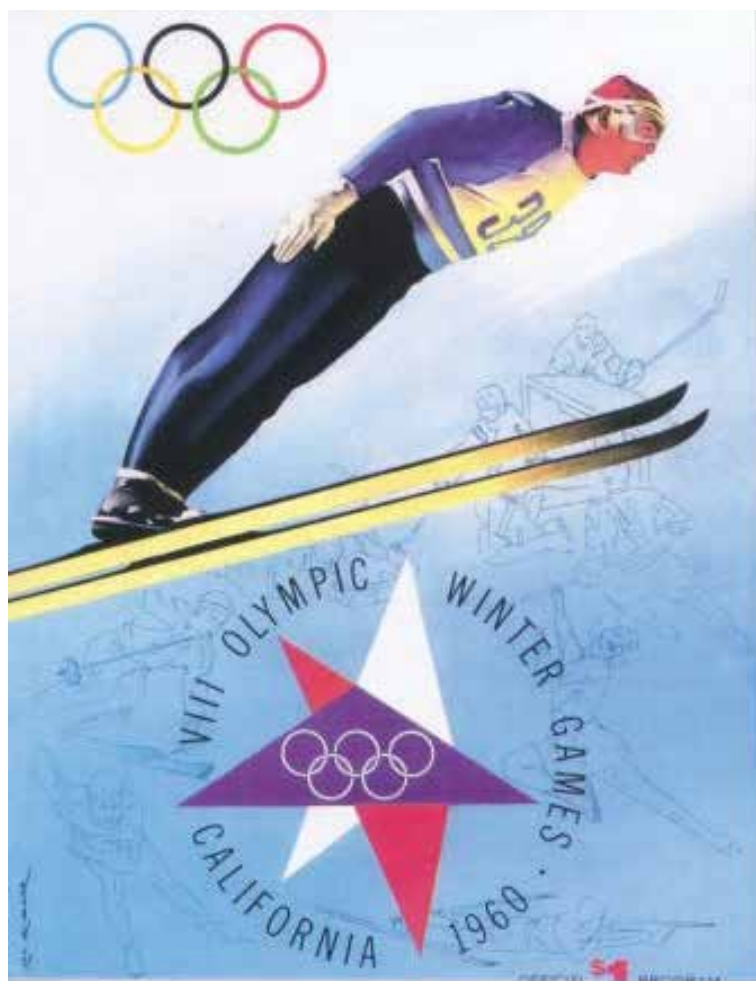
The *Olympic Anthem* was sung for the first time. The metal skis (France team) and the electronic board were released.

The 500 m, 1,000 m, 1,500 m and 3,000 m women's biathlon and speed skating officially became Olympic events. For the first time in the Olympic history of the Winter Games, the bobsleigh competitions were not included in the program.

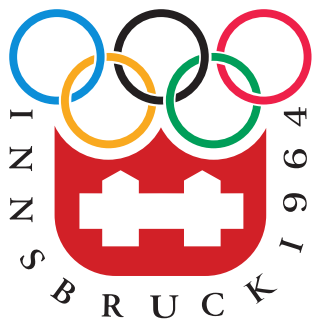
The Frenchman Jean Vuarnet was the first skier to win an Olympic medal using metal skis.

The Sportswoman Lidia Skoblikova from USSR won two gold medals in the 1,500 m and 3,000 m speed skating events.

The opening and closing ceremonies were directed by the famous American producer and director, Walt Disney.



## ■ INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA, 1964



The return of the Winter Games in Europe, in the capital of the province of Tyrol, set a record for participation. The athletes from 36 countries took part in biathlon, bobsleigh, Nordic combined, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, luge (newly introduced event), ski jumping, skiing and cross-country. Athletes from the Mongolian PR, Korean DPR and India participated for the first time.

The *Olympic flame* was lit for the first time in the history of the Winter Games in Olympia (Greece).

The *Olympic Village* for athletes was inaugurated, following the model of the Summer Olympic Games. The hundredth of a second timing was introduced for alpine skiing.

At these Games, the Austrians built the first artificial bobsleigh track, which led to a better control, that is a less dangerous experience for athletes.

The Russian skater, Lidia Skoblikova, became the most titled sportswoman of the edition. She won all speed skating races (on distances of 500 m, 1,000 m, 1,500 m and 3,000 m).

## ■ GRENOBLE, FRANCE, 1968



The city at the foot of the French Alps hosted the 10th jubilee edition of the “*White Games*”. Participants from 37 National Olympic Committees were hosted in five villages located at great distance from each other. The athletes from Morocco made their debut at the Winter Games, and Germany attended with East and West Germany.

The IOC’s medical commission introduced for the first time the doping and femininity tests. And, also for the first time, the imposed figures were included in the figure skaters’ program in the “pairs” event, along with the singles. The ice dancing was a demonstration sport.



At this edition, for the first time, the Winter Sports pictograms were found on the Olympic medals, and the televised broadcasts of the competitions were in color.

The first unofficial mascot of the Winter Olympics was “Schuss”, a small cartoon character sitting on skis, in blue, white and red.

The Games main performer was the French skier Jean – Claude Killy, winner in all three alpine ski trials.



Jean-Claude Killy

## ■ SAPPORO, JAPAN, 1972

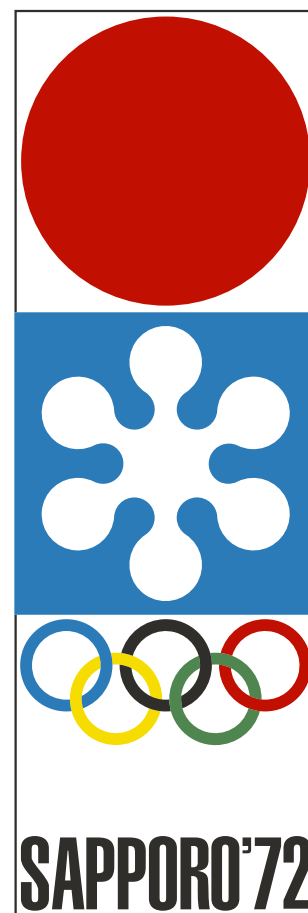
It was the first Winter Games to be held in Asia, in the “*Land of the Rising Sun*” and the blossoming cherries. It was the first winter edition to take place outside Europe and the United States. The Sapporo Games, a city in southwestern Hokkaido, was attended by competitors from 35 countries. Taiwan (now Republic of China) and the Philippines attended the Winter Games for the first time.

The first exclusion for doping took place at the ice hockey tournament, where a player from the German Federal Republic team was found using a prohibited substance.

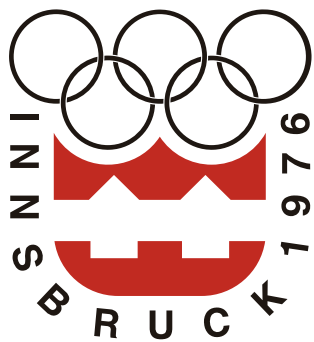
The two-person luge event was launched.

The Japanese Fumio Asaki (ski jumping) was the one who took the *Olympic Oath* for the first time for the officials and referees attending the Games.

The main performers of the edition were the Soviet female skier Galina Kulakova and the Dutch speed skater Ard Schenk, each winning three gold medals.



## INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA, 1976



Innsbruck became the host of the Winter Olympics for the second time, at an interval of only two “*Olympiads*”, for which the organizers chose to mark the success by lighting two *Olympic Flames*. The Games were to be held in Denver (USA), but after a referendum, the Americans did not agree. 37 representative of the National Olympic Committees attended the “*Simplicity Games*”, and the *Olympic flame* was lit by two gold medalists from the 1964 Olympic Games. The athletes from Andorra and San Marino took part in the Winter Games for the first time.

For the first time, the Winter Olympics could be watched on television in Iran and Oman. The Games’ mascot was “*Schneemann*,” a stylized snowman wearing a red Tyrolean hat.

The ice dancing event was introduced in the figure skating competition.

The hero of the Games was the Austrian Franz Klammer, who won the downhill event of the alpine skiing competition by only 0.12 seconds against the next ranked competitor.

The most awarded athlete of the edition was the German Rosi Mittermaier (German Federal Republic) who won two Olympic titles and a silver medal in alpine skiing.

## LAKE PLACID, USA, 1980



Lake Placid hosted the Winter Olympics for the second time in 48 years. This winter edition was most strongly marked by politics. Here it was recorded the only boycott in the history of the Winter Olympics. In April 1979, the IOC admitted the Olympic Committee of the People’s Republic of China, not excluding that of Taiwan (currently Republic of China), which was requested in November to change its name, anthem and flag. Taiwan did not accept the IOC’s



request, bringing a legal action, but did not win the case. As a result, they decided not to attend the Games.

37 Olympic teams participated. The athletes from Cyprus, People's Republic of China and Costa Rica made their debut at the Winter Games. For a proper conduct of the Olympic competitions, the organizers used machines for producing artificial snow. The mascot of the edition was the mouse "Roni" or "Ronny" (name chosen by the students of a school).

For the first time in history the big "event" in speed skating was accomplished, all 5 events (from 500 m to 10,000 m) in the Olympic program being won by the American athlete Eric Heiden, who managed to set four Olympic records and a world one.



## ■ SARAJEVO, YUGOSLAVIA, 1984

After Moscow, which hosted the 1980 Summer Olympics, Sarajevo (today the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina) was the second city in an Eastern European country to host the Winter Olympic Games. Athletes from 49 countries took part in the 39 sports events included in the Olympic program. Athletes from Egypt, the British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Monaco and Senegal took part for the first time in the Winter Olympic Games.



Sarajevo '84

It was the first edition to take place under the presidency of the Marquis Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The women's 20 km race was introduced in the cross-country competitions, and the Paralympic alpine skiing was launched as a demonstration sport.

"Vucko", the little wolf from the Dinaric Alps, was the official mascot of the Games.

The hero of the edition was the sportswoman Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi-Hamalolainen from Finland, who won three gold and one bronze medal in cross-country. She is the only woman in the history of the Winter Games who participated in six editions.

The British skaters Jane Torwill and Christopher Dean stunned the jury and the whole world with their exceptional dance competition performance on the music composition "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel (obtaining maximum marks for artistic impression).

At the closing ceremony of the Games, Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC said:  
*"The Sarajevo Games were the best organized in the history of the Winter Olympics."*

## ■ CALGARY, CANADA, 1988

The Canadian resort in the province of Alberta hosted the 15th edition of the Winter Olympics. 57 National Olympic Committees attended the six sports included in the program of the Olympic competitions: biathlon, bobsleigh, ice hockey, skating, luge and skiing. Jamaica, Fiji, Guam, Guatemala and the Dutch Antilles debuted at the "White Games".

The IOC extended the duration of the Olympic Games from 12 to 16 days, and the organizers banned smoking during the competitions. Professional hockey players were accepted into the competition for the first time, but this time the NHL (US National Hockey League) did not allow them to attend. Also, for the first time, the speed skating events took place in an indoor arena, the spectators sitting for the first time together, in the stands, with the athletes. The alpine skiing competitions took place on slopes arranged with artificial snow and extended from three to five



events. The curling, short track speed skating and freestyle skiing were introduced as demonstration sports.

“Chinook” the famous warm wind from the Rocky Mountains similar to the fohn of the Alpine regions, which sometimes reach speeds of 160 km/h, has been the cause of several changes in the program of the Games.

Matti Nykanen, the “*flying Finn*”, won three gold medals in ski jumping.

The polar bears “*Hidy*” and “*Howdy*”, symbolic animals of the Arctic regions, were the first pair of mascots from the history of the Winter Olympics. The East German athlete Christa Rathenburger was the first to win the 1,000 m Olympic speed skating title, and seven months later, at the Seoul Summer Olympics, the silver medal in cycling. She was the only athlete to win two medals in the same year at the Winter and Summer Olympics.



## ALBERTVILLE, FRANCE, 1992

In Albertville, the last edition of the “*White Games*” which took place in the same year as the summer edition in Barcelona, Spain, 64 National Olympic Committees attended.

These were the first Games held after the fall of the USSR and the Berlin Wall. Athletes from the former USSR competed under the title “*Unified Team*” (EUN), and Germany also came up with a unified team. Croatia and Slovenia participated for the first time as independent states.

Estonia participated for the first time after the 1936 edition in Garmisch - Partenkirchen Germany, and Lithuania, also for the first time, after the 1928 edition in Saint Moritz, Switzerland. Algeria, Bermuda, Brazil, Honduras, Ireland and Swaziland debuted at the Winter Games.

Athletes competed in biathlon, bobsleigh, Nordic combined, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, short track speed skating, luge, ski jumping, acrobatic skiing, skiing and cross-country.





For the first time, the “*Paralympic Games*” were held in the same place as the Winter Olympics. The *mascot* of the edition was a mountain elf, “Magique”, which was star and cube-shaped, wearing the national colors of France (blue, white and red).

At these Games, three new events were held: women’s biathlon, short track speed skating (with men’s and women’s events) and acrobatic skiing (with one men’s and one women’s event). Demonstration sports were curling, speed skiing and freestyle.

Michel Platini, the famous footballer, together with Francois-Cyrille Grange - a 10-year-old boy from Savoy, lit the *Olympic Flame*.

For the first time at the Winter Olympics, the *Olympic Oath* was taken by an African American athlete - French female skater Surya Bonaly.

The protagonist of the edition was the Norwegian Toni Nieminen, who became, at the age of 16, the youngest champion of the Winter Olympic Games in ski jumping.

The main performer of the Games was the former Soviet Liubov Egorova, who won three Olympic titles and two silver medals in cross-country.

## ■ LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY, 1994

Beginning with this edition, the Winter Olympic Games are separated from the summer ones, taking place alternatively every two years. It was the first and only time the Games had been held at an interval of two years. Athletes from 67 National Olympic Committees attended and four new events were included in the Olympic competition program: two in acrobatic skiing and two in



short track speed skating. All the six sports competitions took place in 61 events. Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan attended as nations after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The athletes from American Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago and Israel debuted at the Winter Games.

Stricter qualification rules have been introduced and the number of participants in the Games has been reduced. On October 23, 1993, the UN General Assembly requested its members to comply with the 7-days "Olympic truce" before and after the Games. Lillehammer was the first city to turn to the truce rule due to the Bosnian war (siege of Sarajevo).

The *Olympic flame* was lit by Prince Haakon, and the official mascot were "Hakon" and "Kristin", brother and sister of the Norwegian folklore. Their names refer to historical figures in the 13th century whose destiny was closely linked to Norway and the Lillehammer region: Haakon IV Haakonsson, King of Norway (1217-1263) and Princess Kristin, his aunt.

Norwegian Johann Olav Koss won three Olympic title in speed skating, achieving new world records in all three events.

Due to the consideration given to the environment by the organizers of the Games, the President of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, named them the "White-Green Games".



## ■ NAGANO, JAPAN, 1998

It was the last edition of the 20th century, with Japan hosting the white Games for the second time, after – the 1972 Winter Olympics in Sapporo. These Games enjoyed the presence of athletes from 72 countries. Uruguay, Venezuela, Kenya, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Macedonia debuted at the Winter Games. The theme of the Games was "One world - one heart". The mascots of the Games were "Sukki", "Nokki", "Lekki" and "Tsukki", four emblematic owls, each with its own unique character, called "Snowlets" (the owl is considered the sage of the forests). The symbol was a "flower", and the print was made of "stylized" athletes arranged in petals mixed with snowflakes. The organizers' uniforms were made of recyclable materials, and the students received 50% discount tickets for competitions.



The Olympic program included: curling (men's and women's), snowboarding and women's hockey.

Professional hockey players in the National Hockey League of USA (NHL) participated in the Games for the first time. For the first time in the history of the Winter Games, after four runs of two-man bobsleigh, as the winners could still not be decided, the crews of Italy and Canada received, each of them, the gold medal.

The most titled sportswoman at this edition was the Russian Larissa Lazutina, who won five medals (three gold, one silver and one bronze).

## ■ SALT LAKE CITY, USA, 2002

This edition, the first of the new millennium, organized in the state of Utah (USA), was attended by 77 national Olympic delegations. Cameroon was the first African country to make its debut in the Winter Olympics, along with Nepal, Tajikistan and Thailand. 18 countries managed to win the Olympic gold. China and Australia won their first gold medal at the Winter Games.

It was the first edition to take place under the chairmanship of Jacques Rogge - President of the IOC.

The skeleton was reintroduced, and the women's doubles event, a two-person crew, was



included in the Olympic program. The *Olympic flame* was lit for the first time in the history of the Winter Olympics by a team, the US national hockey team.

The video replay was introduced in figure skating.



The Olympic symbol was represented by a snow crystal under which the *Olympic Circles* were drawn and the inscription “SALT LAKE 2002”.

There were three Olympic mascots inspired by ancient Utah cultures: “*Powder*” - a white rabbit, “*Copper*” - a coyote and “*Coal*” - a brown bear, which embodied specific national features. Croatian female skier Janica Kostelic won three gold and one silver medal in alpine skiing, but the hero of the edition was Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjordalen, who won four gold medals. In figure skating, two gold medals were awarded to pairs from Russia and Canada in the pair event.

## ■ TURIN, ITALY, 2006

The 20th edition, organized in the capital of Piedmont, was attended by athletes from 80 National Olympic Committees, in 15 sports: biathlon, bobsleigh, Nordic combined, curling, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating, short-track, luge, ski jumping, skeleton, acrobatic skiing, alpine skiing, cross-country and snowboarding. Albania, Madagascar and Ethiopia debuted at the Winter Olympics.



*Three Olympic Villages* have been arranged: Sestriere, Bardonecchia and Turin.

“*Neve*” and “*Gliz*” were the mascots of the winter Olympics in Turin. “*Neve*” was a lump of snow (“*feminine*”), and “*Gliz*” an energetic ice cube (“*masculine*”). They embodied the main qualities of the Games: enthusiasm, passion for sports and care for the environment.

The most awarded athlete of the edition was the Korean Hyun-Soo Ahn, who won four medals (three gold and one bronze) in short-track.

The Games were first time broadcasted live on mobile phones. The Olympic competitions have been broadcast in 18 countries on five continents. Viewers from Mongolia and Azerbaijan had the opportunity to watch the Winter Games for the first time.

## ■ VANCOUVER, CANADA, 2010

The athletes from 82 National Olympic Committees participated in the 21st edition of the Winter Olympics hosted by the province of British Columbia. The Cayman Islands, Colombia, Ghana, Montenegro, Pakistan, Serbia and Peru debuted at the Winter Games.

It was the first Olympics (summer or winter) that had an indoor opening ceremony. The *Olympic Torch* relay was carried by 12,000 people, who visited more than 1,000 communities and places of interest in Canada. The *Olympic flame* was lit simultaneously by five athletes of the host country. There were two *Olympic Villages* for athletes.

“Miga” and “Quatchi” were the mascots of the Vancouver edition, inspired by the wildlife and stories of the first nations on the west coast of Canada. “Miga”, a mythical bear (partly orca and partly Kermode bear), represented snowboarding, and “Quatchi” was a “Sasquatch”, a character from local folk legends who lived in the forests of Canada, representing hockey.

The most awarded sportswoman of the edition was the Norwegian Marit Bjoergen, who won five medals in the cross-country skiing events: three gold, one silver and one bronze.



## ■ SOCHI, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 2014

In the summer of 2007, at the 119th IOC session in Guatemala City, Sochi was selected as the host city for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, and therefore, the Russian Federation was given for the first time the right to organize an Olympic winter edition following the Moscow 1980 summer edition. The Olympic edition organized between 7-23 February, 2014, included in its program 15 sports with 98 sporting events. 88 NOCs participated at the start of the competition, the debuting countries at this Winter Olympics edition being the following: The Dominican Republic, Malta, Paraguay, Togo, Tonda, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

For the 2014 Winter edition new arenas were built, and the city on the Black Sea coast was modernized. The 2014 Winter edition was also the first one for Thomas Bach as the IOC president.

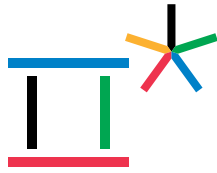
The Greek skier Ioannis Antoniu was the first Olympic torchbearer at this edition. The Olympic flame traveled about 65,000 km in the country, the longest distance in the history of the Winter Olympics.



## ■ PYEONGCHANG, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 2018

In 2011, at the IOC Session in Durban, South Africa, the South Korean city of PyeongChang was assigned the host city for the 2018 Winter Olympics. It was its third time to candidate after having been overtaken by Vancouver and Sochi for the two previous editions. It was the first Winter edition organized in South Korea and the second after the 1988 Summer edition in Seoul.

The 2018 Winter edition brought to the forefront the parade of athletes from North Korea with their colleagues from South Korea at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. The Games were affected by the doping scandal in Russia, with the Russian athletes competing under the Olympic flag.



**PyeongChang 2018**



The South Koreans developed the whole railway infrastructure necessary for this edition, building new competition centers like the Press Center or the Olympic Village for this event. The novelty in the Olympic arena were the robots performing the supervision of the sports arenas.

edition.

A total of 92 countries sent at least one qualified athlete to the 2018 Winter edition, which was a new record for a Winter Olympic

## ■ BEIJING, CHINA, 2022



**BEIJING 2022**



China will host, at Beijing, for the first time in history, the 2022 Winter Olympics. The Chinese capital has also hosted the 2008 Summer Olympics, and will be therefore the first city ever to have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympics. The host city for this Winter Olympics was elected on 31 July 2015 at the 128th IOC Session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The aspect of the Olympic torch for this Winter edition has its origin in the Chinese Olympic heritage gained from the organization of the 2008 Olympic Games. The design of the Winter Olympic torch is similar to the cauldron in which the flame burned during the summer edition. The red line that surrounds the torch represents the Great Wall of China, the Olympic skiing events, as well as humanity's unceasing pursuit of light, peace and excellence.

## ■ MILANO CORTINA, ITALY, 2026

During the 134th Session, organized in Lausanne in 2019, the IOC decided the cities that would host the 2026 Winter Olympics. Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo won against the Swedish candidates, Stockholm and Åre. Thus, Italy will host a fourth edition of the Olympic Games, the previous ones



being: 1956 - Cortina d'Ampezzo Winter Olympics, 1960 - Rome Summer Olympics and 2006 - Turin Winter Olympics.

Based on five values (sustainability, respect, determination, heritage and commitment), the mission of Milano-Cortina Organizing Committee is primarily to create a fully sustainable Olympic edition in economic, environmental and social terms, and to leave, as well, a cultural and infrastructural legacy for future generations.



## YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

At the 119th IOC Session held in Guatemala in 2007, at the initiative of the President of the Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, a historic decision was made to celebrate the Youth Olympic Games. Rogge stated that: *“These Games are not just about sports competitions, they are a good opportunity for all the young people involved to learn about the Olympic values and benefits of sport and thus, to be able to share their experience with other communities around the world.”*

The purpose of creating these Games was to inspire young people around the world to play sports, to embrace Olympic values (excellence, friendship and respect), which helps building characters, to introduce them to the Olympic atmosphere, giving them the opportunity to show their talents. But most of all, these Games give young competitors the opportunity to make lasting friendships, understanding and communicating with different nations.

The Olympic Youth competition has summer and winter editions, which alternate every two years, just like the classic Olympic Games. The summer edition lasts 12 days, and the winter edition 10 days.

The novelty of these competitions consisted in the introduction of some mixed events (male and female) in the Olympic program, with athletes from different NOCs, but also some non-Olympic sports (e.g. roller skating).

**The first edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games was held in Singapore** in August 2010. More than 3,500 athletes (aged 14-18) from 204 countries participated, competing in 26 sports. During the opening ceremony of the Games, the *Olympic Oath* of coaches was introduced and taken for the first time. The official mascots of this edition were “*Lyo*” and “*Merly*”. “*Lyo*” represented a lion cub



(national symbol) with a fire mane and embodied the values of excellence and friendship. “Merly” was inspired by “Merlion”, a sea creature with a lion’s head and a fish body and embodied excellence and respect.

The young participants in the Games were involved in the “*Culture and Education Program*”, specially designed to raise awareness of the core values of Olympism, skill development, well-being and healthy living, social responsibility and expression through digital media.

Singapore was attended by 29 young reporters and as many young ambassadors (aged 18–25) who had the chance to represent, in this role, the National Olympic Committees. The young athletes participating in competitions were given the opportunity to meet and talk, in an organized setting, with great champions such as: Sergei Bubka (athletics - pole vault, Ukraine), Wilson Kipketer (athletics - 800 m, Denmark), Elena Isinbaieva (athletics - pole vault, Russian Federation), Rania Elwani (swimming - 50 m and 100 m, Egypt), Frank Fredericks (athletics - 100 m and 200 m, Namibia), Barbara Kendall (sailing, New Zealand), Angela Ruggiero (ice hockey, USA), Alexandr Popov (swimming - 50 m and 100 m freestyle, Russian Federation), Frederic Magne (cycling , France) and Charmaine Crooks (athletics, 4x400 m relay, Canada).



**The 2nd Summer edition of the Youth Olympic Games took place in Nanjing (China) during 16-28 August, 2014, where 203 countries competed in 28 sports, bringing together over 3,500 athletes. The mascot of these Games was Nanjing Lele, who embodies the stones of Yuhua. The stones are colored in red, pink, yellow, white and green. The word “lele” renders the sound of colliding stones, and in Chinese it means happiness or joy. After a competition at national level, the stones were chosen to be the symbol of this competition. Lele is a perfect athlete practicing all 28 sports in the Olympic program. Lele has nevertheless a disadvantage, he does not know how to sing, but he is an extraordinary host.**



104 people were chosen by the NOCs to be Young Ambassadors. They ranged in age from 18 to 25, and they were athletes, coaches, students and young professionals demonstrating that Olympic

values are part of their lifestyle and represent them. Their role was to inspire young athletes to adopt Olympic values in their own lives.

The “*Education and Culture Programme*” constituted an important part of the competition, by which athletes were able to experience an education based on the Olympic values promoting a healthy lifestyle.

**The 3rd summer edition of the Youth Olympic Games took place during 6-19 October, 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.** The city was selected at the IOC Session in 2013 Lausanne. Buenos Aires was declared winner after competing against two other cities: Medellín from Colombia and Glasgow from UK. The hosting of this edition required the building of the Olympic Village and major renovations for one of the multisport centers, namely the Olympic Games Park. Most of the necessary sports facilities were already built.

4,000 athletes from 206 countries competed in 239 events in 32 sports. For the first time in the history of the Olympic Movement, the gender parity was achieved, as the number of girls and boys registered for the competition was equal. Inspired by the slogan “Feel the future”, the Buenos Aires 2018 edition aimed to be a source of inspiration for a better world through sports.

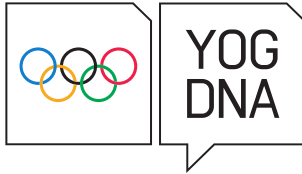
The mascot of this edition was Pandi, a jaguar that is found in northern Argentina and it is an endangered species. This way, the Summer Youth Olympic Games 2018 aimed to increase the awareness level for the risk of extinction of certain animal species. Throughout the competition, Pandi sought to inspire young participants regarding the changing power of the Olympism, and of the sport in general.

New disciplines have been introduced in the sports program: Freestyle BMX, cross-country running, beach handball, climbing, karate, kitesurfing, breakdancing and roller sports.

**The first edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games took place in January 2012 in Innsbruck, Austria.** More than 1,000 athletes from 69 countries participated, competing in seven sports. The Winter Youth Olympics mascot was “Yoggl”, a mountain goat – symbol of perseverance and desire



# INNSBRUCK 2012 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES



to climb higher and higher. The “Yoggl” mascot expressed sustainability and respect for nature and it was chosen as a result of a competition on Facebook.

Along with the five Olympic champions Lindsey Vonn (alpine skiing, USA), Yu-Na Kim (figure skating, Republic of Korea), Kevin Rolland (skiing, France), Sidney Crosby (ice hockey, Canada) and Benjamin Raich (alpine skiing, Austria), 15 young reporters and 33 young ambassadors from different countries also attended the Games. Following

the Singapore tradition, athletes took part in the “Culture and Education Program”, and the young people from neighboring regions such as Tyrol were invited to join the cultural initiatives.

**The Norwegian city of Lillehammer hosted the 2nd Winter edition of the Youth Olympic Games.** The competition took place during 12-22 February, 2016. Lillehammer was the only candidate city for hosting the competition, that being its second attempt. In the 1st edition it lost to Innsbruck.

Over 1,000 athletes from 71 countries participated in 70 events.

Having an Olympic legacy after hosting the 1994 Olympic Games, Lillehammer used the existing sports centres for this YOG edition. The only exception was the Olympic Village, built especially for this competition, and it was put into use for students one year before the start of the Games. Thus, Lillehammer became the first city to host both a youth and a senior edition of the Olympic Games.

The mascot selection process was international. The Organizing Committee extended an invitation for all those concerned, suggesting that the mascot should be a young, gentle and athletic animal. Out of the 50 submitted proposals, there were three chosen and submitted for voting to Facebook fans. They chose the Sjoggl lynx as the mascot of the Winter YOG 2016.

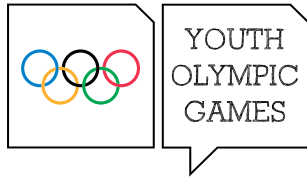
To design the flip side, the IOC launched an online contest, which had more than 300 participants from 65 countries. Romanian Ciprian Burzo won the competition with his project entitled “To the TOP”. The proposed design depicts the Scandinavian Mountains and the Olympic podium. It also has the inscription. “The second Winter edition of the Youth Olympic Games”.

# Lillehammer 2016 Youth Olympic Games



The flip side included the Games emblem and a stylized version of the Mountains - two essential elements for this YOG edition.

## LAUSANNE 2020



The 3rd Winter edition of the Youth Olympic Games took place in Lausanne, Switzerland during 9-22 January, 2020. The announcement of the host city for this edition was made within the 128th IOC Session, in 2015, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Lausanne outclassed the city of Braşov from Romania.

The competition brought together over 1,800 athletes from 79 countries, who competed in 81 events.

Guided by the motto “Start now”, the Lausanne 2020 edition tried to encourage young people to see a starting point in their sporting careers, whether on or off the sports field. The Organizing Committee focused on the involvement of young people in conducting the Games. Thus, 130,000 children helped with the preparations, and 80,000 children took part in competitions and in the Culture and Education Program carried out in each location.

The mascot of this edition was called Yodli, a hybrid animal, that reunites several iconic animals that live in the Swiss mountains: a goat, a St. Bernard dog and a cow. Blue color symbolizes all the lakes from Switzerland.



Volunteers at YOG Lausanne 2020



## EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

In 1990, at the initiative of Jacques Rogge (former President of the European Olympic Committees from 1989-2001 and of the International Olympic Committee from 2001 to 2013), the organization of a youth festival called the "Olympic Days of European Youth " was approved. In 2004, the competition changes its name to European Youth Olympic Festival.

Year	Summer Festival	Winter Festival
1991	Bruxelles (Belgium)	-
1993	Valkenswaard (Netherlands)	Aosta (Italy)
1995	Bath (United Kingdom)	Andorra la Vella (Andorra)
1997	Lisabona (Portugal)	Sundsvall (Sweden)
1999	Esbjerg (Denmark)	Poprad (Slovakia)
2001	Murcia (Spain)	Vuokatti (Finland)
2003	Paris (France)	Bled (Slovenia)
2005	Lignano Sabbiadoro (Italy)	Monthey (Switzerland)
2007	Belgrad (Serbia)	Jaca (Spain)
2009	Tampere (Finland)	Szczyrk (Poland)
2011	Trabzon (Turkey)	Liberec (Czech Republic)
2013	Utrecht (Netherlands)	Braşov (Romania)
2015	Tbilisi (Georgia)	Montafon-Vorarlberg & Liechtenstein (Austria and Liechtenstein)
2017	Gyor (Hungary)	Erzurum (Turkey)
2019	Baku (Azerbaijan)	Sarajevo and Istočno Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
2022	Banská Bystrica (Slovakia)	Vuokatti (Finland)
2023	Maribor (Slovenia)	Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Italy)
2025	Brno (Czechia)	Borjomi-Bakuriani (Georgia)

The EYOF is a multi-sport competition for young athletes aged between 14 to 18 years old, held under the auspices of the EOC and the IOC. Responsible for organizing and coordinating this festival is the Association of European Olympic Committees that cooperate with the International Sports Federations and the Festival Organizing Committees. The Association of European Olympic Committees is made up of 49 National Olympic Committees. The official headquarters of the Association is in Rome, Italy.

The festival offers the opportunity for the best young European athletes to compete with opponents of the same age, being able to experience the multi-sport atmosphere specific to the Youth Olympic Games.

For this Olympic Festival, the ceremonial and the *Olympic Symbols* have been retrieved from the Olympic Games. At the opening ceremony of the festival, the delegations of the participating countries parade in alphabetical order, hoist the *Olympic Flag*, light the *Olympic Flame* and take the *Olympic Oath*. The festival has a summer and a winter edition, being organized in odd years in different European cities. The first summer edition of the European Youth Olympic Festival was held in 1991 in Brussels, Belgium, and the winter edition in 1993 in Aosta, Italy.

Approximately 2,500 competitors participate in the summer editions, and over 1,500 competitors in the winter editions.

The EYOF Summer program includes ten sports: athletics, basketball, cycling, artistic gymnastics, handball, judo, wrestling, swimming, tennis and volleyball.

The Participation in the 12 summer editions of the EYOF was a real launching pad for Romanian athletes to great performance, being able to perform later at both the European and World Championships for juniors, youth and seniors, and at the Olympic Games. Among the sports personalities who started their career at the EYOF it can be mentioned Camelia Potec (swimming), Gabriela Szabo (athletics), Irina Deleanu (rhythmic gymnastics), Ionela Tîrlea (athletics), Daniela Dodean (table tennis), gymnasts Maria Olaru, Loredana Boboc, Oana Ban, Sandra Izbaşa, Larisa Iordache etc.

The history of the European Winter Youth Olympic Festival began in the Italian ski resort of Aosta in 1993. The young continental elite competed for medals in five events: alpine skiing, cross-country, biathlon, figure skating and speed skating. Many athletes who won medals at World Cups, Olympic Games, European and World Championships, have first made their debut at the Winter



Youth Festivals. The winter edition of the EYOF in February 2013 was hosted by the Romanian city of Braşov, but also by other neighboring towns (Râşnov, Predeal, Cheile Grădiştei, Azuga). The EYOF was the largest youth sports event organized in Romania. The festival took place between 17th and 22nd of February, with participants competing in alpine skiing, cross-country, biathlon, ice hockey, figure skating, speed skating (short track - the first appearance was in 1995 in Andorra), ski jumping and snowboarding. More than 1,500 athletes from 45 countries took part in the competition.



The official EYOF logo was in the shape of a snowflake in the five colors of the *Olympic Circles*. The beauty of a snowflake lies in its uniqueness, as there is not a single pair to look perfectly alike, and even if they are so fragile, together they become a force. In the same way, every athlete has his own qualities and strengths. But what makes them better is the team - the team spirit, which helps athletes push their limits.

The official mascot of the Festival 2013 was “*Martin*”, the Carpathian bear. “*Martin*” was dressed in red, yellow and blue colored clothes, representing the colors of the Romanian national flag. The bear is very often present in Romanian culture, inspiring several songs and fairy tales. “*Martin*” appeared in various poses, which corresponded to the eight sporting events included in the Festival’s program.

The event could not have taken place without the help of volunteers who worked with passion and dedication for its flawless organization.

The three medals won by Romanian athletes: Emil Imre, a gold and a silver medal in short-track speed skating - on the distance of 500 m and 1000 m and Dorottya Buzas, a silver medal in biathlon, make us look to the future of our winter sports with confidence.



Throughout all 15 Summer editions, the Romanian athletes won 196 medals, of which 53 gold, 78 silver and 65 bronze. Seven medals were won at the Winter editions, one of which was gold, two silver and four bronze.

**Tbilisi**, the capital of Georgia, hosted between July 25-August 1, **Summer EYOF 2015**. The motto of the competition was “Step to the Future”. More than 3,300 athletes from 50 countries competed in nine sports: athletics, basketball, cycling, gymnastics, handball, judo, swimming, tennis and volleyball.

The mascot of this edition was the PEAKY pheasant. According to a Georgian myth, the pheasant is a main character in the legend about the foundation of Tbilisi. The name “PEAKY” consists of the words “peak” and “youth”. The mascot was launched on the occasion of the International Hugging Day (January 21).

**The 2015 Winter EYOF was organized by Vorarlberg (Austria) and Liechtenstein**, during 25-30 January, 2015, being the first time that two countries hosted a Youth Festival. The motto of this edition was “Rock the Alps!”. 45 National Olympic Committees took part in this competition, bringing together over 1,500 athletes in eight sports: alpine skiing, biathlon, figure skating, ice hockey, nordic combined, ski jumping, cross-country and snowboarding. The competition mascot was the marmot Alpy, living in the Alps and embodying the wildlife and nature of this area. The friendly groundhog also expresses the organizers’ desire to protect the environment by careful planning and use of the available resources.

**The host of the 2017 Summer EYOF was the Hungarian city of Győr**. The festival took place during 23-30 July. This competition was the first Olympic event organized by Hungary. More than 3,600 athletes from 50 countries competed in ten sports: athletics, basketball, canoeing, cycling, gymnastics, handball, judo, swimming, tennis and volleyball. The Hugoo rooster was the mascot of this edition, and it was created based on the legend of the iron rooster from Győr. Due to its popularity, Hugoo later became the mascot of the European U18 Athletics Championships in Győr.

**Erzurum**, a city in Turkey, hosted during 12-17 February, 2017 **the winter edition of the European Youth Olympic Festival**. The EOC initially decided to hold this event in Sarajevo and



Eastern Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), but as the sports bases were not ready in time, the city of Erzurum agreed to host the 2017 competition with already built sports centers, which had hosted Winter Universiade 2011. Over 1,400 athletes from 34 countries participated in nine sports: biathlon, curling, ice hockey, figure skating, short-track speed skating, ski jumping, downhill skiing, cross-country and snowboarding. The snowman Karbeyaz was the mascot of the competition. His name consists of the words “kar” which means “snow” and “beyaz” which means “white”.

Between 21-27 July, 2019, **Baku**, the capital of **Azerbaijan**, hosted **the Summer European Youth Olympic Festival**. 48 National Olympic Committees participated in this edition, registering for the competition over 3,900 athletes, who competed in ten sports: athletics, basketball, cycling, artistic gymnastics, handball, judo, wrestling, swimming, tennis and volleyball. This competition had two mascots - Jirtan and Babir - who were introduced to the public 150 days before the opening of the event. Jirtan is one of the most populous characters in Azerbaijani children’s fairy tales. Though smaller than other children of his age, Jirtan always finds the strength to be brave and intelligent. Babir is a Caucasian leopard, the most popular species in the fauna of its country. He is considered a symbol of natural beauty, power, bravery and speed.



**The 2019 Winter EYOF took place in Sarajevo and Eastern Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)** during 1-15 February. Over 1,500 athletes from 46 countries participated in eight sports: biathlon, curling, ice hockey, figure skating, short-track speed skating, alpine skiing, cross-country and snowboarding. Groodvy was the mascot of this event. His name comes from the word “grudva”, which in Bosnian and Serbian means snowball.

The next two Summer editions of the European Youth Olympic Festival shall take place in 2022 in Banská Bystrica (Slovakia) and in 2023 in Maribor (Slovenia). The EYOF Winter editions shall take place in 2022 in Voukatti (Finland), and in 2023 in Friuli-Venice Giulia (Italy).

## ■ EUROPEAN GAMES

The organization of the “European Games” was approved in December, 2012 at the 41st General Assembly of the EOC in Rome, Italy.

The “European Games” are a multi-sport competition for European athletes, which is held every four years. The Games are held under the auspices of the EOC.

**The first edition of the European Games took place during 12-18 June, 2015 in Baku**, the capital of Azerbaijan. Over 5,800 athletes from 50 countries participated in 20 sports: 16 Olympic sports (athletics, badminton, boxing, canoeing, cycling, gymnastics, judo, wrestling, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, shooting, archery, triathlon, fencing and volleyball), two Olympic sports conducted under non-Olympic format (3x3 basketball and beach football) and two non-Olympic sports (karate and sambo). 12 of the sports offered the opportunity to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Over 12,000 volunteers joined the organization of the inaugural edition of the European Games. They were called “flamekeepers”. The mascots of the competition were the pomegranate Nar and the gazelle Jeyren, who embodied the spirit of Azerbaijan and helped all youth keeping up their enthusiasm for the event. The Baku 2015 logo was inspired by the country’s culture.

**Minsk, the capital of Belarus, hosted the 2nd edition of the European Games** - during 21-30 June, 2019. 50 National Olympic Committees registered for the competition over 4,000 athletes in 15 sports: athletics, badminton, 3x3 basketball, boxing, canoe sprinting, cycling, soccer, gymnastics, judo, karate, wrestling, sambo, shooting and archery. Ten of the sports offered the opportunity to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The logo of the competition was a fern, a plant that plays an important role in Slavic culture. According to legend, it blooms once a year, and anyone who sees the flower acquires unusual skills and talents. The mascot of this edition was a fox cub named Lesik. It wore a T-shirt and shorts with the same colors as the logo, as well as sports shoes and a hat with the Games motto - “Bright Year, Bright You”.

On February 1st, 2019, the Belarussian Postal Service released, especially for these Games, a stamp issue with four stamps featuring the following sports: cycling, athletics, rowing and dancing. Also, on the occasion of this competition, an exhibition entitled “The High Art of Sport” was opened, celebrating the Games and their cultural heritage.

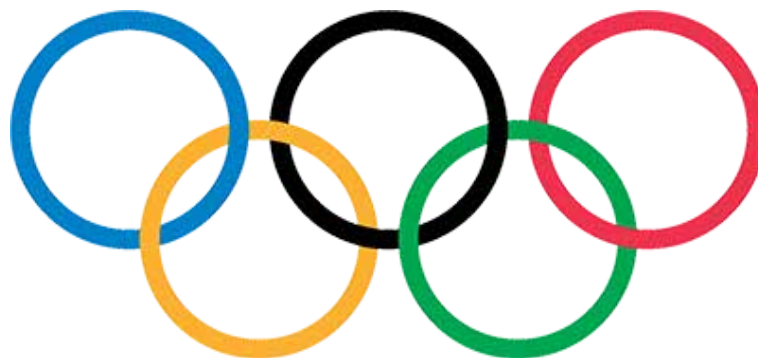


# OLYMPIC SYMBOLS

The *Olympic symbols* transmit direct and simple messages using a universal language, without any need for words. They particularize and give identity to the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games. The *symbols* represent the ideals of Baron Pierre de Coubertin who, in his desire to offer nations a direct way of communication and cooperation, granted this special form of expression to the Olympic Games, giving them a universal magnitude. In this way, Coubertin gave them also an additional aesthetic value and a spirit of enhanced beauty and emulation.

## OLYMPIC SYMBOL

The *Olympic symbol* consists of the five equal-sized chained rings (*Olympic Circles*), in five different colors that are positioned, from left to right, in two rows (three up and two down): blue, black, red, yellow and green. The rings symbolize the tolerance and friendship of the participants in the Games, the ideals, purpose, unity and universality of the Olympic Movement, which have inspired generations for more than a century. They represent all the five continents (Europe, Asia, America, Africa and Australia/Oceania). At least one of the five defining colors,



to which it is added the white background, can be found on the flags of the countries participating in the Games.

The *Olympic symbol* was created in 1912 by Pierre de Coubertin and it was approved at the Olympic Congress in Paris in 1914.

## ■ OLYMPIC MOTTO

The *Olympic motto* consists of three words that come from the Latin “*Citius, Altius, Fortius*” - “*Faster, higher, stronger*”. It was launched in 1891, in Paris, by the Dominican priest Henri Martin Didon (1840-1900), a sports enthusiast (especially in athletics) and taken over by Pierre de Coubertin in 1894. The motto “*Citius, Altius, Fortius*” appeared only once on the *Olympic Flag* raised on the stadium of the Antwerp 1920 Summer Olympics. In Paris, 1924, this became the official motto of the Olympism, and since then it eloquently expresses the aspirations of the Olympic Movement and the direction followed by the world sports phenomenon.

<i>Citius,</i>	<i>Altius,</i>	<i>Fortius,</i>	<i>Communiter</i>
<i>Faster</i>	<i>Higher</i>	<i>Stronger</i>	<i>Together</i>

Until 2021, the *Olympic motto* consisted of three words coming from the Latin “*Citius, Altius, Fortius*” - “*Faster, higher, stronger*”. Starting with July, 2021, the IOC decided to change the old motto. The three words were joined by the Latin word “*Communiter*”, and the motto thus changed to “*Citius, Altius, Fortius - Communiter*” - “*Faster, higher, stronger - together*”. This addition was made to recognize the unifying power of sport, but also the importance of the solidarity. The original motto was launched in 1891, representing a message that is universally acknowledged referring to the physical performance, inciting participants to exceed their own limits, but also to the spiritual level, representing the continuous impetus towards synergy and perfection, in the development of a strong personality.



## OLYMPIC FAITH

*“The important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part; the important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.”*

This phrase was uttered by Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1908 at the London Olympics, being inspired by the preach given by the Bishop of Pennsylvania, Ethelbert Talbot in St. Paul Cathedral from London. At each edition of the Games, the words are displayed on the electronic table in the *Olympic Stadium* and, together with the *Olympic motto*, describe the essence of sportsmanship at the Olympic Games.

## OLYMPIC FLAG

The first *Olympic Flag* was designed by Pierre de Coubertin in 1912 (being made at the “*Bon Marché*” store) and presented at the Olympic Congress in Paris, in June 1914.

The *flag* is white, without borders, and the Olympic Symbol is centered, consisting of the five equal-sized chained rings in five different colors that are placed, from left to right, in two rows: blue, black, red, yellow and green.



The *Olympic flag* was raised for the first time at the Olympic Stadium in Antwerp - Belgium, at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games 1920.

In all Olympic Games, its statute and the Olympic rules provide the obligation to hoist the *Olympic Flag* in the *Olympic Stadium* or in the surroundings, overlapped with the flags of all the participating nations.

The *flag* is a permanent symbolism that is found during the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games and is also hoisted by the National Olympic Committees around the world.

## ■ OLYMPIC OATH

The text of the modern *Olympic Oath* was written by Pierre de Coubertin, who suggested the resumption of the oath taking tradition, as the ancient Greeks did in front of the temple of Zeus in Olympia. It has become a traditional ritual that takes place during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

The first athlete to take the modern *Olympic Oath* was Victor Boin, a Belgian fencer, at the Olympic Games 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium.

Starting with 1972 (at the Munich Olympics), the *Olympic Oath* is taken, also, by an official or referee of the host country: *"On behalf of all the referees and officials, I promise that we shall officiate these Olympic Games with complete impartiality, following and complying with the rules which govern them in the true spirit of sportsmanship."*

At the Singapore 2010 Summer Youth Olympic Games, a third oath taken by coaches was introduced in the protocol of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, which was also recited at the London 2012 Olympics: *"On behalf of all the coaches and other members of the athletes' entourage, I promise that we shall commit ourselves to ensuring respect for the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play in accordance with the fundamental principles of Olympism."*

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games have brought changes to the oath taking process. Thus, the number of people taking the oath increased from three to six: two athletes, two coaches and two referees. This decision concerns the gender parity, as for each of the above categories there must be a woman and a man.

Athletes from the host country, on the stage located in the *Olympic Stadium*, hold a corner of the *Olympic Flag* with their hands taking the following oath:



*“On behalf of all competitors, we promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and following the rules guiding them, in the spirit of fair play, inclusion and equality. Together we stand in solidarity and commit to doing sports without doping, without cheating, without any form of discrimination. We do this for the honor of our teams, respecting the fundamental principles of Olympism and to make the world a better place through sport.”*

Depending on the group taking the oath, the first part changes as follows: “On behalf of all referees”, “On behalf of all coaches and officials”.

## ■ OLYMPIC FLAME AND OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

The “Olympic Flame” creates the link between the ancient Olympic Games and the modern Olympic Games, symbolizing the idea of universality and continuity. It is lit at Olympia, where the actual ceremony takes place. A group of 11 vestals led by the high priestess present themselves in front of the temple of Hera and lit the torch directly from the sun (to keep its purity), using parabolic mirrors called “skapia”. At each edition of the Olympic Games, a new torch with a different design is created (and multiplied into copies), with the approval of the IOC, in order to light and keep the Olympic Flame ignited.

For the first time in the modern era, the Olympic Flame was lit on the Olympic Stadium in 1928, at the 9th edition of the Summer Olympic Games in Amsterdam (Netherlands). The Olympic flame shall be always lit under the authority of the IOC

At the Winter Olympics, the Olympic Flame was first lit in 1948 in Saint Moritz, Switzerland.

The Olympic Torch Relay has been officially approved at the IOC Session in Oslo (Norway), since 1935. The ceremony in which the sacred fire is lit, in Olympia, and then the Olympic Torch carried by relay (handed over from one athlete to another) to the stadium, the place of the opening ceremony of the Games, was developed by the German Karl Diem in 1936, at the 11th edition of the Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. Bringing the Olympic Flame (using torches) to the host city of the modern Olympic Games continues the action of the peace messengers, who carried in all



corners of ancient Greece the message that the competitions at Olympia have started and all military operations have to cease (“ekecheiria”). The first carrier of the Olympic torch was Kostas Kondylis.

In 1964, in Innsbruck, Austria, the Olympic Torch Relay took place for the first time at the Winter Olympics.

The first Olympic Flame for the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore was lit in 2010 in Olympia.

The Olympic Flame crossed Romania for the first time in 1972, on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Munich, Germany. The event was reedited at the Moscow 1980 Olympics.



## OLYMPIC ANTHEM

The *Olympic Anthem* shall be sung at all the events of the International Olympic Committee or the National Olympic Committees, during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games accompanying the raising of the *Olympic Flag*. It was composed in 1896 by the Greek composer Spiros Samara, and the lyrics were written by the poet Kostis Palamas. At the Olympic Games in Athens (Greece), in 1896, it was sung and performed, and then resumed at the unofficial edition of the 1906 Games in Athens.

At the 55th IOC Session in Tokyo in 1958, following the actions taken by Anna Samara (the composer's widow), it was approved as the official anthem of the Olympic Games.

The *Olympic Anthem* was officially sung, for the first time, on the *Olympic Stadium* in Rome, at the Olympic Games 1960, according to a marching band musical arrangement made by Domenico Fantini.

### The Olympic Anthem

*Kostis Palamas*

“O Ancient immortal Spirit, pure father  
Of beauty, of greatness and of truth,  
Descend, reveal yourself and flash like lightning here,  
within the glory of your own earth and sky.

At running and at wrestling and at throwing,  
Shine in the momentum of noble contests,  
And crown with the unfading branch  
And make the body worthy and ironlike.

Plains, mountains and seas glow with you  
Like a white-and-purple great temple,  
And hurries at the temple here, your pilgrim,  
O Ancient immortal Spirit, every nation.”

## OLYMPIC GAMES CEREMONIES

The important components of the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games, as well as the awarding of the Olympic medals are described in the Olympic Charter of the International Olympic Committee. Many of these rituals have been consecrated at the Antwerp 1920 Summer Olympics.

The opening ceremony of the Olympic Games is an invitation to everyone for the discovering of the traditions and culture of the host country. It includes the anthem singing and the raising of the host country's flag, followed by an artistic performance and the parade of the participating Olympic delegations. At the opening ceremony, the athletes parade under the flags of the competing countries, symbolizing the universality and cultural diversity of the Games. The parade of the Olympic delegations evolves in alphabetical order (according to the alphabet of the host country). The first to enter and parade on the *Olympic Stadium* is the Olympic team of Greece, in recognition of its status, as it is the place where the ancient Olympic Games were born, as well as the country that hosted the first edition of the modern Olympic Games (1896). The athletes from the Olympic team of the organizing country is the last to parade. The honor to open the Olympic Games goes to the head of state of the host country. This is followed by the Anthem singing and the *Olympic Flag* raising, the *Olympic Oath*- took by athletes, officials and coaches, the *Olympic Flame* lighting in the especially designed cup lying on the *Olympic Stadium* and the symbolic pigeon release (the symbol of peace).



The medal award ceremony is held at the end of each sports competition. During the ceremony, the medals and diplomas of the top three competitors are awarded by the IOC members, and the winner's national anthem is sung while the national flags of the gold, silver and bronze medalists are hoisted. The competitors ranked 4th to 8th receive honorary diplomas.

In addition to the ranking medals, there are also participation medals. The sport, event and edition of the Olympic Games shall be inscribed on each medal. The gold medal is made of silver and it is coated with 6 g layer of gold. It is at least 60 mm in diameter and 3 mm thick. At the Paris 1924 Olympics, on the medals were inscribed the *Olympic Circles*. The gold medals were first introduced in 1908 at the Olympic Games in London. At the first edition of the modern Olympic Games in Athens, 1896, the 1st place athlete was awarded a silver medal. Since 1928 to 2000, the downside of the Olympic medal at the Summer Olympics has remained unchanged, as initially created by Giuseppe Cassioli. One side of the medal depicted the goddess Nike (of victory) who wore a palm leaf in her left hand and an olive branch in her right. Until 1968, the other side depicted an athlete carried on the shoulders of the crowd, and then came out the pictograms and the other design, on each of the medals being inscribed the sport and the respective event. At the Olympic Games 2004 in Athens, the top three ranked competitors received, additionally to medals and diplomas, a wreath of olive branches (as in Antiquity), to highlight the moral value of the competition.

For the Winter Olympics, medals are not subject to the same restrictions. The Organizing Committees of the “*White Games*” are free to decide on a different design for each edition. They tend to be more creative in their projects, incorporating various materials such as crystal, granite, etc.. Starting with the Olympic Games 1928 in St. Moritz (Switzerland) until today, the Olympic medals of the Winter Games are regularly inscribed with the *Olympic Circles*.

The closing ceremony is held on the last day of the Games at the *Olympic Stadium* after all the competitions have ended. During the ceremony there is an award ceremony, usually the men's marathon, and then are nominated the athletes elected to be members in the IOC Athletes' Commission. The ceremony starts with the Anthem singing and raising of the host country's flag and the flag parade of each participating nation (each flag being carried by an athlete delegated by the respective NOC), the artistic program, the parade of all athletes - as members of the great *Olympic Family* (for the first time at the Olympic Games 1956 in Melbourne, Australia, the parade took place as one single nation, showing friendship and mutual understanding), staying in the center of the

arena until the end of the artistic program. The anthem is sung and the flag of Greece is raised as a symbol of the connection between the ancient and modern Olympics; followed by the anthem singing and the flag raising of the country that organizes the future Games. During the ceremony, after the *Olympic flag* is lowered, the mayor of the host city hands it to the IOC President, who offers it to the mayor of the city that shall host the next edition. This moment is followed by a short artistic show supported by the country that shall organize the upcoming Games. Following the speech of the President of the Games Organizing Committee, who thanks the athletes and volunteers, the IOC President is the one declaring the Olympic Games closed, inviting at the same time all athletes to the next edition of the Olympics, and in the end the *Olympic Flame* is extinguished.



## OLYMPIC VILLAGE

The idea of building an *Olympic Village* belonged to Pierre de Coubertin. All participants (athletes, officials, technical and medical staff) in the Olympic Games are accommodated in a specially arranged place called the “*Olympic Village*”.



In 1932, at the 10th Olympics edition in Los Angeles, an inbuilt and compact complex was built, being the first *Olympic Village* to serve as a model for future editions of the Games. Only men were accommodated inside of it, and women were accommodated at the hotel.

Today, the *Olympic Village* features various buildings such as: living spaces, commercial, leisure, cultural areas, restaurants, utilities (post office, clinic, bank, internet), etc. *The Olympic Village* is provided with a high level of security, the access inside being allowed only on the basis of special credentials.

## ■ SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES MASCOTS

Since the first official Summer Olympics *mascot*, approved by the IOC in 1972, in Munich, a dog named “Waldi”, it has become an important element of the Olympic image.

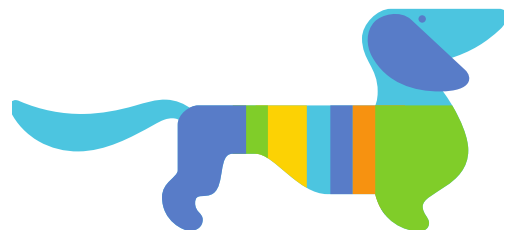
The *mascot* represents the Olympic spirit, passing over the concept for each edition, promoting the history, traditions and cultural heritage of the host country. Regardless of its body shape, whether it is a specific national animal or a human figure, *mascots* shall pass over the message of the Olympic Games.

At the Winter Olympics, the first official *mascot* showed up in 1980 in Lake Placid, USA.

The first unofficial *mascots* showed up in 1968, at the Winter Olympics in Grenoble, France (“Shuss”- an alpine skier) and the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, Mexico (a red jaguar).

Starting with the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, the Olympic and Paralympic mascots are introduced together.

The first official *mascot* (1972) was Waldi, a Dachshund dog (“teckel”). This mascot embodied the endurance, tenacity and agility of the athletes.





In 1976, the *Amik* beaver was the official *mascot*. The beaver, a native animal in Canada, is associated with hard work.

In Moscow in 1980, the *mascot* was the brown bear *Misha*. Its creator was a famous children's book illustrator, Victor Chizhikov.



At the 1984 edition, the *mascot* was the great friendly bald eagle, *Sam* (US national bird).

The *Hodori tiger*, the *mascot* of the 1988 edition, symbolized the friendship and hospitality of the Koreans. It wore a "*sangano*", the hat from a traditional dance, and the *Olympic Circles* adorned its neck. *Hosuni* was the female version of *Hodori*.



The 1992 Barcelona *mascot* was a Cuban-style Catalan shepherd dog named *Cobi*. It was made by cartoonist Javier Mariscal.

At the Atlanta Summer Olympics (1996), the *mascot* was a computer-generated abstract figure. The name was *Izzy* and it came from the phrase "*What is it?*".



In Sydney, in the year 2000, there were three *mascots*: *Olly*, *Syd* and *Millie*, created by Matthew Hattan. *Olly* was the kukabura bird and symbolized generosity and friendship; *Syd* was a dynamic platypus, symbolizing the energy and vitality of the athlete attending the Games; *Millie* was an echidna and preferred sports that required precision and elaborate strategy (fencing and gymnastics).



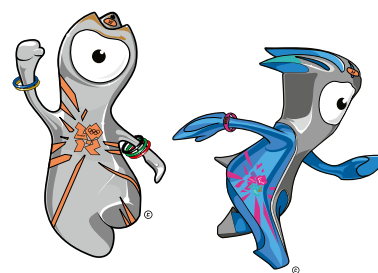
*Athena and Phevos* (sister and brother in Greek mythology) were the mascots of 2004. The author was inspired by a doll from ancient Greece. They embodied the values of Olympism: participation, equality, collaboration and fair play.



*Fuwa* (Chinese for “children of good luck and happiness”), the 2008 mascot consisted of five figures that symbolized China’s most popular animals as well as the *Olympic Flame*. Each had a specific

color, and its name consisted of two rhythmic syllables. *Beibei*, the blue mascot, is a fish and symbolizes water sports. The black mascot, *Jingjing*, was the panda bear and symbolized martial arts and judo. *Huanhuan*, who represented the *Olympic Flame*, was red and symbolized ball sports. The Tibetan antelope *Yingying* was yellow and symbolized athletics. *Nini*, the green mascot (a swallow) symbolized the grace of gymnasts. If the names of the mascots were spoken together, they meant “Welcome to Beijing!”.

The mascots of the 2012 London Olympics were *Wenlock* and also *Mandeville* (for the Paralympic Games). *Wenlock* was named after Much Wenlock of Shropshire, UK. He was a metallic one-eyed futuristic character, wearing five “friendship bracelets” (*Olympic Circles*) and had three lines on its forehead symbolizing the three places on the podium. On its body was the competition logo, and on its head was the first initial of its name and a yellow light, similar to traditional London taxis. The creator of the mascots was the artist Michael Morpurgo.





*Vinicius* and *Tom* were the mascots of 2016 Summer Olympics, respectively Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. They were chosen following a national selection process launched in November 2012.

*Vinicius* embodies the Brazilian wildlife blending characteristics of the following animals: cat, monkey and bird. Its name pays tribute to the Brazilian poet *Vinicius de Moraes*, and its mission is to spread joy throughout the world and celebrate the friendship flourishing among people around the globe.

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*Tom's* design embodies the life of Brazilian plants and it was named after the Brazilian musician *Tom Jobim*. The mascot's mission is to inspire people to use their creativity and determination to always get further and at the same time have fun.

The mascot of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games was *Miraitowa*, while *Someity* was the mascot of the Paralympic Games. The mascots clothing was inspired by the checkered pattern of the official logo which uses a checkered design similar and very popular to the Edo period (1603-1867).



The name of the Olympic mascot, *Miraitowa*, is composed of two words “*mirai*” which means “future” and “*towa*” which signifies “eternity”. The name was chosen to promote “a future full of eternal hope in the hearts of people around the world.” The character has a strong sense of justice, being also extremely athletic. It can teleport anywhere at any time.

*Someity*, the Paralympic mascot, was named after the word “*someiyoshine*”, a certain type of cherry blossom. The color of its clothes is also inspired by the cherry blossom. The character is quite peaceful, but can be very strong when needed. *Someity's* abilities are to fly with the checkered cape and send telepathic messages using cherry blossom antennae.



## WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES MASCOTS

The first *mascot* at a Winter Olympics was in 1976 in Innsbruck. Its name was *Schneemann*, which in German means snowman.



*Roni* was the name of the *mascot* from the Lake Placid 1980 edition. Its name was chosen by the students of a school, and comes from raccoon, an animal living in the Lake Placid region. *Roni* was the first *mascot* to be introduced as practicing various winter sports.



*Vučko* was the *mascot* at the Olympic Games 1984 in Sarajevo. It was a wolf, but *Vučko* took the form of a friendly wolf that was to change the image of this ferocious animal. The *mascot* was chosen following a contest where over 800 participants entered.



*Hidy* and *Howdy* were the *mascots* at the 1988 Olympics. The name of the *mascots* represents the Calgary region's hospitality. *Hidy* is an extension of the "hi" greeting, and *Howdy* is an abbreviation of "how do you do". *Hidy* and *Howdy* are two polar bears, and were the first couple of *mascots* at an Olympic edition.



*Magique* was the *mascot* of the 1992 Olympic edition in Albertville. *Magique* was the first *mascot* after 1976 that didn't embody an animal. The *mascot* was star-shaped and symbolized dreams and imagination. Its colors were taken from the French flag.





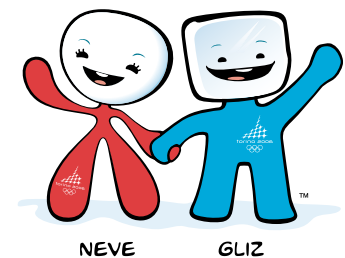
In 1994, at the Lillehammer Olympics, the *mascots* were *Hakon* and *Kristin*. The names of the *mascots* came from some historical figures of the 13th century, whose destiny was linked to the Norwegian region of Lillehammer. *Hakon* and *Kristin* were the first human-shaped mascots and represented two children.

*Sukki, Nokki, Lekki* and *Tsukki* were the *mascots* of the Nagano 1998 edition. The characters embodied four owls representing fire (*Sukki*), air (*Nokki*), earth (*Lekki*) and water (*Tsukki*). The four *mascots* were also chosen to represent the four-year period between two Olympic editions.



Salt Lake City 2002 had three *mascots* named *Powder*, *Copper* and *Coal*. They represented three native animals of Utah. All three animals are found in local American legends.

The Turin 2006 edition had two *mascots* named *Neve* and *Gliz*. *Neve* was female, which in Italian means snow, and *Gliz*, *Neve*'s partner, was an ice cube.



At the last edition of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Vancouver (Canada) *mascots* were *Miga*, *Quatchi* and *Sumi*. *Miga* was a mythical sea animal that liked to surf in summer and snowboard in winter. *Quatchi* came from a mysterious forest in Canada, and loved to travel, to take pictures and dream of becoming a hockey goal-keeper. *Sumi* came from the forests of British Columbia and was a passionate environmentalist. Its favorite sport was alpine skiing. *Miga* and *Quatchi* were the Olympic Games *mascots*, while *Sumi* was the Paralympic competition *mascot*.



The *mascots* of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi (The Russian Federation) were the *Leopard*, the *Polar Bear* and the *Rabbit*. The three mascots were designed by Silvia Petrova, Oleg Serdechny and Vadim Pak.



For the Paralympic Games, the mascots were the *Sunbeam* and the *Snowflake*. The story goes that the two came from two different planets - one with a lot of heat and one where it is very cold - and found each other on Earth. Regardless of their origins, through sports they can find that they are not that different from people.

The *mascot* of the 2018 Olympic edition in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea, for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, was *Sohorang*, a white tiger. The name is a combination of the words “Sooho” meaning “protection” in Korean and “Rang”, a derivative of the Korean word for “tiger”, but also from a traditional song from Gangwon province, where the sports competitions will take place. The tiger is a very treasured animal in Korean culture.



For the 2022 Olympic edition in Beijing, People’s Republic of China, was chosen the mascot *Bing Dwen Dwen*, representing the panda bear. “Bing” means “ice” in Mandarin, and “dwen dwen” - “strong and lively”. It is a symbol of purity and strength, a combined characteristic of the Winter Olympics.

The bright lantern, named *Shuey Rhon Rhon*, was chosen as the mascot of Beijing 2022 Paralympic Games. It will light the warmth and friendship between Paralympic athletes around the world.

## OLYMPIC PICTOGRAMS

The *Olympic pictograms* are symbolic and suggestive sports representations included in the program of each Olympic Games edition (summer or winter). The role of the pictograms is to facilitate communication and to provide to athletes, officials and spectators information about sports (consisting of movements and objects that describe the activity).

The *pictograms* were first introduced in 1964 at the Tokyo Olympics (20 sports icons and 39 for general information) to overcome the language barriers of communication, as Japan had not adopted the principles of international traffic signs introduced in 1949, at the Geneva Conference of the United Nations. Japanese graphic artists took advantage of this opportunity to define a more unifying and readable symbolic language internationally and locally (Ekotoba). Over time, the *Olympic Pictograms* have been stylized and they are today an undisputed aid for athletes, officials and spectators.



3x3 Basketball



Archery



Artistic Gymnastic



Artistic Swimming



Athletics



Badminton



Baseball / Softball



Baseball / Softball



Basketball



Beach Volleyball



Boxing



Canoe Slalom



Canoe Sprint



Cycling BMX Freestyle



Cycling BMX Racing





Cycling Mountain Bike



Cycling Road



Cycling Track



Diving



Equestrian Dressage



Equestrian Eventing



Equestrian Jumping



Fencing



Football



Golf



Handball



Hockey



Judo



Karate Kata



Karate Kumite



Marathon Swimming



Modern Pentathlon



Rhythmic Gymnastics



Rowing



Rugby



Sailing



Shooting



Skateboarding



Sport Climbing



Surfing



Swimming



Table Tennis



Taekwondo



Tennis



Trampoline Gymnastics



Triathlon



Volleyball



Water Polo



Weightlifting



Wrestling

*„The winners in life think  
constantly in terms of:  
I CAN, I WILL AND  
I AM!”*

**Dennis Waitley**  
Olympic champion  
and astronaut

v

OLYMPIC ROMANIA

## OLYMPIC ROMANIA

It was Evangelos Zappa who came with the content, leaving the descendants to develop the format. He brought up a new topic - the revival of the Olympic Games, with a positive impact on the general public.

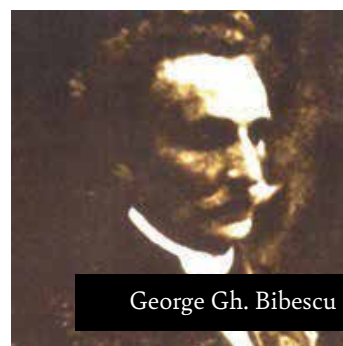
Also, in 1871, the German archaeologist Ernst Curtius revealed conclusive evidence of the beginnings and subsequent development of the ancient Olympic phenomenon. At the same time, in the 19th century, the sports movement began to gain more and more importance, especially after it came to be theorized by the development of national athletics systems (French, German, Swedish, English, etc.). The above related information starts to get around the Romanian Principalities, thanks to the national and international press, foreign travelers or the help of students who brought new information about the development of the West, among which the sports movement had an important role.

Romania shall not wait for the progress of the West in terms of physical education, but starts to have its small initiatives since the second half of the 19th century. This is how the first Romanian treatise appeared in 1869: *"Gymnastics book"*, written by Gheorghe Moceanu, the first physical education teacher in Romania. He also organized and managed in 1874 the *"School of Gymnastics and Fencing"*. In 1883, the *"Romanian Olympic Society"*, a private gymnastics club, was founded in Bucharest. Regarding this private club, it can be noticed its name, but also the use of the term *"Olympic"* for a sports organization, which proves us the spread and use of information about the Olympic competitions in the Romanian territories at that time.

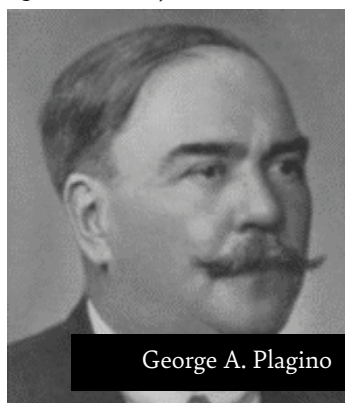
While the foundation stone of the modern Olympic Movement was being laid at Sorbonne, the first sports arena in the country, the *"Romanian Velodrome"*, was inaugurated in Bucharest in the same year, in 1894, a construction set up between the Roadway Buffet and the Arch of Triumph. The money donated for this



wooden construction came from the founder of the “*Universul*” newspaper, the Romanian journalist of Italian origin Luigi Cazzavillan. At Sorbonne, on June 23, 1894, the International Olympic Committee was founded, a superior forum that would deal with the relaunch and organization of the Olympic Games. That’s where the organizing of the first Athens Olympic Games in 1896 and the attendee list for this modern edition was decided. Among the guests were Romanian athletes, too, but none of them participated in this inaugural edition. The George Gh. Bibescu’s name the son of the former ruler of Wallachia, Gheorghe Bibescu, was related to the Olympic Movement. Settled in Paris and joining the meetings of the Paris high society, he will soon reach the circles attended by Pierre de Coubertin, being among the first Romanians who gets into direct contact with him. The ideas given by the baron will fascinate him, so that he becomes in 1899 a member of the International Olympic Committee, before the foundation of the Romanian Olympic Committee in 1914. He was the first Romanian attendee in the IOC, being elected as the 23rd member, and Romania became the 16th nation to have a member in the Olympic Movement.



George Gh. Bibescu



George A. Plagino

The first Romanian contacts with the modern Olympic Movement had been achieved, allowing from that moment the interest, involvement and commitments to lead to a development of the Olympic phenomenon in time.

In 1908, at the London session, it was elected the second IOC member for Romania. George A. Plagino became the 57th IOC member. He had a very long term and remained in the *Olympic Family* until 1948, being one of the longest-living leaders of the Olympic Movement.

Alexandru Şiperco was the 3rd Romanian elected member of the IOC in 1955 and held the position of Vice President of this forum between 1982-1986.



Alexandru Şiperco

In 2013, at the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires, the President of the ROSC, Octavian Morariu was elected IOC member for Romania.



Octavian Morariu

## CREATION OF THE ROMANIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Romania was directly interested to deepen its knowledge and participate in various ways (athletes and officials) within the Olympic Movement. The first steps were taken by George Gh. Bibescu and George Alexandru Plagino. The next step was to send an official delegation to the Olympic Games, but for this to happen, a National Olympic Committee had to be set up first.

Immediately after his election to the IOC, Plagino took his position and duties seriously and tried to influence the decision-makers of the time in Bucharest to create a National Olympic Committee.

G.A. Plagino focused his energy to the selection and formation of an official Romanian delegation to participate in the 1912 edition of the Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden (the homeland of Per Henrik Ling, – the founder of Swedish gymnastics). Plagino sent the Swedish officials the necessary documents for registration, and the organizers accepted the participation of the Romanian athletes, and in reply they sent the Games official posters translated into Romanian for a better advertising. However, Plagino had to inform them of the absence of Romanian athletes in the Olympic arena, due to the lack of funds needed to travel, but also the insufficient support he and the Olympic Movement had in the country. Following this failure, Plagino sent the state officials an open letter in which he “reprimanded” them for their lack of interest in an international event that could have brought significant benefits for the country’s image. Even though the beginning was not as expected, Plagino continued to persevere and gather around him friends and politicians to support him in his efforts.

Officially, the Romanian Olympic Committee was founded on March 27, 1914 and was immediately admitted by the IOC. In the official letter for the ROC’s recognition, Plagino also





presented the composition of the newly established forum. The first ROC President was Prince Carol of Romania (1914-1920), and among the members were distinguished personalities of the time: George A. Plagino, George Valentin Bibescu, Vintilă Brătianu, Iosif Iacobici, Jean Cămărășescu, Jean Costinescu, George Costescu, George Murgoci, Dinu Cesianu, George Moruzi, Grigore Caracostea, Theodor Rosetti, Dimitrie Ionescu, Carol Davila, Mihai Savu and Neagu Boerescu.

Prince Carol held the honorary position as President of the Romanian Olympic Committee, because he was a member of the royal family and the ROC could benefit from a potential support in future actions. It was known that the Crown Prince was devoted to sports. The presence of the royal family close to the Olympic Movement existed since the beginning, and the support of its members for the development of the Olympic phenomenon shall not be overlooked. In all 100 years since the founding of the Romanian forum, there have been 16 presidents under its leadership.

Since November 15, 2004, the ROC has changed its structure and changed its name to the “Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee”.

It is an association of national interest belonging to the Olympic Movement, which is organized and works based on its own statute developed in accordance with the provisions of the Olympic Charter and the Romanian legislation in force.

In accordance with its purpose and role at national level, the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee supports and encourages initiatives to promote peace, sports ethics, the fight against doping, and the protection of the environment; undertakes to apply non-discriminatory conduct in this field, regardless of race, religion, politics, sex or other criteria, takes action to prevent violations of moral standards and violence in sports; promotes and supports social integration of athletes, and is also preoccupied with the promotion of women in sport.

The Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee aims to promote the fundamental principles of Olympism at national level, through education, physical education and sports programs, in school and university institutions, supporting the activity of relevant bodies and institutions. The Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee also supports the creation of institutions dedicated to Olympic education.

The Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee has the obligation to participate in the Olympic Games by sending athletes and supporting the participation of delegations in the Paralympic Games. The Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee constitutes, organizes and leads the Romanian delegations at the Olympic Games and other regional, continental or world multisport competitions organized under the patronage of the IOC or the Olympic continental associations, being responsible for the conduit of its delegation members, and supporting the participation in the Paralympic Games.

The first Romanian participation was mentioned at the Paris 1900 edition, when athlete George Alexandru Plagino competed “*in his own name*” in shooting, in the trap event. The Romanian Olympic team officially participated for the first time in the Paris 1924 Olympics, where the rugby team won the first Olympic medal of bronze.

Romania’s first Olympic champion was Iosif Sârbu in shooting at the Helsinki 1952 Olympic Games.



The first Romanian female Olympic champion was the athlete Iolanda Balaş, in the high jump event, at the Rome 1960 Olympic Games. At the same time, Iolanda Balaş was the first sportswoman in Romania, two-time Olympic champion in two consecutive editions (Rome 1960 and Tokyo 1964).

At the Grenoble 1968 Winter Olympics, it was the bobsleigh crew, composed by Ion Panţuru and Nicolae Neagoe, that brought Romania the bronze medal, a solitary victory for Romanians in the history of white sports.

Throughout its Olympic history (participation in 22 Summer and Winter editions), the Romanian delegation won 309 medals, of which 90 gold, 97 silver and 122 bronze.

## PRESIDENTS OF THE ROMANIAN OLYMPIC FORUM

1914-1920	His Highness Prince Carol of Romania
1920-1923	Prince George Valentin Bibescu
1923-1930	His Highness Prince Carol of Romania
1930-1940	His Majesty King Carol II of Romania
1947-1951	Ion Gheorghe Maurer
1951-1953	Mihail Macavei
1953-1959	Alexandru Şiperco
1959-1960	Manole Bodnăraş
1960-1966	Aurel Duma
1966-1974	Anghel Alexe
1974-1984	General Marin Dragnea
1984-1987	Haralambie Alexa
1987-1989	General Gheorghe Gomoiu
1989-1990	General Constantin Oprea
1990-1998	Lia Manoliu
1998-2004	Ion Ţiriac
2004-2014	Octavian Morariu
2014-2016	Alin Petrache
2016-	Mihai Covaliu

## SECRETARY GENERALS OF THE ROMANIAN OLYMPIC FORUM

1947-1954	Octav Luchide
1954-1959	Gheorghe Bianu
1959-1963	Paul Georgescu
1963-1974	Anghel Vrabie
1974-1982	Emil Ghibu
1982-1990	Septimiu Todea
1990-1994	Alexandru Mogoș
1995-1998	Dan Popper
1998-1999	Mihaela Peneș
1999-2004	Dan Popper
2004-2016	Ioan Dobrescu
2016-	George Boroï

## IOC MEMBERS FOR ROMANIA

1834-1902	George Gh. Bibescu	IOC member 1899-1901
1878-1949	George A. Plagino	IOC member 1908-1948
1920-1998	Alexandru Șiperco	IOC member 1955-1998
1961-	Octavian Morariu	IOC member 2013-



# ROMANIAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY



The Romanian Olympic Academy is perceived as an entity of Olympic culture and education, necessary both in the sports and social life of young people. The ROA was founded on March 21, 1991.

The ROA founding members are: Lia Manoliu, Emil Ghibu, Dr. Ioan Drăgan, Ion Matei, Dan Popper, Aurică Stoian, Corneliu Florescu, Ioan Kunst Ghermănescu, Dumitru Alexandrescu, Alexandru Mogoș, Alexandru Lăzărescu, Ioan Todan, Nicu Alexe, Teodor Roibu, Traian Tomescu, Victor Bănciulescu, Mircea Lovin, Nicolae Mărășescu, Octavian Vintilă, Cristian Țopescu, Anghel Vrabie, Aurel Encuțescu, Aurel Predescu, Elena Frâncu, Elena Firea, Cornel Oțelea, Alexandru Mironov, Mihaela Peneș, Vanghelie Chiose, Ioan Mureșan.



The main goal of the Romanian Olympic Academy is to affirm, develop and promote at all levels the great ideas of the Olympism, the spirit and the Olympic principles of sporting activity in Romania. The objectives pursued by the supported activities are: exploring the historical, cultural, ethical and social aspects of the national and world Olympic Movement, and those related to the Olympic Games; promoting the spirit of fair play, acting against all forms of discrimination and violence in sport, as well as against the use of substances and procedures prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Code; disseminating the Olympism through training and educational programs, contributing to the training, in the spirit of Olympic ideals, of physical education and sports professionals; assisting the activity of the institutions dedicated to Olympic education and cultural programs in relation to the Olympic Movement, stimulating the activity of study and research, as well as the artistic and literary creation based on the Olympic theme.

The activity of the Romanian Olympic Academy is provided by a Board of Directors including 11 members: a director, a secretary, eight members (four of whom are responsible for the organizing committees, Olympic education and culture, research and documentation of the Olympic phenomenon, expert training and development in the field of the Olympic Movement) and a director of the Olympic Academy of Excellence.



The activity in the territory is carried out through Olympic circles and clubs, basic bodies organized by the 48 county branches: Alba, Arad, Argeș, Bacău, Bihor, Bistrița-Năsăud, Botoșani, Brașov, Brăila, Bucharest and six other branches, Buzău, Caraș-Severin, Călărași, Cluj, Constanța, Covasna, Dâmbovița, Dolj, Galați, Giurgiu, Harghita, Hunedoara, Ialomița, Iași, Maramureș, Mehedinți, Mureș, Neamț, Olt, Prahova, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Sibiu, Suceava, Teleorman, Timiș, Tulcea, Vaslui, Vâlcea and Vrancea.

The county branches have the power to act locally for the promotion of Olympism and the organization of cultural-sports-artistic events.

The main actions carried out by the ROA and its branches shall include:

- a) encouragement of Olympic-themed artistic and literary creations among children and young people; introduction of annual national competitions “*Olympic Games in Children’s Imagination*” and “*A Fountain Pen Named Fair Play*”;
- b) traditional manifestations organized by branches during the “*Olympic Month*”: the “*Olympic Day*” run, the local stage of the plastic arts competitions “*Olympic Games in Children’s Imagination*” of literature and sports journalism “*A Fountain Pen Named Fair Play*”, as well as those of Olympic culture “*Who knows Olympism, wins!*”, the celebration of the “*Olympic Day*”;
- c) the annual organization, at national level, of the Olympic-themed Scientific Communications Session of the ROA. Participation with Olympic sections in the program of scientific events organized under the auspices of the Sports Science Council, National University of Physical Education and Sports, Faculties and Departments of Physical Education and Sports;
- d) initiating conferences, symposiums and round tables on sports and sports related;
- e) organization of exhibitions on the history of ancient and modern Olympic Games, retrospectives of Romanian Olympic medalists and great sports personalities, posters, artistic and documentary photography, Olympic-themed works of art, sports book launches;
- f) encouraging the organization of exhibitions, libraries, documentation sectors within the country branches. Boosting the initiative to organize cultural and artistic events, highlighting Olympic symbolism and major sporting events: Olympic Games, World and European Championships;
- g) the annual edition of the “*Olympic Spirit - Informative Bulletin of the ROA*” magazine, supporting the publication in volume of a number of literary and scientific works with impact on the promotion of Olympism;

- h) providing specific means of visual and auditory Olympic promotion, documentary materials, needed to carry out the activities in branches, clubs and Olympic circles;
- i) contribution to the training in the spirit of Olympic ideals of the physical education and sports experts and of the staff working in the Olympic clubs and circles, through the annual organization of the Olympic training and information course;
- j) contribution to the continuous training and social integration of athletes and former performance athletes, or industry specialists;
- k) regular organization of “*In Memoriam*” actions intended to commemorate the great sport personalities;
- l) selecting, appointing, preparing and sending its representatives to events held under the auspices of the International Olympic Academy.

In 2012, the Center for Olympic Studies within the Autonomous University of Barcelona together with the Lausanne Olympic Museum included four ROA educational activities in the database of the program “*Education of Olympic Values*” (OVEP), a project managed by the IOC. Its objective is to select, develop and make available to everyone involved in the Olympic education process worldwide, practices and examples of actions carried out by the National Olympic Committees and Academies. Thanks to this initiative, the traditional competitions “*A Fountain Pen Named Fair Play*”, “*Olympic Games in Children’s Imagination*”, “*School Olympic Pentathlon*” and “*Olympic Camps*” received a very important certification, becoming part of the international heritage of the great *Olympic Family*. This fact acquires an even more special significance as the Academy’s practices, based on initiative, competence and value, encouraging the affirmation of excellence in the cultural-artistic and sports fields, become solid landmarks in the Olympic educational process around the world.

In 2017, the Romanian Olympic Academy received the World Fair Play Diploma from the International Fair Play Committee in recognition of the ROA’s exemplary achievements in the world of sports, Olympism and in the field of fair play promotion.

In 2020, 100 years after the first official presentation of the Olympic flag, the author and professor of comics Mihai I. Grăjdeanu suggested the marking of this historic moment by initiating the first edition of the Comics Olympic, a unique national comics competition, by promoting the Olympic spirit and raising awareness of national, European and international cultural values among elementary, middle and high school students.



## DIRECTORS OF THE ROMANIAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY

1991-1993	Emil Ghibu
1993-2001	Ion Matei
2001-2005	Mihaela Peneș
2005-2011	Arthur Hoffmann
2011-2017	Laura Cârlescu Badea
2018-	Simona Tabără Amânar

## SECRETARIES OF THE ROMANIAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY

1991-2005	Arthur Hoffmann
2005-2006	Liliana Dorneanu
2006-2011	Laura Cârlescu Badea
2011-2014	Diana Birtalan
2014-2018	Alexandra Nica
2019-	Diana Birtalan



## OLYMPIC ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE

The Olympic Academy of Excellence operates within the Romanian Olympic Academy, in order to ensure the correspondence between the expert evolutionary needs and the career pathways available within the national system of physical education and sports, but also within other fields of social life.

The Olympic Academy of Excellence has the following objectives:

- increasing the competitiveness of sports structures, clubs and national sports federations by supporting the expert training in the perspective of a professional evolution and the achievement of a maximum performance in their work;
- the high recovery of human resources in the field of physical education and sports;
- benefiting from the research activity results and the information transfer;
- developing partnerships between units, institutions and organizations with attributions in promoting, organizing and carrying out the activity of physical education and sports.

The activity of the Olympic Academy of Excellence is managed by a Board of Directors including a Director, a Secretary and 3 members.



## OLYMPIC DAY AND MONTH

The Romanian Olympic (and Sports) Committee organized for the first time in 1972, sports and cultural-artistic events within the “*Olympic Sports Week*” (June 19th-25th).

The first edition of the “*Olympic Day*” run was organized in 1987 in Constanța.

The scheduled actions included in the calendar of the “*Olympic Month*” (May 23rd-June 23rd) are marked by diversity, setting out the “*Olympic Day*” in various forms. Runs are organized under the name of “*Olympic Day*”, and demonstrations and competitions in various sports, cultural and artistic competitions, sports book exhibitions, sports-themed competitions, Olympic and sports culture competitions “*Who knows Olympism, wins!*”, sports-cultural-artistic competition “*School Olympic Pentathlon for the Third Millennium*” are held. In most counties, the “*Olympic Month*” coincides with the evaluation and ranking of the two traditional competitions for children and youth: “*Olympic Games in Children’s Imagination*” and “*A Fountain Pen Named Fair-Play*”, the most valuable works of fine art being displayed in exhibition centers accessible to the general public, and literary works edited in magazines published by local branches or in the “*Olympic Spirit*” Informative Bulletin of the Romanian Olympic Academy. At Șirnea, in Brașov county, the “*Olympic Colors Relay*” event is held annually, starting with 1982, celebrating the “*Olympic Day*” on June 23, through an Olympic ceremony and sports and cultural-artistic competitions specific to primary school and gymnasium students. Also, there are organized scientific communication sessions, round tables, “*In memoriam*” actions, meetings with Olympic champions, etc..

In addition to all this emulation and promotion of outdoor physical movement, the events take hold of the press interest, being highlighted in a series of articles mentioning the history of the Olympic Movement, combining the informational aspects with specific comments on the values that define the Olympic spirit.



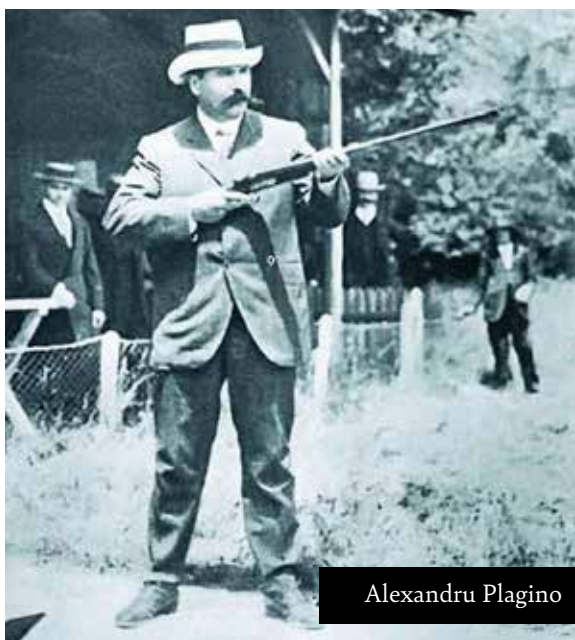
## ROMANIA AT THE SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

1900	Paris (France) - unofficial
1924	Paris (France)
1928	Amsterdam (Netherlands)
1936	Berlin (Germany)
1952	Helsinki (Finland)
1956	Melbourne (Australia)
1960	Rome (Italy)
1964	Tokyo (Japan)
1968	Mexico City (Mexico)
1972	Munich (Germany)
1976	Montreal (Canada)
1980	Moscow (USSR)
1984	Los Angeles (USA)
1988	Seoul (Republic of Korea)
1992	Barcelona (Spain)
1996	Atlanta (USA)
2000	Sydney (Australia)
2004	Athens (Greece)
2008	Beijing (Chinese PR)
2012	London (UK)
2016	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
2020	Tokyo (Japan)

## ATHENS, GREECE, 1896

The first edition of the Olympic Games was in Athens, Greece. Discussions took place in Bucharest regarding the participation of a delegation in this inaugural Olympic edition. The Romanian officials intended to send two oina teams (a sport that was mainly practiced in Balkans), but the proposal was rejected. Referring to this initiative, George Gh. Bibescu said *“The organizers’ response to our proposal of introducing the oina at the Olympic Games, was that this competition can be attended only in widespread sports that could meet a large number of competitors.”* In the end, the Romanian delegation did not participate.

## PARIS, FRANCE, 1900



The Olympic Games were hosted by the city of Pierre de Coubertin, in recognition of its merits in the restoration and reestablishment of the Olympic Movement.

The first Romanian presence in the Olympic arena is related to this edition, even if it was unofficial. George Alexandru Plagino (IOC member for Romania from 1908 to 1948) was in Paris that year and he entered individually in the Olympic shooting competition, the trap event. He was a well-known shooter, participating in various national and international competitions. In Paris, 13 out of 51 athletes from four countries ranked on an honorable place. Plagino managed to hit 11 plates out of 20 possible. In 1934, George A. Plagino (photo) became the first President of the Romanian Shooting Federation. Another Romanian, Horia C.A. Rosetti, the son of the liberal politician C.A. Rosetti, participated as a fencing referee in the Olympic men’s foil competition.



## LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN, 1908

Here it can be mentioned the participation of an athlete from Cluj-Napoca city, who competed for Hungary, because Transylvania was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at that time. At the 4th edition of the Olympic Games, the athlete Ștefan Somodi participated in the high jump event obtaining the silver medal with the performance of 1.88 m.

## PARIS, FRANCE, 1924 - FIRST OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION ONE BRONZE MEDAL

At its first official participation in the Olympic Games, the Romanian delegation included 51 athletes who competed in four sports (shooting, tennis, football and rugby). Our country won the first Olympic medal in its history. Romanian rugby team (Dumitru Armășel, Eugen Sfetescu, Sorin Mihăilescu, Teodor Marian, Paul Nedelcovici, Iosif Nemeș, Sterian Soare, Mihai Vardală, Anastasie Tănăsescu, Ion Gârleșteanu, Paul Vidrașcu, Mircea Sfetescu, Nicolae Mărăscu, Gheorghe Benția, Teodor Florian and Dumitru Volvoreanu) entered the history of Romanian sport, winning the first bronze medal. In football, Romania lost to the Netherlands, and in the tennis tournament, the athlete Gheorghe Lupu managed to qualify in the 2nd round. Our shooting athletes placed 13th in the team rifle event. Our delegation was supported from the stands by Prince Carol and Princess Elena.

The hero of the edition was the American Johnny Weissmüller, the world's first swimmer to cover the 100 m under one minute. Born in 1904, in the Freidorf district of Timișoara, emigrated with his family to the USA. He returned to Banat a few years later, together with his mother and brother, to visit his relatives. Although he won five Olympic titles, Johnny Weissmüller was better known for his acting career (Tarzan's epic character) which he pursued at the end of his sports career.



## AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, 1928

The Romanian delegation consisted of 26 athletes who participated in two sports: fencing and athletics. At this edition, the Romanian athletes did not achieve remarkable performances, only the fencer Mihai Savu reached the semifinals of the competition.

## BERLIN, GERMANY, 1936 - *THE SILVER OF JOY* *ONE SILVER MEDAL*



Henri Rang

In the capital of Germany were present 71 Romanian athletes taking part in the Games of the 11th Olympiad. They competed in eight sports, respectively 34 events.

Being equal with a German competition, but with a lower race time, Henri Rang (photo) won (together with his horse, *Delfis*) the silver medal in requestrial jumping, in the individual event. In Greco-Roman wrestling, athletes

had a good evolution at their first presence in the Olympic competition, and Iosif Tojar was ranked the fifth.

## HELSINKI, FINLAND, 1952 - *GOLDEN BULLET* *4 MEDALS: 1 GOLD - 1 SILVER - 2 BRONZE*

With a group of 128 athletes, the Romanian Olympic delegation gained at this edition the first Olympic title for our country, through the performance of Iosif Sârbu (photo) in shooting, small-bore riffle, prone, 50 m, 40 shots. He became the Olympic champion by setting the highest record, 400 out of 400 possible points and 33 "*flies*" (bullets hitting the black middle of the target) compared to the 28 hits of the Russian opponent.



Iosif Sârbu



One silver medal was won by boxer Vasile Tiță (middleweight category, 75 kg) and two bronze medals by boxer Gheorghe Fiat (lightweight category, 60 kg) and Gheorghe Lichiardopol in shooting (rapid-fire pistol, 25 m). Athlete Lia Manoliu placed 6th in discus throw, Ion Soter took 6th place in high jump (the first Romanian jumper to exceed 2 m), and cyclist Ion Ioniță was ranked 6th in the 1,000 m race from a standing start (velodrome).

## **MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, 1956 - TRIUMPH ON THE WATER**

### **13 MEDALS: 5 GOLD - 3 SILVER - 5 BRONZE**

The Romanian delegation of 52 athletes won 13 medals. Leon Rotman (photo) became two-time Olympic champion in canadian singles (1,000 m canoe sprint and 10,000 m canoe marathon). We had, also, gold medals from boxer Nicolae Linca (light middleweight category, 67 kg), Ștefan Petrescu in shooting, in the rapid-fire pistol, 25 m event, and the canoeists Simion Ismailciuc and Dumitru Alexe in doubles on the distance of 1,000 m. Female fencer Olga Szabo-Orban (foil) and boxers Gheorghe Negrea (light



heavyweight category, 81 kg) and Mircea Dobrescu (fly category, 51 kg) won silver medals. The five bronze medals were won by the Greco-Roman athlete Francisc Horvath (category 57 kg), Gheorghe Lichiardopol in shooting - rapid-fire pistol, 25 m, gymnast Elena Leuștean on floor, Constantin Dumitrescu in boxing (semi-lightweight category, 63.5 kg) and the women's gymnastics team included Elena Mărgărit, Elena Leuștean, Georgeta Hurmuzachi, Sonia Iovan, Elena Săcălici and Emilia Vătășoiu.

## ROME, ITALY, 1960 - RECORDS IN THE ETERNAL CITY

**10 MEDALS: 3 GOLD - 1 SILVER - 6 BRONZE**



Iolanda Balaş

The Romanian athletes gained excellent results at this edition: three Olympic champion titles, one silver medal and six bronze. Iolanda Balaş (photo) nicknamed “*la grande bionda*” won the Olympic competition in high jump with a performance of 1.85 m. The Olympic gold was, also, won by Ion Dumitrescu in shooting, in the trap event, and by Dumitru Pârvulescu in Greco-Roman wrestling (52 kg category). The single silver medal of the delegation was won by the Greco-Roman

fighter, Ion Cernea (57 kg category). The six bronze medals were awarded to female athlete Lia Manoliu at discus throw, boxer Ion Monea (middle category, 75 kg), Leon Rotman in 1,000 m canoe, Ion Țăranu in Greco-Roman wrestling (category 79 kg), female fencer Maria Vicol at foil, and the women’s gymnastics team (Atanasia Ionescu, Elena Leuştean, Sonia Iovan, Emilia Liţă, Elena Niculescu and Utta Poreceanu Schlandt).

## TOKYO, JAPAN, 1964 - LAND OF THE RISING SUN

**12 MEDALS: 2 GOLD - 4 SILVER - 6 BRONZE**



Mihaela Peneş

Our delegation won two Olympic titles through the performance of athletes Iolanda Balaş in high jump, who set a new Olympic record (1.90 m), and Mihaela Peneş (photo) in javelin throwing (60.54 m). Four silver medals were, also, awarded: Andrei Igorov in 1,000 m canoe, Hilde Lauer in kayak 500 m, Ion Tripşa in shooting - rapid-fire



pistol, 25 m,, and Valeriu Bularca in Greco-Roman wrestling (70 kg category). The six bronze medals were won by female athlete Lia Manoliu in discus throw, Aurel Vernescu at kayak 500 m, Greco-Roman athletes Dumitru Pârvulescu (category 52 kg) and Ion Cernea (category 57 kg), men's kayak crew 1,000 m (Simion Cuciuc, Afanasie Scotnic, Mihai Țurcaș and Aurel Vernescu), and women's kayak crew 500 m, including Hilde Lauer and Cornelia Sideri.

## **MEXICO CITY, MEXICO, 1968 - HEIGHT RECORDS**

**15 MEDALS: 4 GOLD - 6 SILVER - 5 BRONZE**

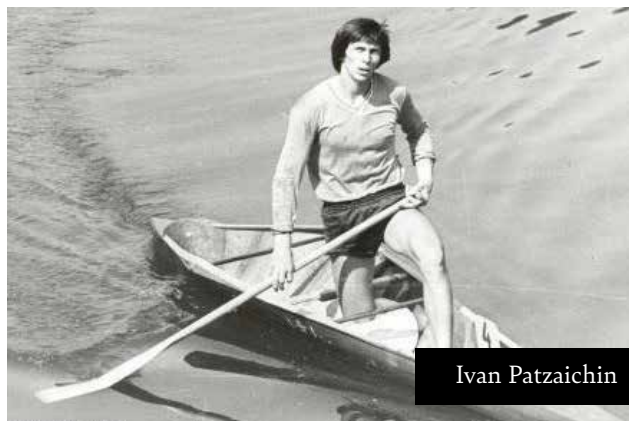
With a delegation of 87 athletes, Romania won four Olympic titles through the performance of athletes Lia Manoliu (photo) in discus throw (52.28 m) and Viorica Viscopoleanu in long jump (6.82 m), Ivan Patzaichin and Serghei Covaliov in canoe double - 1,000 m, and fencer Ionel Drîmbă at foil. The silver medals were awarded to the athletes Mihaela Peneș in javelin throw and Ileana Silai at 800 m; boxer Ion Monea (heavyweight category, 81 kg), Ion Baci in Greco-Roman wrestling (57 kg category), Marcel Roșca in shooting (rapid-fire pistol, 25 m), and the kayak fours, 1,000 m (Anton Calenic, Dimitrie Ivanov, Haralambie Ivanov and Mihai Țurcaș). Bronze medals were won by boxer Calistrat Cuțov (lightweight category, 60 kg), Viorica Dumitru in canoe 500 m, Simeon Popescu in freestyle wrestling (63 kg category), Nicolae Martinescu in Greco-Roman wrestling (97 kg category), and the women's team foil including Ileana Gyulai Drîmbă, Ecaterina Stahl-Iencic, Olga Szabo Orban, Maria Vicol and Ana Pascu.



Lia Manoliu

## MUNICH, GERMANY, 1972 - THE GAMES GO ON!

**16 MEDALS: 3 GOLD - 6 SILVER - 7 BRONZE**



The Romanian Olympic delegation gained at this edition three Olympic champion titles through the performance of Ivan Patzaichin (photo) in 1,000 m canoe, Gheorghe Berceanu (48 kg category) and Nicolae Martinescu (100 kg category) in Greco-Roman wrestling. The silver medals were awarded to athletes Valeria Bufanu in 100 m hurdles and Argentina Menis in discus throw, boxer Ion

Alexe (heavyweight category, 91 kg), the kayak fours, 1,000 m including Afanasie Sciotnic, Roman Vartolomeu, Aurel Vernescu and Mihai Zafiu (at 1,000 m), Sergei Covaliov and Ivan Patzaichin in canoe double - 1,000 m and Dan Iuga in shooting - free pistol.

The third stage of the podium, awarded with bronze medals, was ascended by women's 500 m kayak crew including Viorica Dumitru and Maria Nichiforov; the women's foil team including Ileana Gyulai, Ecaterina Stahl, Suzana Ardeleanu, Olga Szabo Orban and Ana Pascu; men's handball team: Ștefan Birtalan, Adrian Cosma, Dan Marin, Alexandru Dincă, Cristian Gațu, Gheorghe Gruia, Roland Gunesch, Gavril Kicsid, Ghiță Licu, Cornel Penu, Valentin Samungi, Simion Schobel, Werner Stöckl, Virgil Tale, Constantin Tudosie and RaduVoina; Nicolae Rotaru small-bore rifle, prone, 50 m; in rowing, men's coxed pair including Ștefan Tudor, Petre Ceapura and Ladislau Lovrenski; fighters Victor Dolipschi (Greco-Roman, +100 kg category) and Vasile Iorga (free, 82 kg category).

Female athlete Lia Manoliu set an Olympic, a national and a personal record for the first time: six participations in six consecutive editions of the Olympic Games!

The *Olympic Torch* Relay crossed the territory of our country for the first time on the following route: Giurgiu, Bucharest, Pitești, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Sibiu, Alba Iulia, Hunedoara, Deva, Arad, Timișoara passing to Yugoslavia through the border point Stamora Moravița.



## MONTREAL, CANADA, 1976 -BRILLIANT NADIA

**27 MEDALS: 4 GOLD - 9 SILVER - 14 BRONZE**

This edition of the Olympic Games was a memorable one for the Romanian delegation in terms of performance. It was named “*Nadia Comăneci Olympiad*” (photo) the heroine of the Games, but also of the world gymnastics (Nadia was crowned in 2000 as “*the sportswoman of the 20th century*”). The evolution of our gymnast, only 14 years old, conquered the whole world and managed to jam the electronic scoreboard. Scheduled to display only three digits, Nadia’s 10 score appeared as 1.00. At the Games, Nadia got no less than seven marks of 10! She won three gold medals in the individual all-around competition, uneven bars and balance beam, one silver medal in the women’s team all-around with Teodora



Nadia Comăneci

Ungureanu, Mariana Constantin, Anca Grigoraș, Georgeta Gabor and Gabriela Trușcă, and one bronze in floor exercises.

Vasile Dîba also achieved the Olympic gold (photo) in 500 m kayak, the Romanian athlete also winning a bronze medal in the 1,000 m. The silver was achieved through the performance of boxers Simion Cuțov (middleweight category, 60 kg) and Mircea Simion (81 kg category); in canoe 1,000 m thanks to Gheorghe Danilov and Gheorghe Simionov; in gymnastics on uneven bars thanks to Teodora Ungureanu; and through the performance of men’s handball team (Ștefan Birtalan, Adrian Cosma, Cezar Drăgăniță, Alexandru Folker, Cristian Gațu, Gabriel Kicsid, Mircea Gabrovski, Roland Gunesch, Ghiță Licu, Nicolae Munteanu, Cornel Penu, Constantin Tudosie, Werner Stockl and Radu Voina); Greco-Roman fighters: Gheorghe Berceanu (48 kg category), Nicu Gingă (52 kg category) and Ștefan Rusu (68 kg category).



The bronze medals were won by boxers Alec Năstac (middleweight category, 75 kg), Costică Dafinoiu (light heavyweight category, 81 kg) and Victor Zilberman (middleweight category, 67 kg); the athlete Gheorghe Megelea in javelin throw; women's coxed quadruple sculls rowing including Felicia Afrăsiloiu, Elisabeta Lazăr, Maria Micșa, Ioana

Tudoran and Elena Giurcă; canoeists Policarp Malâhin and Larion Serghei at 500 m; gymnast Teodora Ungureanu on the ballance beam; gymnast Dan Grecu at the rings; the fighters Roman Codreanu (Greco-Roman, +100 kg category), Stelică Morcov (free, 90 kg category) and Ladislau Simon (free, +100 kg category); the men's sabre team including Daniel Irimiciuc, Cornel Marin, Marin Mustață, Alexandru Nilca and Ioan Pop.

## **MOSCOW, USSR, 1980 - THE GREAT POLITICAL BOYCOTT**

### **25 MEDALS: 6 GOLD - 6 SILVER - 13 BRONZE**

Romania had the largest delegation in its history (239 athletes) and won six gold, six silver and 13 bronze medals. The Olympic titles were achieved by the gymnast Nadia Comăneci in ballance beam and floor exercises, the sciff rower (single sculls) Sanda Toma (photo), Ivan Patzaichin and Toma Simionov in 1000 m double canoe, the fighter Ștefan Rusu (Greco-Roman, 68 kg category) and Corneliu Ion shooting - rapid-fire pistol, 25 m.

The silver medals were won by the 1,000 m kayak crew composed by Vasile Dîba, Nicușor Eșanu, Ion Geantă and Mihai Zafiu; the 500 m canoe crew including Ivan Patzaichin and Petre Capusta; gymnasts Nadia Comăneci in individual all-around competition and Emilia Eberle on uneven bars; the women's gymnastics team all-around (Nadia Comăneci, Rodica Dunca, Emilia Eberle, Melita Ruhn, Cristina Grigoraș and Dumitrița Turner) and Constantin Alexandru in Greco-Roman wrestling (48 kg category).



The Olympic bronze was won by boxers Dumitru Cipere (bantam weight category, 54 kg) and Valentin Silaghi (middleweight category, 75 kg); kayakers Vasile Dîba at 500 m and Ion Bîrlădeanu at 1,000 m; equestrian dressage team made up by Anghelache Donescu, Petre Roșca



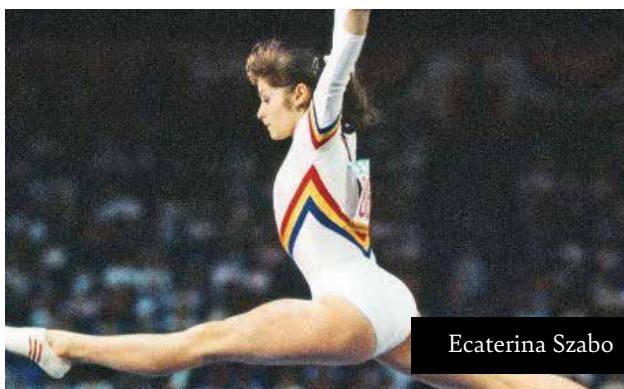
and Dumitru Velicu; gymnast Melita Ruhn in vault and uneven bars; men's handball team (Ștefan Birtalan, Iosif Boroș, Adrian Cosma, Cezar Drăgăniță, Marian Dumitru, Cornel Durău, Alexandru Fölker, Claudiu Eugen Ionescu, Nicolae Munteanu, Vasile Stîngă, Lucian Vasilache, Neculai Vasilcă, Radu Voina și Maricel Voinea); double rowing crew (Olga Homeghi and Valeria Răcilă); women's rowing crew – women's coxed eights (Angelica Aposteanu, Elena Bondar, Florica Bucur, Mariana Constantinescu, Elena Dobrițoiu, Rodica Frîntu, Ana Iliuță, Marlena Zagoni and Rodica Arba Pușcatu); men's volleyball team (Marius Căta-Chițiga, Valter-Corneliu Chifu, Laurențiu Dumănoiu, Günther Enescu, Dan Gîrleanu, Sorin Macavei, Corneliu Oros, Neculae Vasile Pop, Constantin Sterea, Viorel Manole, Florin Mina and Nicu Stoian); Petre Dicu (90 kg category) and Vasile Andrei (100 kg category) in Greco-Roman wrestling.

The *Olympic Torch* Relay crossed the territory of our country for the second time following the route: Giurgiu, Bucharest, Ploiesti, Buzău, Focșani, Bacău, Iași and Albița.

**LOS ANGELES, USA, 1984 - BEST PERFORMANCE  
IN THE HISTORY OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF ROMANIA  
53 MEDALS: 20 GOLD - 16 SILVER - 17 BRONZE**

Romania has decided to participate in this edition despite the boycott of Eastern European countries under the influence of the USSR.

The Olympic champions were gymnasts Ecaterina Szabo (photo) in vault, floor and beam, and Simona Păucă on ballance beam; the athletes Doina Melinte in 800 m, Anișoara Cușmir-Stanciu in the long jump and Maricica Puică at 3,000 m; the rower Valeria Răcilă in simple sculls; weightlifters



Nicu Vlad (90 kg category) and Petre Becheru (82.5 kg category); Ion Draica (82 kg category) and Vasile Andrei (+100 kg category) in Greco-Roman wrestling; 1,000 m canoe crew (Ivan Patzaichin and Toma Simionov); the rowers Elisabeta Lipă and Mărioara Popescu in double sculls rowing; rowers Rodica Arba Pușcatu and Elena Horvath in women's coxless pairs; rowers

Valer Toma and Petru Iosub in men's coxless pairs; women's gymnastics team all-around (Ecaterina Szabo, Lavinia Agache, Simona Păucă, Laura Cutina, Cristina Grigoraș and Mihaela Stănuț); the rowers Chira Apostol, Maria Fricioiu, Olga Homeghi, Florica Lavric and Viorica Ioja-Vereș in women's coxed fours; the rowers Sofia Corban, Ioana Badea, Anișoara Sorohan, Maricica Țăran and Ecaterina Oancia in women's coxed quadruple sculls; 500 m kayak crew (Agafia Constantin-Buhaev, Nastasia Ionescu, Tecla Marinescu-Borcanca and Maria Ștefan-Mihoreanu).

The silver medals were won by the athletes Mihaela Loghin in shot put, Vali Ionescu in the long jump and Doina Melinte in the 1,500 m; the 500 m canoe crew (Ivan Patzaichin and Toma Simionov); women's rowing coxed eight (Lucia Sauca, Camelia Diaconescu, Mihaela Armășescu, Adriana Chelariu, Aneta Mihaly, Aurora Pleșca, Marioara Trașcă, Doina Bălan and Viorica Ioja); the men's coxed pair rowing crew (Vasile Tomoioagă, Dimitrie Popescu and Dumitru Răducanu); gymnasts Ecaterina Szabo in individual all-around competition and Doina Stăiculescu in rhythmic gymnastics - individual all-around competition; weightlifters Gelu Radu (60 kg category), Andrei Socaci (67.5 kg category), Dumitru Petre (90 kg category), Vasile Groapă (100 kg category) and Ștefan Tașnadi (110 kg category); Greco-Roman fighter Ilie Matei (90 kg category); women's foil team (Aurora Dan, Elisabeta Tufan-Guzganu, Rozalia Oros, Marcela Zsak and Monica Weber); Ion Corneliu shooting - rapid-fire pistol, 25 m.

Handball team (Mircea Bedivan, Dumitru Berbece, Iosif Boroș, Alexandru Buligan, Gheorghe Covaciu, Gheorghe Dogărescu, Marian Dumitru, Cornel Durău, Alexandru Folker, Nicolae Munteanu, Vasile Oprea, Adrian Simion, Vasile Stîngă, Neculai Vasilcă and Maricel Voinea) won the bronze medal. Bronze medals were also won by athletes Maricica Puică at 1,500 m, Cristeana Cojocar at 400 m hurdles, Fița Lovin at 800 m and Florence Crăciunescu at discus throwing; gymnasts Simona



Păucă in individual all-round competition and Lavinia Agache in vault; weightlifter Dragomir Cioroslan (75 kg category); swimmer Anca Pătrășcoiu 200 m backstroke; judokas Mircea Frățică (78 kg category) and Mihai Cioc (open category); Ștefan Rusu (74 kg category) and Victor Dolipschi (+100 kg category) in Greco-Roman wrestling; Vasile Pușcașu (100 kg category) in freestyle wrestling; the canoist Costică Olaru at 500 m; boxer Mircea Fulger (middleweight category, 63.5 kg); the men's sabre team (Marin Mustață, Ioan Pop, Corneliu Marin, Alexandru Chiculiță and Vilmoș Szabo).

## **SEOUL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 1988 - THE 13TH LUCKY EDITION** **24 MEDALS: 7 GOLD - 11 SILVER - 6 BRONZE**

The Olympic champions of this edition were the gymnast Daniela Silivaș (photo) on uneven bars, ballance beam and floor exercise; athlete Paula Ivan at 1,500 m; the women's coxless pair rowing crew (Rodica Arba Pușcatu and Olga Homeghi); Vasile Pușcașu in freestyle wrestling (100 kg category) and Sorin Babii in shooting, in the freestyle pistol event.

Silver medals were won by boxer Daniel Dumitrescu (57 kg category), gymnasts Daniela Silivaș in individual all-around competition and Gabriela Potorac in vault; weightlifter Nicu Vlad (100 kg category); swimmer Noemi Lung at 400 m individual medley; athlete Paula Ivan at 3,000 m; the rowers Elisabeta Lipă and Veronica Cochelea



Daniela Silivaș

in double scull; women's rowing coxed eight (Mihaela Armășescu, Rodica Arba Pușcatu, Doina Bălan, Herta Anițaș, Adriana Bazon, Olga Homeghi, Veronica Necula, Marioara Trașcă and Ecaterina Oancia); men's coxed four rowing crew (Dimitrie Popescu, Ioan Șnep, Valentin Robu, Vasile Tomoioaga and Ladislau Lovrenschii); the women's gymnastics team alla-round (Aurelia Dobre, Eugenia Golea, Celestina Popa, Daniela Silivaș and Camelia Voinea) and the men's coxless pair rowing crew made up of Dănuț Dobre and Dragoș Neagu. The bronze was awarded to the gymnast Marius Gherman to the horizontal bar; gymnasts Daniela Silivaș in vault and Gabriela Potorac in ballance beam; swimmer Noemi Lung in the 200 m individual medley; the women's coxed four rowing crew (Veronica Necula, Herta Anițaș, Doina

Bălan, Marioara Trașcă and Ecaterina Oancia), as well as the women's quad sculls rowing crew (Anișoara Bălan, Veronica Cochelea, Elisabeta Lipă and Anișoara Minea).

## **BARCELONA, SPAIN, 1992 - JUBILEE: 25TH EDITION**

### **18 MEDALS: 4 GOLD - 6 SILVER - 8 BRONZE**

The gymnast Lavinia Miloșovici won for Romania gold medals on the floor exercise and vault; then female rower Elisabeta Lipă in single sculls, and men's coxed four rowing crew (Dimitrie Popescu, Viorel Talapan, Iulică Ruican, Nicolae Țaga and Dumitru Răducanu).

Six silver medals were achieved by: athlete Galina Astafei in the high jump; the women's gymnastics team all-around (Cristina Bontaș, Gina Gogean, Vanda Maria Hădărean, Lavinia Miloșevici, Maria Neculiță and Mirela Ana Pașca); women's rowing coxed eight (Ioana Olteanu, Viorica Lepădatu, Iulia Bobeică, Viorica Neculai, Adriana Bazon-Chelariu, Maria Păduraru, Elena Georgescu, Doina Robu and Doina Șnep-Bălan); the rowing women's quadruple sculls (Constanța Burciă, Doina Ignat, Veronica Cochelea and Anișoara Dobre-Bălan); men's rowing coxed eight (Claudiu Gabriel Marin, Ioan Iulian Vizitiu, Dănuț Dobre, Iulică Ruican, Viorel Talapan, Vasile



Lavinia Miloșovici

Dorel Năstase, Valentin Robu, Vasile Ionel Măstăcan and Marin Gheorghe) and the rowing women's double sculls (Veronica Cochelea and Elisabeta Lipă).

The eight bronze medals were won by boxer Leonard Doroftei (63.5 kg middleweight category); gymnasts Lavinia Miloșovici (photo) in individual all-around competition and Cristina Bontaș in floor exercises; the women's foil team (Elisabeta Tufan-Guzganu, Reka Szabo, Claudia Laura Grigorescu, Roxana Daniela Dumitrescu and Laura Badea); Sorin Babii shooting - air pistol; weightlifter Traian Cihărean (52 kg category); Ioan Grigoraș in Greco-Roman wrestling (130 kg category); the men's coxed pair rowing



crew (Dimitrie Popescu, Nicolae Țaga and Dumitru Răducanu) completed the track record of the “tricolors” in Barcelona.

## **ATLANTA, USA, 1996 - A CENTURY OF MODERN OLYMPISM**

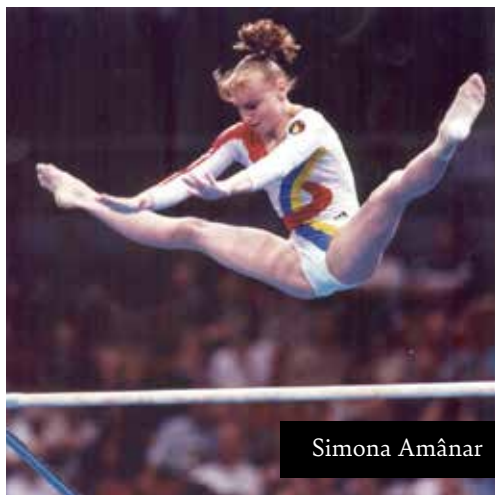
**20 MEDALS: 4 GOLD - 7 SILVER - 9 BRONZE**

Our delegation won four Olympic titles through the performance of female fencer Laura Badea (photo) in foil, gymnast Simona Amânar in vault, women’s double sculls rowing crew, lightweight category (Constanța Burcică and Camelia Macoviciuc) and women’s rowing coxed eight (Veronica Cochelea, Liliana Gafencu, Elena Georgescu, Doina Ignat, Ioana Olteanu, Marioara Popescu, Doina Tudora Spircu, Anca Tănase and Elisabeta Lipă).

The track record was completed by the seven silver medals won by: the athlete Gabriela Szabo in 1,500 m; the gymnasts Simona Amânar on the floor exercises and Gina Gogean on the individual all-around competition; the gymnasts Marius Urzică on pommel led horse and Dan Burincă on rings; the women’s



Laura Badea



Simona Amânar

foil team (Laura Badea, Reka Szabo and Roxana Scarlat) and the men’s 1,000 m canoe crew (Marcel Glăvan and Antonel Borșan). The bronze medals were won by boxers Leonard Doroftei (middleweight category, 60 kg) and Marian Simion (semi-middleweight category, 67 kg); the gymnasts Gina Gogean in vault and ballance beam, Simona Amânar and Lavinia Miloșovici in individual all-around competition; the weightlifter Nicu Vlad (108 kg category); the women’s gymnastics team all-around (Simona Amânar, Gina Gogean, Ionela Loaieș, Alexandra Marinescu, Lavinia Miloșovici, Mirela Țugurlan) and the 500 m canoe crew made up of Gheorghe Andriev and Grigore Obreja.

## SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, 2000 - THE MILLENNIUM'S END GAMES

### 26 MEDALS: 11 GOLD - 6 SILVER - 9 BRONZE



Diana Mocanu

The Romanian athletes were on top again, winning 26 medals. The swimmer Diana Mocanu (photo) became two-time Olympic champion in the 100 m and 200 m backstroke events. Olympic champions at this edition were also: fencer Mihai Covaliu (sabre); athlete Gabriela Szabo in the 5,000 m; gymnast Marius Urzică on pommel horse; gymnast Simona Amânar in the individual all-around competition; women's gymnastics team including Andreea Răducan, Simona Amânar, Maria Olaru, Loredana Boboc, Andreea Florence Isărescu and Claudia Presăcan; the 1,000 m rowing crew (Florin Popescu and Mitică Pricop); the women's coxless pair rowing crew made up of Georgeta Damian and Doina Ignat; women's double sculls rowing crew - lightweight category (Angela Alupei and Constanța Burciă) and women's rowing coxed eight (Veronica Cochelea, Georgeta Andrunache, Maria Magdalena Dumitrache, Liliana Gafencu, Doina Ignat, Elisabeta Lipă, Ioana Olteanu, Viorica Susanu and Elena Georgescu).



Violeta Beclea

The success was completed by the silver medals obtained by the swimmer Beatrice Câșlaru in the 200 m individual medley; athletes Lidia Șimon in the marathon and Violeta Beclea-Szekely (photo) at 1,500 m; boxer Marian Simion (medium small category, 71 kg); gymnasts Maria Olaru in individual all-around competition and Andreea Răducan in vault. Iulian Raicea won bronze medals in shooting (rapid-fire pistol, 25 m); Simona Marcela Richter in judo (78 kg category); kayak crew 500 m (Mariana Limbău, Raluca Andreea Ioniță, Elena Radu and Sanda Toma); athletes Oana Pantelimon in high jump and Gabriela Szabo in 1,500 m; boxer Dorel Simion (light middleweight category, 67 kg); gymnast Simona Amânar to the floor exercise; the men's canoe crew 500 m (Florin Popescu and Mitică Pricop) and the swimmer Beatrice Câșlaru in the 400 m individual medley.



Mihai Covaliu



## ATHENS, GREECE, 2004 - THE FIRST OLYMPIC GAMES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

19 MEDALS: 8 GOLD - 5 SILVER - 6 BRONZE



Ionela Tîrlea

Romania attended this edition of the Olympic Games with a large delegation of athletes, achieving eight gold, five silver and six bronze medals.

The rower Elisabeta Lipă and the shooter Sorin Babii succeeded to tie the record of participation in the Olympic Games set by athlete Lia Manoliu (six editions).

The gold medals were won by: the swimmer Camelia Potec in the 200 m freestyle; gymnast Cătălina Ponor (photo) on ballance beam and floor exercise; women's gymnastics team all-around (Cătălina Ponor, Monica Roșu, Daniela Sofronie, Oana Ban, Alexandra Eremia, Silvia Stroescu); gymnast Monica Red in vault.

The women's rowing coxed eight (Georgeta Andrunache, Viorica Susanu, Rodica Florea, Aurica Bărăscu, Ioana Papuc, Liliana Gafencu, Elisabeta Lipă, Elena Georgescu and Doina Ignat); women's rowing crews: double sculls - lightweight category (Constanța Burcică and Angela Alupei) and coxless pair (Georgeta Andrunache and Viorica Susanu).

The silver was achieved by athletes Ionela Tîrlea (photo) in 400 m hurdles and Marian Oprea in triple jump; gymnasts Daniela Sofronie on floor exercise, Marius Urzică on pommel horse and Marian Drăgulescu on floor exercise.

The bronze medals were awarded to athlete Maria Cioncan at 1,500 m; boxer Ionuț Gheorghe (lightweight category, 64 kg); gymnasts Alexandra Eremia on ballance beam and Marian Drăgulescu on vault; swimmer Răzvan Florea in the 200 m backstroke event and men's gymnastics team all-around (Marius Urzică, Ioan Suciu, Marian Drăgulescu, Răzvan Șelariu, Dan Potra and Daniel Popescu).



Cătălina Ponor

## **BEIJING, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 2008 - ONE WORLD, ONE DREAM!**

**8 MEDALS: 4 GOLD - 1 SILVER - 3 BRONZE**



Alina Dumitru

It was a very well organized edition, attended by all 204 National Olympic Committees admitted by the International Olympic Committee.

Our athletes won four gold medals, one silver and three bronze medals. The Olympic champions were athlete Constantina Diță-Tomescu (photo) in marathon, Alina Dumitru (photo) in judo (48 kg category), gymnast Sandra Izbașa on floor exercise, rowers Georgeta Andrunache and Viorica Susanu in coxless pairs (for the 3rd time in a row).

The silver medal was won by fencer Ana Maria Brânză in sabre. The bronze was awarded to saber fencer Mihai Covaliu,

women's gymnastics team all-around (Andreea Roxana Acatrinei, Gabriela Drăgoi, Andreea Florentina Grigore, Sandra Izbașa, Steliana Nistor and Anamaria Tămârjan) and women's rowing coxed eight (Georgeta Andrunache, Eniko Barabas, Constanța Burciacă, Doina Ignat, Simona Mușat, Ioana Papuc, Rodica Șerban, Viorica Susanu and Elena Georgescu).



Constantina Diță

## **LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, 2012- ROMANIA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LONDON! 9 MEDALS: 2 GOLD - 5 SILVER - 2 BRONZE**

In 2005, London defeated Paris and was granted the right to host the 30th edition of the Olympic Games. London also became the first city in history to host the Summer Olympics for the third time





Alin Moldoveanu

(following the 1908 and 1948 editions). London 2012 was the first official participation for Romania, as our country's delegation had not been present in the 1908 and 1948 competitions. In London, Romanian athletes won nine medals, two of which gold



Sandra Izbașa

awarded to gymnast Sandra Izbașa (photo) in vault and Alin Moldoveanu (photo) in shooting (compressed air rifle, 10 m); five silver to gymnast Cătălina Ponor on floor, weightlifter Roxana Cocoș (69 kg category), Alina Dumitru (48 kg category) and Corina Căprioriu (57 kg category) in judo, men's sabre team (Rareș Dumitrescu, Florin Zalomir, Tiberiu Dolniceanu, Alexandru Sirițeanu), as well as two bronze medals to weightlifter Răzvan Martin (69 kg category) and women's gymnastics team all-around (Diana Bulimar, Diana Maria Chelaru, Larisa Iordache, Sandra Izbașa and Cătălina Ponor).

## **RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, 2016 - A NEW WORLD!**

### **4 MEDALS: 1 GOLD - 1 SILVER - 2 BRONZE**

Held for the first time in a South America city, the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games took place under the threat of the Zika virus, a virus that caused a number of athletes to announce their withdrawal from this edition, including Simona Halep, who was in top form and with a real chance of winning an Olympic medal.

However, Romania participated in the Games with a delegation of 96 athletes, who competed in 15 sports, managing to win four medals: one gold, one silver and two bronze.

The gold medal and the Olympic title went to the women's sabre team composed by: Ana Maria Popescu (Brânză), Simona Pop, Cristina Gherman and Loredana Dinu.

In the men's doubles event in tennis, Horia Tecău and Florin Mergea managed the great performance to win the silver medal in the Olympic final, the first in the history of Romanian tennis at the Olympic Games.



Fencing team (Loredana Dinu, Simona Cristina Gherman, Simona Pop, Ana Maria Brânză)

The bronze medals were awarded to Albert Saritov (freestyle wrestling, 97 kg) and to women's coxed eight rowing crew including Mădălina Bereş, Mihaela Petrilă, Iuliana Popa, Laura Oprea, Ioana Strungaru, Adelina Maria Boguş, Roxana Gabriela Cogian, Andreea Nicoleta Boghian and Daniela Druncea.

## **TOKYO, JAPAN, 2020 - JOINED BY EMOTION**

### **4 MEDALS: 1 GOLD - 3 SILVER**

Due to the global Coronavirus pandemic, the Tokyo Olympic Games have been postponed, for the first time in history, by a year. It was an unusual and complex edition, held also without spectators, with many strict measures for the safety of participants, with protests from residents denouncing the costs and risks to which they were exposed, with athletes returning home shortly after their competitions.



Rowing team (Ancuța Bodnar, Simona Radiș)

The Romanian Olympic Team participated in Tokyo 2020 with 101 athletes who competed in 17 sports: swimming, athletics, rowing, football, artistic gymnastics, 3x3 basketball, cycling, wrestling, shooting, canoeing, table tennis, boxing, fencing, triathlon, archery, judo and tennis.

With four medals (one gold and three silver), the tricolor delegation finished this edition of the Olympic Games on the 46th place in the nation ranking.

After a race dominated from one end to the other, the rowers Ancuța Bodnar and Simona Radiș became Olympic champions in the women's double sculls rowing event, winning the gold medal in the Olympic final.

A silver medal was won by the fencer Ana Maria Popescu (sabre-fencing) and the other two medals were won by the men's pair-rowing crew including Marius Cozmiuc and Ciprian Tudosă, and by the men's four-rowing crew composed by Mihăiță Țigănescu, Ștefan Berariu, Cosmin Pascari and Mugurel Semciuc.

## ROMANIA AT WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

1924	Chamonix (France) - unofficial
1928	St. Moritz (Switzerland)
1932	Lake Placid (USA)
1936	Garmisch Partenkirchen (Germany)
1948	St. Moritz (Switzerland)
1952	Oslo (Norway)
1956	Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy)
1964	Innsbruck (Austria)
1968	Grenoble (France)
1972	Sapporo (Japan)
1976	Innsbruck (Austria)
1980	Lake Placid (USA)
1984	Sarajevo (Yugoslavia)
1988	Calgary (Canada)
1992	Albertville (France)
1994	Lillehammer (Norway)
1998	Nagano (Japan)
2002	Salt Lake City (USA)
2006	Torino (Italy)
2010	Vancouver (Canada)
2014	Sochi (Russian Federation)
2018	PyeongChang (South Korea)



## ■ CHAMONIX, FRANCE, 1924

This town located at the foot of Mont Blanc peak hosted in 1924 the “*Winter Sports Week*” or the “*Winter Games*” which received the Olympic status as late as 1926. Although not recorded in the official documents, Romania had representatives at this first edition of the Winter Olympics. Iorgu Arsenie from Râmnicu Vâlcea and Tita Rădulescu, participated in the pre-Olympic bobsleigh competitions, where they won three cups. They could not start in the initial Olympic competition, as at least four competitors from the same country had to register.

## ■ SAINT MORITZ, SWITZERLAND, 1928

The Romanian delegation consisting of 17 athletes, who participated in the Olympic bobsleigh and ski competitions (military patrol), debuted officially here. The best ranking was the 7th place achieved by five-people bobsleigh crew (Grigore Socolescu, Mircea Socolescu, Iulian Gavăț, Toma Petre Ghițulescu and Traian Nițescu). The five-people bobsleigh races were included in the Olympic program only at this edition. The Romanian skiers registered for the 28.05 km military patrol demonstration event (Ion Zăgănescu, Ioan Rucăreanu, Constantin Pascu and Toma Calista) took the 8th place.

## ■ LAKE PLACID, USA, 1932

Set in a depression of the Appalachian Mountains, Lake Placid town hosted the 3rd edition of the Winter Olympics. Romania was represented by a group of bobsledders. They managed to rank 4th with two-people bobsleigh (Alexandru Papană and Dumitru Hubert) and 6th place with four-people bobsleigh (Alexandru Papană, Dumitru Hubert, Alexandru Ionescu and Ulise Petrescu).

## ■ GARMISCH PARTENKIRCHEN, GERMANY, 1936

The organization of the Games in the Bavarian resort located on the border with Austria, near Innsbruck, brought a lot of participants in this edition. Our delegation composed by 15 athletes

attended the start of bobsleigh competitions, figure skating, ski jumping, alpine skiing and cross-country. The pair Irina Timciuc and Alfred Eisenbeisser-Feraru took 13th place in figure skating. In cross-country we took the 14th place with the 4 x 10 km relay made up by Wilhelm Zaharias, Iosif Covaci, Ion Coman and Rudolf Klockner.

## **SAINT MORITZ, SWITZERLAND, 1948**

Interrupted for 12 years due to World War II, the Winter Olympic Games have been resumed in Switzerland. Romania participated with a delegation of 16 athletes and competed in alpine skiing and military patrol (biathlon, demonstration event). The military patrol team - 28.05 km demonstration event, made up of Ștefan Ionescu, Constantin Vlădea, Cornel Nicolae Crăciun and Ion Kasky achieved the best ranking - 7th place.

## **OSLO, NORWAY, 1952**

The northern Europe hosted a winter edition for the first time. The Olympic flag, donated by Oslo City Hall, was hoisted here for the first time. In the capital of Norway - the place where skiing has arisen - the 16 athletes representing Romania started in the alpine skiing, cross-country and alpine combined events. The results were not as expected, as the delegation ranked 10th through the 4 x 10 km cross-country relay, including Manole Aldescu, Dumitru Frățilă, Constantin Enache and Moise Crăciun.

## **CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, ITALY, 1956**

The Olympic delegation included 19 athletes who competed in bobsleigh, ski jumping, alpine skiing and cross-country. The best rankings, two 14th, were achieved by two-people bobsleigh (Heinrich Enea and Mărgărit Blăgescu) and the four-people bobsleigh including Heinrich Enea, Nicolae Moiceanu, Frățilă Dumitru and Mărgărit Blăgescu.



## **INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA, 1964**

Romania participated with 27 athletes. They competed in biathlon, bobsleigh, ice hockey and cross-country. The national hockey team debuted here, including in the team the future tennis player and President of the Romanian Olympic Committee - Ion Țiriac, who ranked 12th. This is also where the bobsledder Ion Panțuru started his career. The best ranking - 5th place - belonged to the biathlete Gheorghe Vilmoș in the 20 km race.

## **GRENOBLE, FRANCE, 1968**

### ***ROMANIAN MEDAL - BRONZE BOBSLEIGH ONE BRONZE MEDAL***

At this edition, our representatives achieved the best result in the history of participation in the Winter Olympic Games. The bobsleigh crew - two people, including Ion Panțuru and Nicolae Neagoe, European vice-champions of that year, won the bronze medal - the first medal at the Winter Olympics for Romania. A 4th place was achieved by four-people bobsleigh including Ion Panțuru, Nicolae Neagoe, Petre Hristovici and Gheorghe Maftai. In women's figure skating competition, Beatrice Huștiu, aged 11 and a half, had a laudable evolution, achieving the 29th place in the free program, surpassing the much more experienced skaters.



## **SAPPORO, JAPAN, 1972**

For the first time, the Winter Olympics were hosted by the Asian continent. Romania participated in four sports (biathlon, bobsleigh, figure skating and alpine skiing) with a delegation of 14 athletes. The two-people bobsleigh made up by Ion Panțuru and Ion Zangor ranked 5th. Romania also achieved a 9th place in biathlon through the 4 x 7.5 km relay including Nicolae Veștea, Victor Fontana, Ion Țeposu and Gheorghe Vilmoș.

## **INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA, 1976**

Romania participated with a delegation of 33 athletes in four sports (biathlon, bobsleigh, ice hockey and alpine skiing). The best result was achieved by the hockey team (Elod Antal, Dumitru Axinte, Marian Costea, Șandor Gal, Ioan Gheorghiu, Alexandru Hălăucă, Vasile Huțanu, Ion Ioniță, George Justinian, Doru Moroșan, Valerian Netedu, Eduard Pană, Marian Pisaru, Doru Tureanu, Dezideriu Varga, Vasile Morar, Tiberiu Mikloș and Nicolae Vișan), who ranked 7th. In the four-people bobsleigh event, the crew made up by Dragoș Panaitescu, Costel Ionescu, Paul Neagu and Gheorghe Lixandru ranked 8th place.

## **LAKE PLACID, USA, 1980**

Our delegation consisted of 35 athletes who competed in bobsleigh, ice hockey, speed skating and luge. The best rankings were achieved by the hockey team (Valerian Netedu, Gheorghe Huțan, Mihail Lucian Popescu, Ion Berdilă, Șandor Gal, Elod Antal, Istvan Antal, Doru Moroșan, George Justinian, Doru Tureanu, Dumitru Axinte, Marian Costea, Constantin Nistor, Alexandru Hălăucă, Laszlo Solyom, Bela Nagy, Traian Cazan, Adrain Olenici, Marian Pisaru and Zoltan Nagy), finishing in 8th place, and the four-people bobsleigh (Dragoș Panaitescu, Dorel Cristudor, Sandu Mitrofan, Gheorghe Lixandru), ranking also 8th place. For the first time in the history of participation in winter competitions, Romania attended with athletes in speed skating and luge events.

## **SARAJEVO, YUGOSLAVIA, 1984**

At the Sarajevo Winter Olympics, Romania participated with a delegation of 19 athletes (three women and 16 men) in biathlon, bobsleigh, speed skating, luge, alpine skiing and cross-country. The best ranking was the 7th place achieved by the four-people bobsleigh crew including Dorin Degan, Gheorghe Lixandru, Costel Petrariu and Cornel Popescu.



## **CALGARY, CANADA, 1988**

At the 15th winter edition, Romania participated with 11 athletes who competed in bobsleigh, luge and skiing. The best result was achieved in skiing by 4 x 5 km women's relay team including Mihaela Cârstoi, Rodica Drăguș, Ileana Hanganu and Adina Țuțulan, who ranked 12th.

## **ALBERTVILLE, FRANCE, 1992**

It was the third city in France to host the Winter Olympics after Chamonix (1924) and Grenoble (1968). The 23 athletes from the Romanian delegation participated in biathlon, bobsleigh, figure skating, speed skating, luge, ski jumping, alpine skiing and cross-country. The two-people sledge crew, made up of Ioan Apostol and Liviu Cepoi, ranked 4th, and Mihaela Dascălu ranked 6th in the 1,000 m speed skating event.

## **LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY, 1994**

It was the first edition that took place according to the new calendar established by the IOC, which required a period of two years between the two major competitions: Summer and Winter Olympic Games. The representatives of our country competed in biathlon, bobsleigh, figure skating, speed skating, luge, alpine skiing and cross-country. A 6th place was achieved in the sledding event by the two-people crew (Ioan Apostol and Liviu Cepoi) and two 8th places achieved by Mihaela Dascălu, in the 1,500 m and 3,000 m speed skating events.

## **NAGANO, JAPAN, 1998**

The 18th edition of the Winter Olympics was the last in the 20th century. Romania participated with a delegation of 16 athletes in biathlon, bobsleigh, figure skating, speed skating, luge and cross-country skiing. The athlete Éva Tófalvi had the best results, ranking 11th in the 15 km biathlon event.

## **SALT LAKE CITY, USA, 2002**

Our country's delegation included 21 athletes who competed in biathlon, bobsleigh, figure skating, speed skating, short track speed skating, alpine skiing and cross-country. Romania participated for the first time in the short track speed skating event. Two rankings on the 15th position were achieved by men's two-crew bobsleigh (Eugen Radu and Marian Tican) and women's two-crew bobsleigh including Erika Kovacs and Maria Spirescu.

## **TORINO, ITALY, 2006**

Romania participated with 25 athletes, who competed in: biathlon, bobsleigh, figure skating, speed skating, short track speed skating, sledging, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and sprinting. The best rankings - two 14th places - were achieved by Gheorghe Chiper (Romanian flag bearer at the opening ceremony) in figure skating and by the biathletes in the 4 x 6 km relay (Dana Elena Potlogea, Éva Tófalvi, Mihaela Purdea and Alexandra Rusu). Octavian Morariu - the ROSC President and the rower Elisabeta Lipa were Olympic torch bearers in the *Olympic Torch Relay*.

## **VANCOUVER, CANADA, 2010**

Romania attended this edition with 29 athletes who competed in biathlon, bobsleigh, figure skating, speed skating, luge, acrobatic skiing, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and skeleton. They participated for the first time in the history of winter sports in skeleton. The women's 4 x 6 km relay, including Dana Plotogea, Éva Tófalvi, Mihaela Purdea and Reka Ferencz, placed 10th in biathlon. Two 11th places were achieved by biathlete Éva Tófalvi in the individual 15 km race and men's two-people bobsleigh crew - , including Nicolae Istrate and Florin Cezar Crăciun.



## SOCHI, RUSSIA, 2014

The Russian Federation hosted for the first time a winter edition of the Olympic Games in Sochi. Romania participated with a delegation of 24 athletes who competed in eight sports: biathlon, bobsleigh, figure skating, luge, ski jumping, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and skeleton. The best results of the Romanian delegation at the Sochi Winter Olympics were two places 17 in the double bobsleigh, obtained by the male crew including Florin Cezar Crăciun and Nicolae Istrate, as well as the female crew including Maria Adela Constantin and Andreea Greek.

## PYEONGCHANG, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 2018

PyeongChang hosted the 2018 Winter Olympics. This was the third time in the history of the Olympic Movement when an Asian city was hosting a winter edition, after the Sapporo 1972 Olympics and the Nagano 1998 Olympics. The Romanian Olympic team participating in this competition included 27 athletes who competed in eight sports: biathlon, bobsleigh, speed skating, luge, ski jumping, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and skeleton. The best performance was in the women's luge competition where Raluca Strămăturaru gained 7th place. The next best result was the 10th place gained also in the luge competition, but this time in the relay race with the crew composed by Raluca Strămăturaru, Valentin Crețu, Cosmin Atodiresei and Ștefan Mușei.

## ROMANIA AT THE SUMMER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

2010	Singapore, Republic of Singapore
2014	Nanjing, People's Republic of China
2016	Buenos Aires, Argentina

### SINGAPORE, REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 2010 9 MEDALS: 1 GOLD - 4 SILVER - 4 BRONZE



Andrei Muntean

These Youth Olympic Games were developed and performed in view of integrating sports, culture and education programs, exploring new media technologies to connect young athletes around the world to the Olympic Movement, but also between them.

In Singapore, Romania participated with an Olympic delegation of 30 athletes in the following sports: athletics, boxing, rowing, artistic gymnastics, weightlifting, swimming, judo, kayak-canoe, fencing, tennis, table tennis and shooting.

The Romanian team won nine medals: one gold, four silver and four bronze.

The gold medal was won by the gymnast Andrei Muntean (photo) on rings, and the silver ones were won by the gymnasts



Diana Bulimar (floor exercise) and Andrei Muntean (parallel bars), and athletes Alina Rotaru (long jump) and Bianca Denisa Razor (400 m).

Two of the four bronze medals were awarded to swimmer Mihai Răzvan Tudosie (50 m breaststroke) and rower Ioan Prundeanu in single rowing, and there were, also, two Romanian athletes, who contributed to achieving two other bronze medals being co-opted in the mixed teams (athletes from several countries - NOC, on the same continent or on different continents). Bianca Diana Răzor was part of the mixed relay in athletics (4x400 m) together with Ani Tagoe (Great Britain), Anna Bongiorno (Italy), Sonia Mosler (Germany). Ioan Vișan was part of the mixed judo team called “Cairo” with Andrea Guillen (Costa Rica), Christine Huck (Austria), Mansurkhuja Muminkhujaev (Uzbekistan), Eldin Omirovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Barbara Matici (Croatia), Pedro Pineda (Venezuela) and Neha Thakur (India).

## **NANJING, PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 2014**

### **6 MEDALS: 3 GOLD - 3 SILVER**

The vision of these Youth Olympic Games was to bring together as many young people as possible in a celebration dedicated to them, as the multisport event was intended as a unique and impactful experience for the young generation, being structured on three main pillars: sports, culture and education.

At this edition, the Romanian delegation was composed of 41 athletes and 26 officials and managed to win six medals: three gold and three silver.

The members of double sculls-rowing crews, Denisa Tîlvescu and Cristina Georgiana Popescu, respectively Gheorghe Robert Dedu and Ciprian Tudosă, as well as the athlete Ioana Teodora Gheorghe (international 8x100 m mixed relay) climbed the highest stage of the Olympic podium.

The silver medals were won by Ștefania Adelina Dobre (judo, 63 kg) and athletes





The Romanian Delegation

Alexandru Mihăiță Novac (javelin throw), respectively Andrei Rareș Toader (shot put).

Within the YOG Nanjing Young Ambassadors program, 104 young people from different NOCs participated in the Seminar for Young Ambassadors, and the Romanian representative was Emil Imre, gold and silver medalist in short-track speed skating at the European Youth Olympic Festival in Brașov, in

2013. This session was meant to give the Ambassadors the understanding of what the Nanjing 2014 YOG and activities of the YOG Nanjing Cultural and Educational Program represent, while all of them were encouraged to promote this in their own countries. Elected by the IOC, the Ambassadors' role is to connect the new generation with devoted athletes and also to encourage young people to become active, while catalyzing their desire to enjoy the sport benefits.

## **BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 2018**

**8 MEDALS: 2 GOLD - 3 SILVER - 3 BRONZE**

Held under the slogan “Feel the Future”, the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires highlighted the hope that the 4,000 athletes competing in the first gender equality Games will become an example of coexistence, unity in diversity and passion.

The Romanian Olympic team participated with a delegation of 34 athletes, who competed in 14 sports.

In the competitions from Argentina's capital, the Romanian athletes won eight medals: two gold, three silver and three bronze.



Sabina Baltag





The gold medals were won by Sabina Baltag (weightlifting, 53 kg) and judoka Iosif Adrian Șulcă (81 kg).

The swimmer Daniel Cristian Martin became the first Romanian two time medalist at the YOG, winning two silver medals, in the 100 m and 200 m backstroke events. Another silver medal was won by the men's two sculls-rowing competition including Alexandru Laurențiu Danciu and Florin-Nicolae Arteni-Fîntînariu.

The bronze medals were won by Mihaela Valentina Cambei (weightlifting, 48 kg), by the women's two sculls-rowing crew made up of Alina Maria Balețchi and Tabita Maftei and by Andreea Dragoman who became the first European table tennis player awarded at a YOG edition.

## ROMANIA AT THE WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

2012	Innsbruck (Austria)
2016	Lillehammer (Norway)
2020	Lausanne (Switzerland)

### INNSBRUCK, 2012

In Innsbruck, at the winter youth edition, the Romanian Olympic delegation included 22 athletes who competed in skeleton, luge, bobsleigh, ice hockey, speed skating, biathlon, ski jumping, alpine skiing and cross-country.

Our athletes did not have podium rankings, but some of them were very close. Among them it can be mentioned Marius Cosmin Chioiabaşu who ranked 4th in skeleton, the women's double bobsleigh crew including Andreea Ana Constantin and Andreea Grecu who took the 6th place, but also the men's double bobsleigh crew (Eugen Cosmin Atodiresei and Ştefan Musei) who ranked 8th.

The "Young Ambassador" program, developed by the IOC, offered the 33 young people, aged 18–25 years old, the chance to act as ambassadors of the National Olympic Committees that they represented. During the Games, the young ambassadors mentored the athletes from their countries, promoting the Games and the Culture and Education Program, the exemplary behavior as well as the involvement as an Olympic athlete.





Alina Rotaru

The honor of being the Romanian ambassador at the first winter edition of the YOG went to female athlete Alina Rotaru (photo), silver medalist at the first edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010.

## **LILLEHAMMER, NORWAY, 2016**

### **TWO MEDALS: 1 GOLD - 1 BRONZE**

Held under the motto “Go Beyond. Create Tomorrow”, the Lillehammer Youth Olympic Games brought together 1,100 young athletes from 70 countries who competed in 70 events and 15 sports. The vision of these Games was to inspire young people around the world to play sports and live according to the Olympic values.

The Romanian Olympic team traveled to Norway with a delegation of 22 athletes, who competed in nine of the 15 sports included in the competition program and won two medals: a gold and a bronze one.

For the Romanian Olympic Movement, the Lillehammer edition was a great success in the history of winter sports, thanks to the gold medal won by Eduard Cășăneanu in ice hockey skill.



The bronze medal went to Mihaela Hogaș in the mixed team in sprint competition. She was part of the International 10 Speed Skating Team (YOG specific event, created to strengthen the friendship between nations).

In addition to these outstanding results, which highlight the fact that young Romanian athletes start to make a difference on winter sports, the Youth Olympic Games event in Lillehammer was an important milestone in the international Olympic calendar, which helped not only youngest talents to distinguish themselves, but also to the development of friendly relations between those who compete under the symbol of the Olympic Circles.

## **LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND, 2020**

### **THREE MEDALS: TWO GOLD - ONE BRONZE**

The involvement of young people both within the Lausanne Youth Olympic Games and outside has been widely cited as one of the key elements contributing to the popularity and success of the competition. This was one of the central elements of the Lausanne communication strategy, aiming to show the importance of the YOG as an educational vector.





Romanian Olympic team

35 young athletes represented Romania at the 3rd winter edition of the Youth Olympic Games in biathlon, bobsleigh, ice hockey, speed skating, luge, ski jumping, alpine skiing, mountaineering, cross-country skiing and snowboarding, 10 out of the 16 disciplines in the competition program.

Romania won the first Olympic gold medals in the history of monobob, both women's and men's events, the awarded athletes being Georgeta Popescu and Andrei Robert Nica. The monobob event was included for the first time at the Youth Olympic Games in Switzerland, and at the Beijing 2022 Winter Games, this will become an Olympic event for seniors.

The Romanian Olympic team also won a bronze medal, received by Ramona Elena Ionel in speed skating, mixed international teams.

With two youth Olympic titles and a bronze medal, Romania ranked 14th in the Lausanne 2020 YOG medal count.

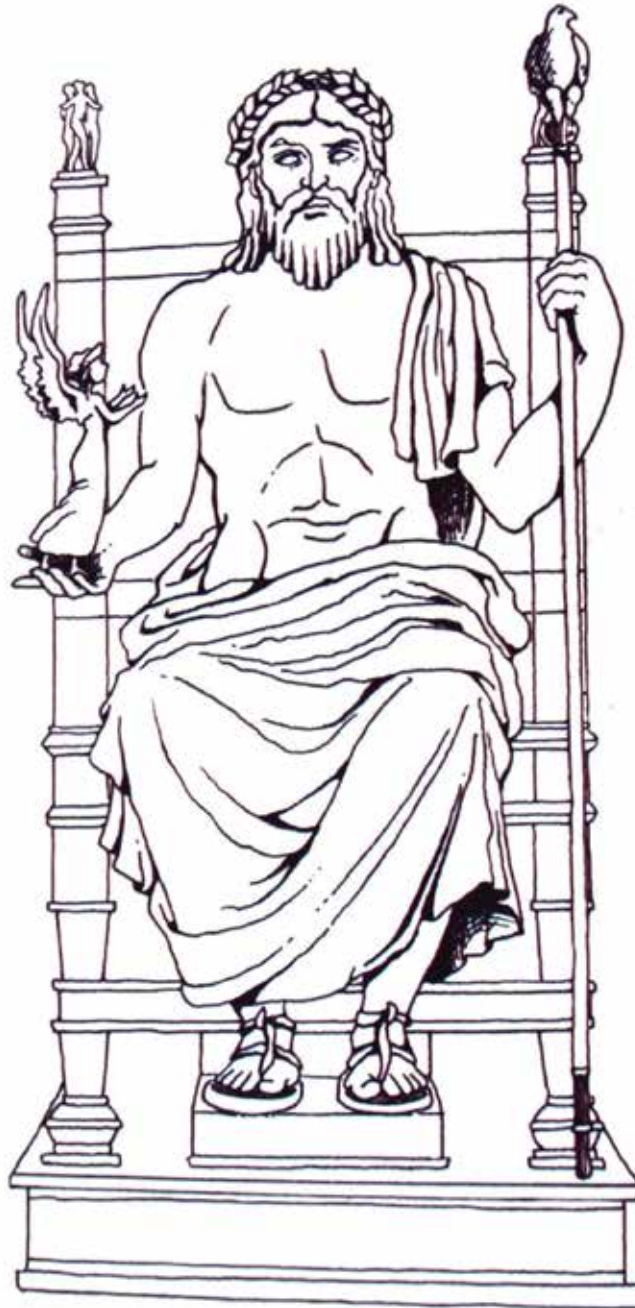
*“Champions aren’t made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, a vision.”*

**Muhammad Ali**  
(Olympic boxing  
champion in 1960  
in Rome)

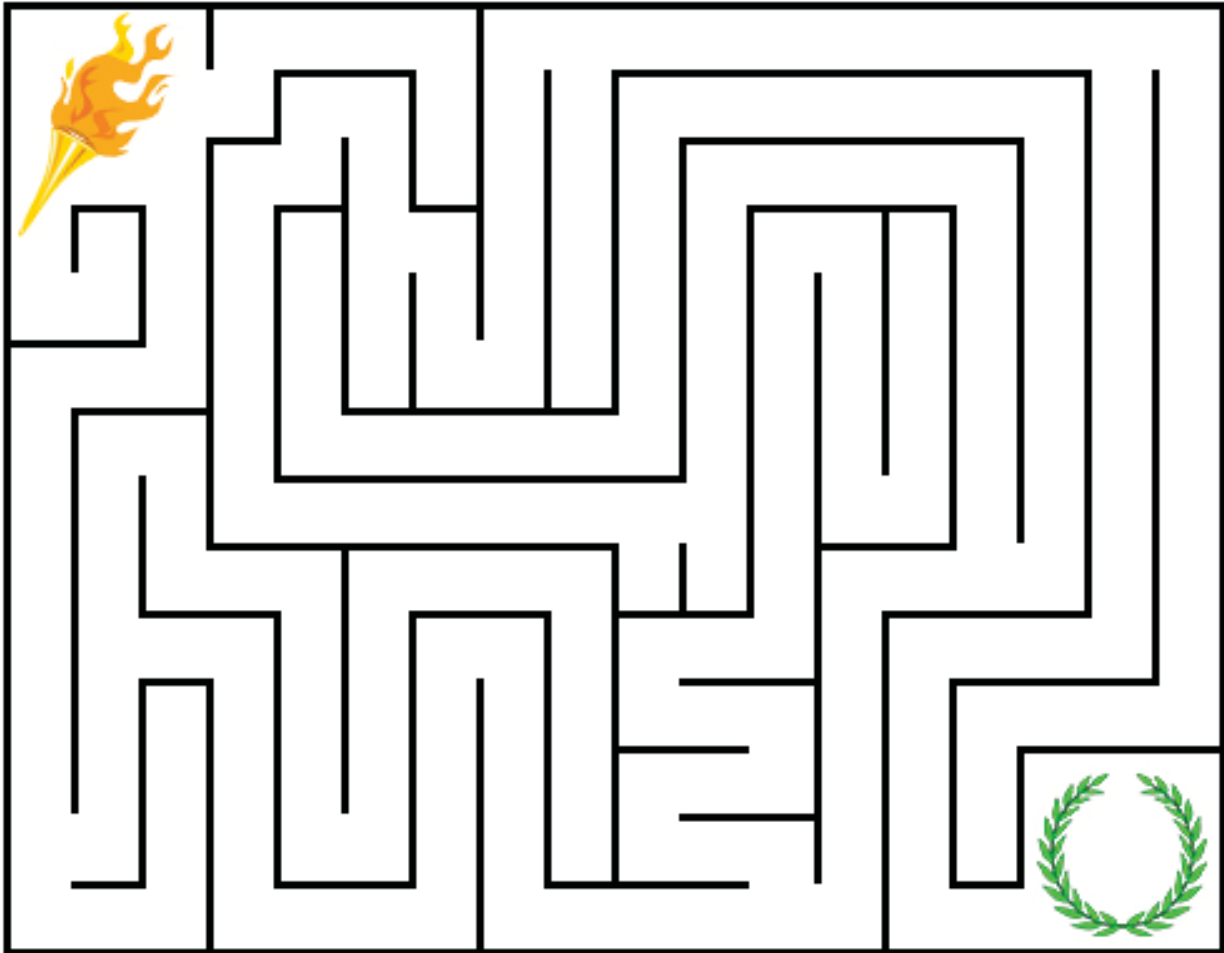
VI

PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

● In the image below there is the statue of Zeus from Olympia made by the famous ancient sculptor Phidias. It was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Color the statue using the appropriate colors



- Discover the road that leads to the wreath of wild olive branches!



- Solve the anagrams as soon as possible! What words did you discover?

1. APSER
2. UC RTE
3. LOCOSHID
4. ACANRCUMPIT
5. DHALER

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(Spear; Truce; Dolichos; Pancratium; Herald)

## WHO KNOWS OLYMPISM, WINS!

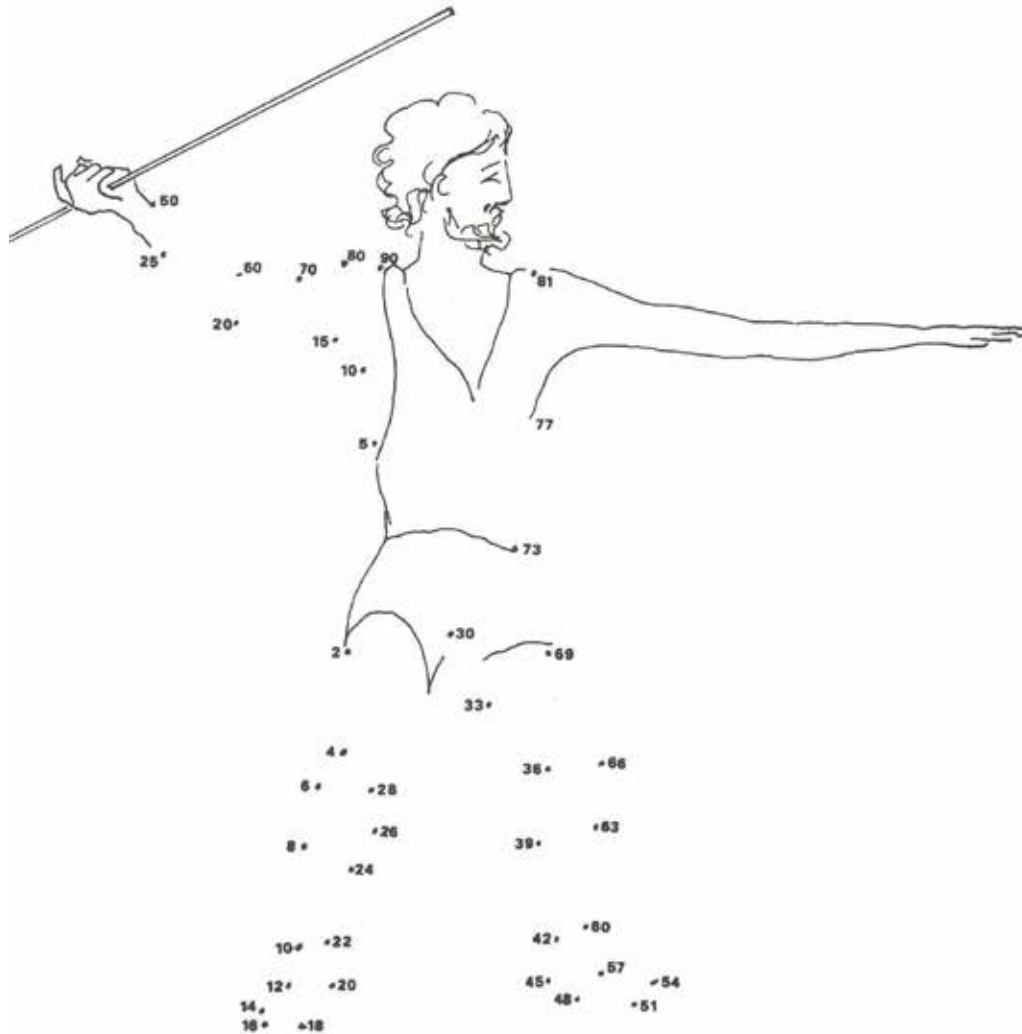
- 1. The Games organized in Olympia were:**
  - a) a sports competition that took place every two years
  - b) a competition organized at the end of the olives' harvest
  - c) a competition organized in the honor of Zeus
- 2. The Olympiad represents:**
  - a) the biggest sports competition in ancient Greece
  - b) the period in which the sports competitions took place
  - c) the period of 4 consecutive years, between 2 editions of the Olympic Games
- 3. The competitors of the Olympic Games took the Oath at:**
  - a) the temple of Zeus
  - b) the temple of Hera
  - c) the oracle of Delphi
- 4. Kotinos was:**
  - a) a pine wreath
  - b) a wreath of wild olive
  - c) a laurel wreath
- 5. Ekecheiria means:**
  - a) the end of the Games organized in Olympia
  - b) the beginning of the Games organized in Olympia
  - c) the Olympic armistice
- 6. At the ancient Olympic competitions participate:**
  - a) Greek women and men
  - b) free Greek men
  - c) women, men and slaves
- 7. Failure to comply with the Olympic armistice was punished by:**
  - a) payment of a fine
  - b) payment of a fine and exclusion from the competition
  - c) exclusion from the competition
- 8. The ancient Olympic Games stopped with:**
  - a) the death of Zeus
  - b) the establishment of Christianity as an official religion in the state
  - c) giving up of the Greeks to practice sports
- 9. Which sport is not practiced at the Games organized in Olympia:**
  - a) running in armor
  - b) high jump
  - c) fights
- 10. The host of the ancient Olympic Games was:**
  - a) Olympus
  - b) Athens
  - c) Olympia

Räspunsur: 1c, 2c, 3a, 4b, 5c, 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, 10c



● Join the points in the following order:

- 1) find the number 2 in the image above and starting from it join the points 2 by 2;
  - 2) when you have reached the number 30, continue to join the points 3 by 3;
  - 3) you have reached number 69 and you must continue to join the points 4 by 4 - until number 81;
- 81;
- 4) find the number 5 and join the points from 5 to 5 - up to the number 25;
  - 5) find the number 50 and join the points from 10 to 10 - up to the number 90



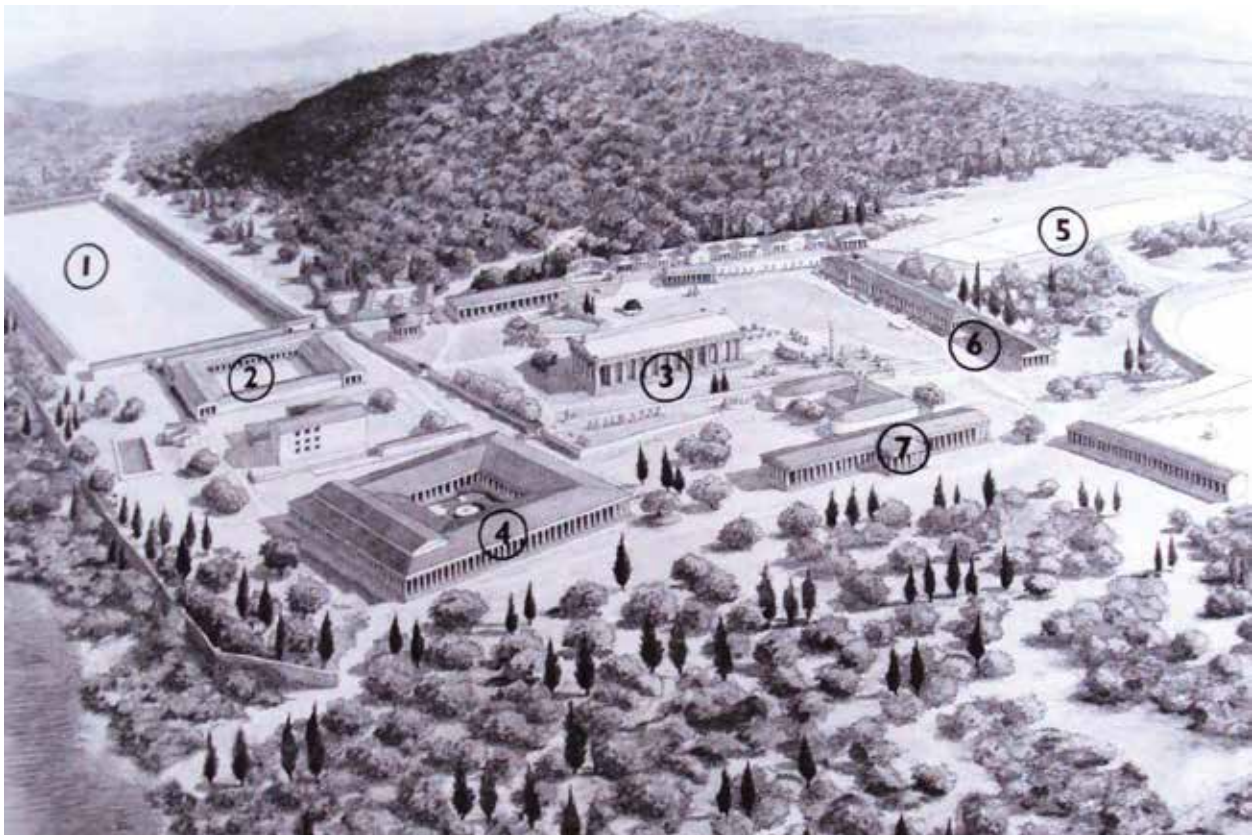
**Congratulations!**

You've just discovered one of the disciplines of ancient pentathlon.

● This wreath of wild olive branches (kotinos) was awarded to the winner of the Games Olympic. Make your own wreath, which you give to a colleague, champion or winner of a school or sports competition.



● Using the image below - identify at least two buildings that were found in ancient Olympia.



(Stadium, Palestra, Temple of Zeus, Gymnasium, Temple of Hera, Hippodrome)



● The table below lists 10 words related to the Ancient Olympic Games. Check the letters vertically and horizontally to find the words and circle them.

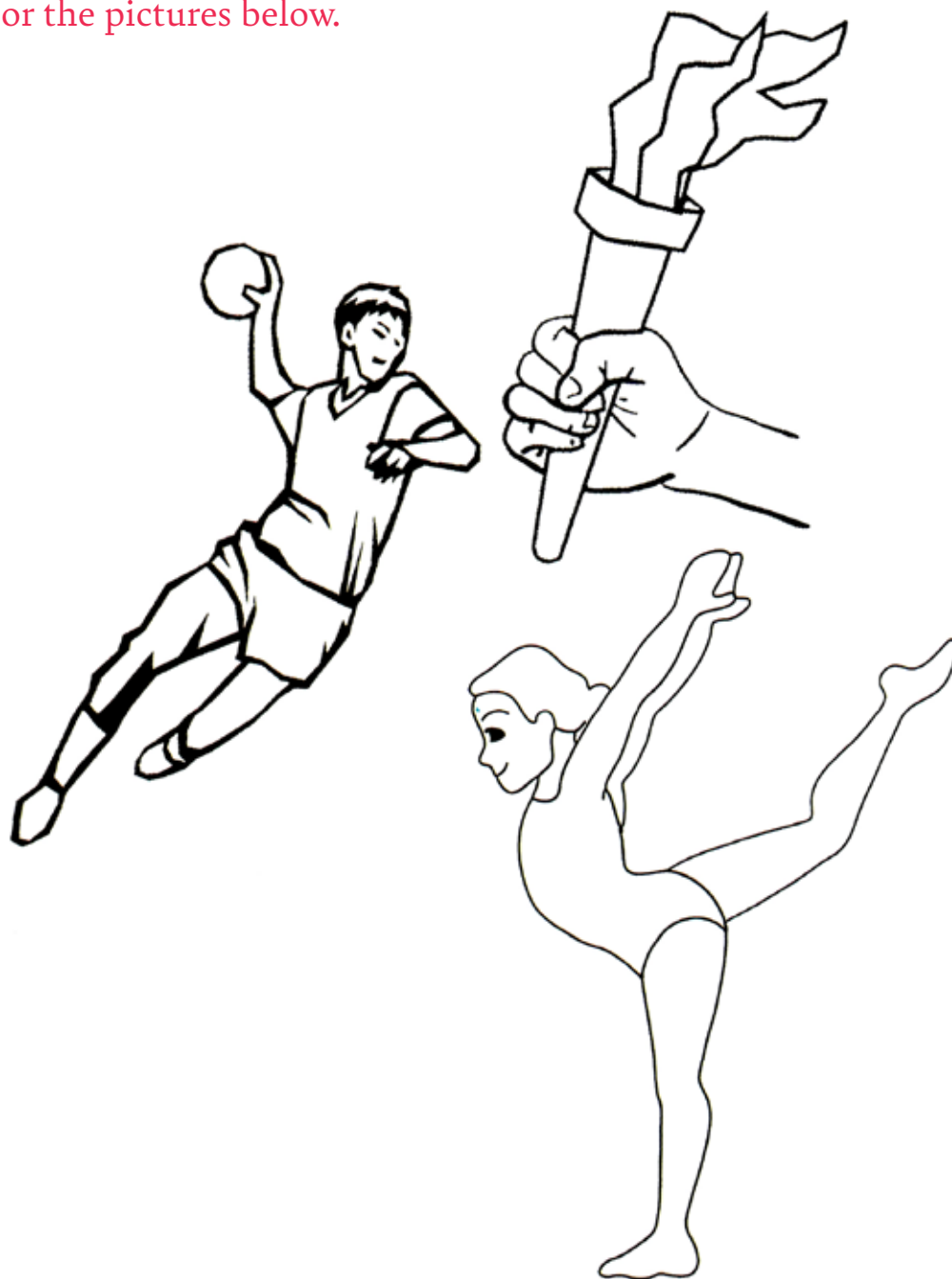
A	B	A	N	C	R	A	T	I	U	O	C	D	A
N	O	T	E	A	P	T	E	M	P	L	E	I	C
L	X	H	Z	O	L	I	M	V	L	Y	R	B	T
J	I	A	B	R	C	K	P	I	O	M	O	L	I
P	N	I	M	J	E	C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N
G	G	L	O	P	Z	E	U	S	S	I	S	L	V
P	T	D	B	F	L	H	E	R	I	A	L	I	I
E	X	O	G	K	U	E	K	G	N	A	P	M	T
T	Z	E	B	X	S	R	E	A	G	N	E	P	A
A	P	I	I	S	T	A	T	U	E	M	T	I	T
W	I	C	O	E	P	Z	E	O	R	E	R	C	E
M	U	E	K	E	C	H	E	I	R	I	A	S	P
N	H	N	M	I	H	R	I	O	I	T	O	A	L
J	U	O	A	T	H	N	T	L	C	S	A	P	A

(Hera, Olympia, Zeus, Ekecheiria, Oath, Temple, Champion, Olympics, Statue)

● List 3 sports that were present in the program of the ancient Olympic Games and are also found in the program of the modern Olympic Games.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

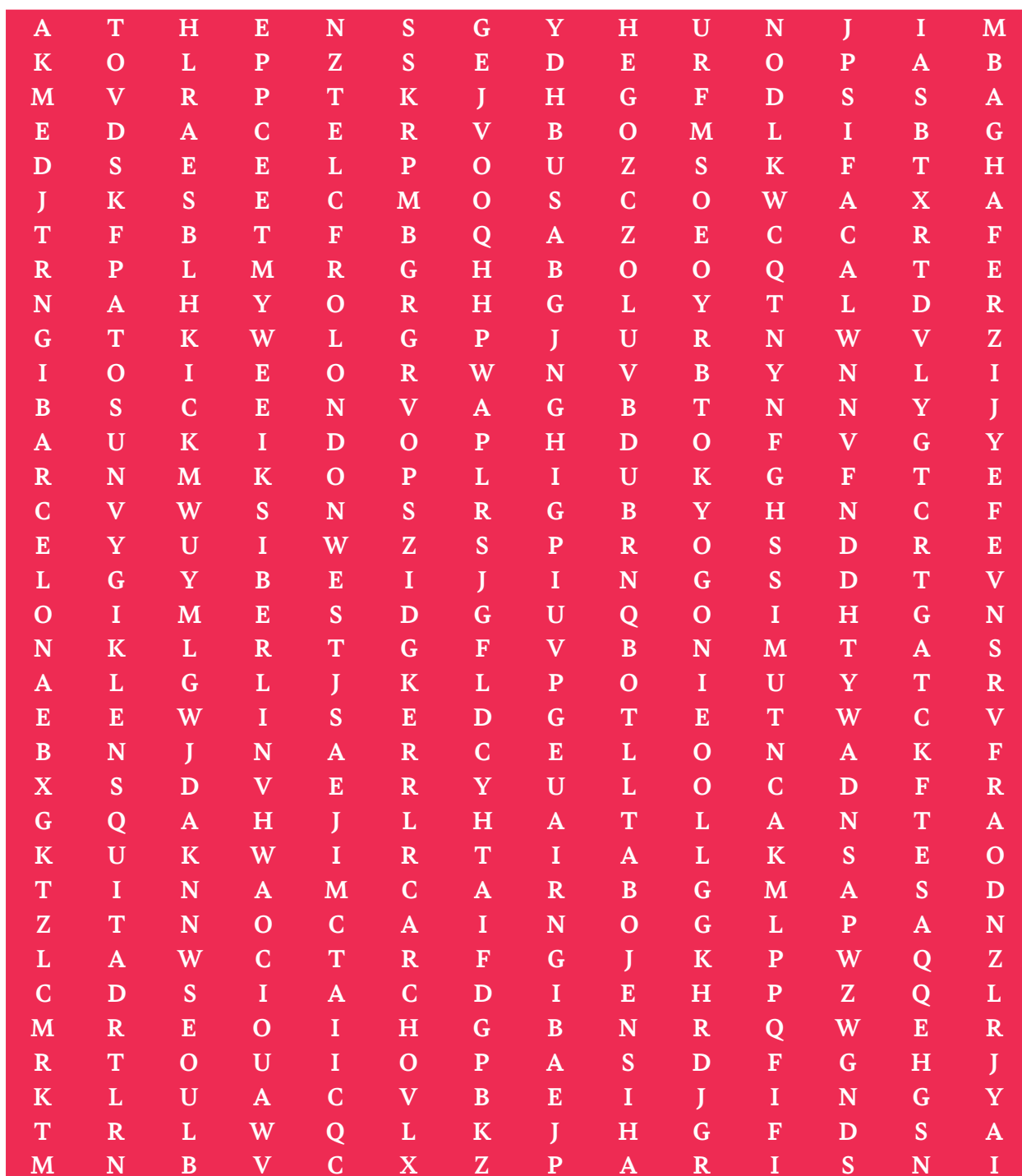
● Color the pictures below.



● Color the Olympic Circles.



● Find the names of the cities that hosted Summer Olympic Games



(Athens, Beijing, Seoul, Berlin, Tokyo, Paris, Barcelona, London, Athens, Moscow)



- The Olympic motto is “Citius, Altius, Fortius – Communiter - Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together” designed by the Dominican monk Henri Martin Didon and taken over by Pierre de Coubertin. Take it as an example to create a motto that represents you or the school or sports organization you belong to and write it down in the space below:



- Fill in the blanks in the text with the appropriate words.

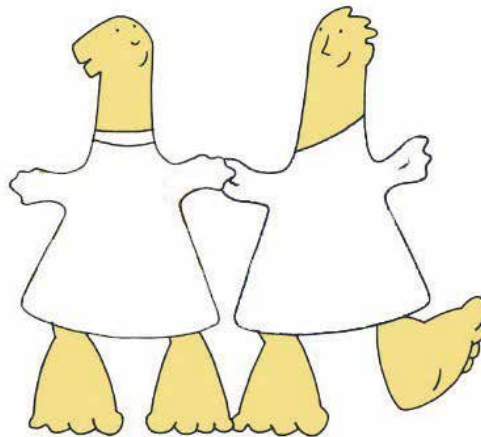
The Olympic symbol consists of the ..... chained rings, of ..... dimensions. Each ring has a ..... color. The rings appear on the Olympic Flag, in the ..... of it, being positioned as follows: colors ....., ..... and ..... at the top and the colors ..... and ..... at the bottom.

(cinci, egale, diferite, centrul, albastru, negru, roșu, galben, verde)

● You can find below the image of an Olympic gold medal. Try to draw a medal with different design that could be awarded at the next edition of the Olympic Games or at a national school competition.



● Color the mascots below. Give them a name!



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● The images below show some of the sports included in the Summer Olympic Games' program. Name them.



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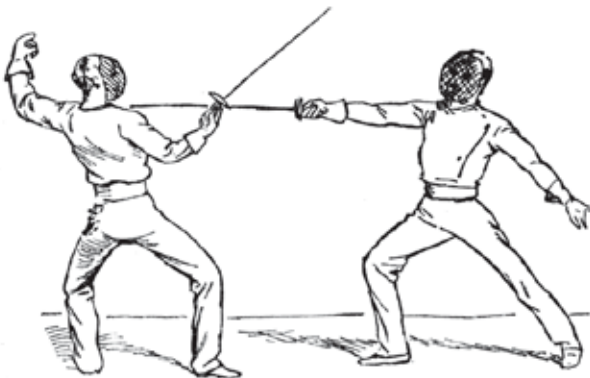


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● Circle the individual summer sports in red, the team sports in green and in blue, the sports that have both individual and team events.



● Take a look at the athletes in the pictures below. Name the sport it is practiced and then color the pictures.



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● Name the sports in which the balls in the pictures below are used.



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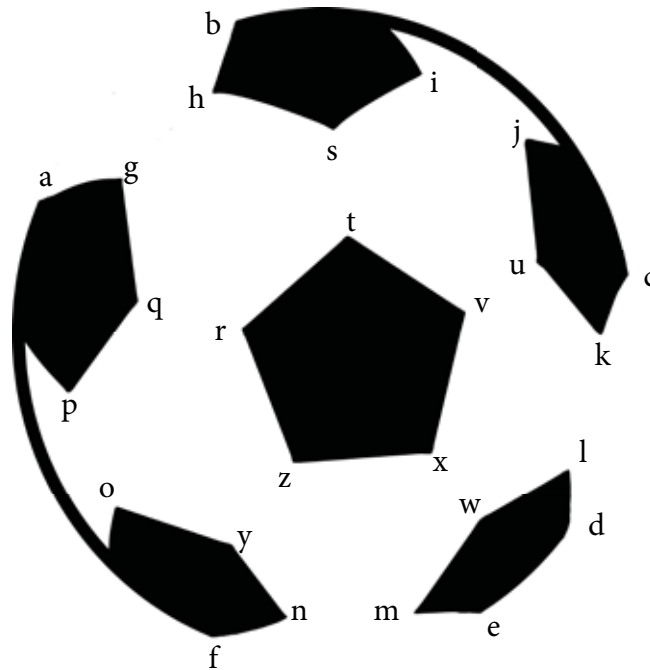
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● Join the letters in alphabetical order and color the interior orange.

What did you discover?



● Find the right answer!

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. What is the name of the geographical area of Greece where Olympia is located?  | Olympic truce    |
| 2. Only free Greek ... can participate at the Games organized in Olympia.         | Peloponnese      |
| 3. Fortress of ancient Greece where they took place Ancient Olympic Games.        | men              |
| 4. The Games organized in Olympia were dedicated to ...                           | Elis<br>Hercules |
| 5. The winners received wreaths of ..... branches                                 | Olympic Games    |
| 6. Five disciplines reunited in one at the ancient Greeks                         | wild olive       |
| 7. The statue of Zeus was made by ...   | kalokagathia     |
| 8. The preparation period between two editions of the Olympic Games is called ... | pentathlon       |
| 9. The grandest sporting event of the ancient Greek world.                        | Phidias          |
| 10. Commitment of athletes participating in the Olympic Games                     | Olympiad         |
| 11. The wreath of wild olive branches is called ...                               | Zeus             |
| 12. The first winner of the Games was ...   | oath             |
| 13. Greek term that expresses harmony between body and spirit.                    | kotinos          |
| 14. What was the name of the speed discipline in a stadium?                       | dromos           |
| 15. During the Olympic Games it was established ...                               |                  |



## WHO KNOW OLYMPISM, WINS!

- 1. Olympic motto “Citius - Altius - Fortius - Communiter” means:**
  - a) unity - friendship - peace
  - b) faster - above – stronger - together
  - c) knowledge - respect - collaboration
- 2. Which editions of the Summer Olympic Games was the one held in London in 2012?**
  - a) XXVIII
  - b) XXVII
  - c) XXX
- 3. Which country opens the athletes’ parade at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games?**
  - a) The USA
  - b) Russia
  - c) Greece
- 4. Decision to form the International Olympic Committee was taken in:**
  - a) 1894
  - b) 1896
  - c) 1900
- 5. How many Olympic Circles are?**
  - a) 4
  - b) 5
  - c) 6
- 6. Where is the Olympic Village organized?**
  - a) in Greece
  - b) in the city that organizes the Olympic Games
  - c) in Lausanne
- 7. Who utters the Olympic Oath?**
  - a) the best athlete of the host country
  - b) the best athlete of the continent
  - c) the best athlete in the world
- 8. The first edition of the modern Olympic Games took place at:**
  - a) Paris 1924
  - b) Athens 1896
  - c) Paris 1896
- 9. The 20th edition of the Winter Olympic Games took place at:**
  - a) Vancouver
  - b) Turin
  - c) Salt Lake City
- 10. Who was the renovator of the modern Olympic Games?**
  - a) Juan Antonio Samaranch
  - b) George Plagino
  - c) Pierre de Coubertin

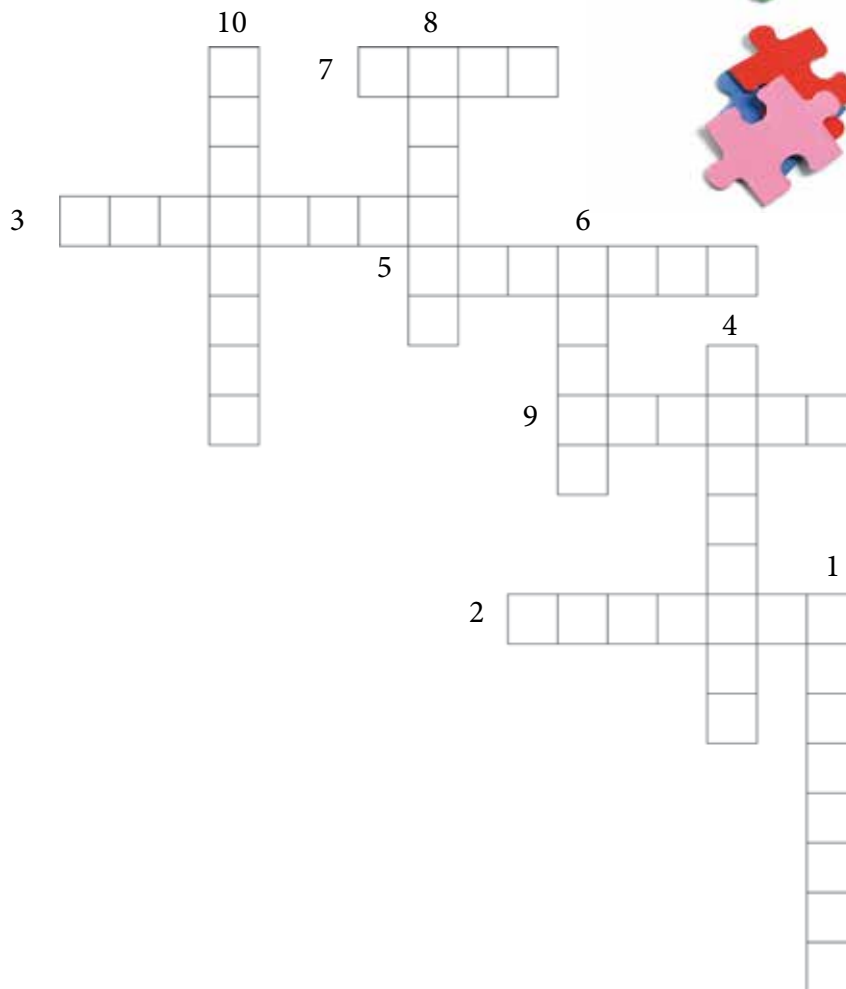
Answers: 1b, 2c, 3c, 4a, 5b, 6b, 7a, 8b, 9b, 10c

● The “Olympic Day” is organized in your school. You have been tasked to make the Torch, the Symbol and the Olympic flag using recycled materials.



● *Solve the Olympic puzzle!*

1. The longest athletic race.
2. The place where the athletic competitions take place.
3. The period of 4 years between two Olympic editions.
4. Winner in the race.
5. The place where the ancient Olympic Games were born.
6. It is offered to the winner at the award ceremony.
7. An Olympic Symbol.
8. The city that hosted the 2012 Olympic Games.
9. It is sung at ceremonies.
10. Sports discipline that is practiced in water.

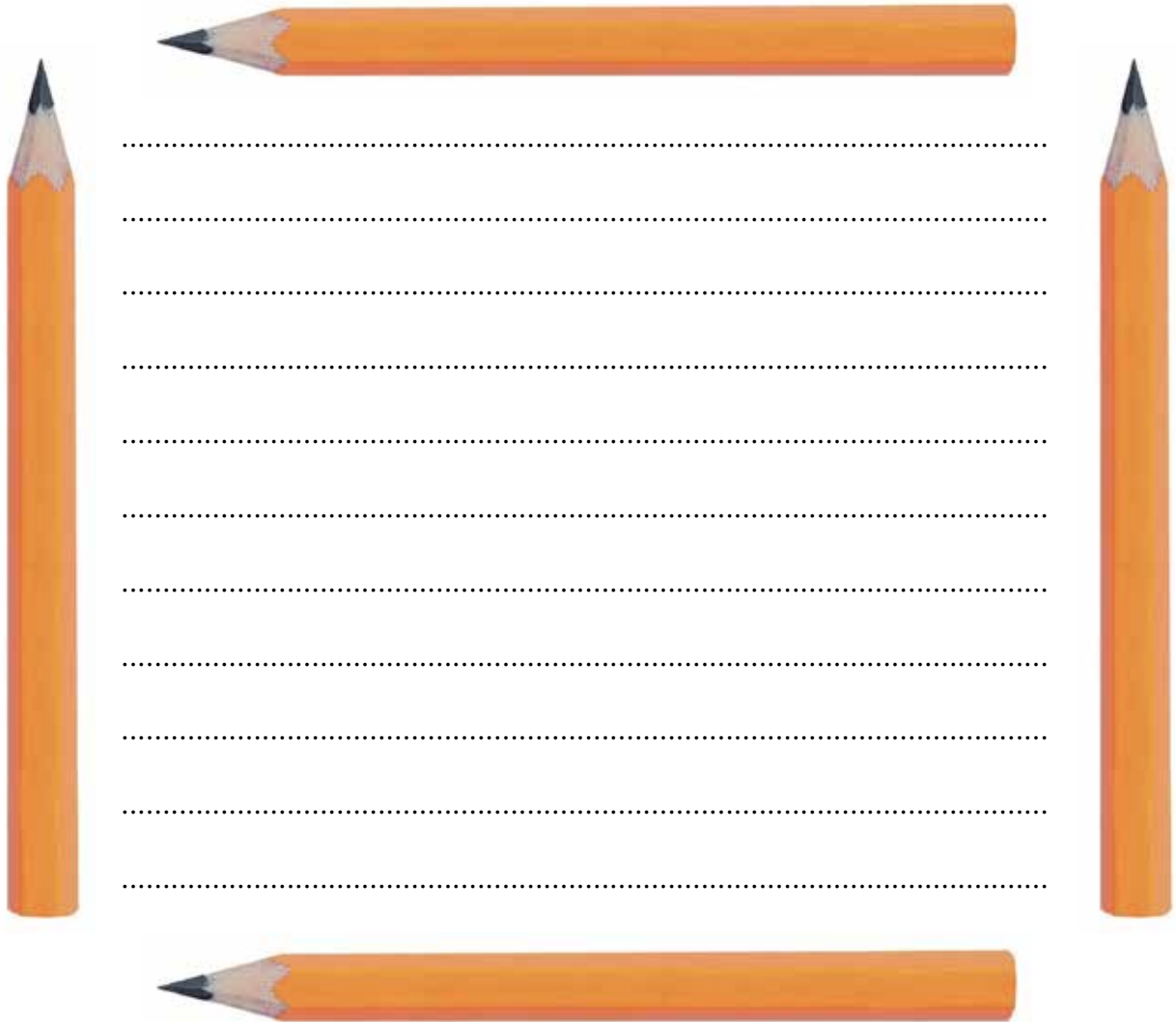


- Find the 5 mistakes in the text below and then transcribe the correct text in the dotted space.

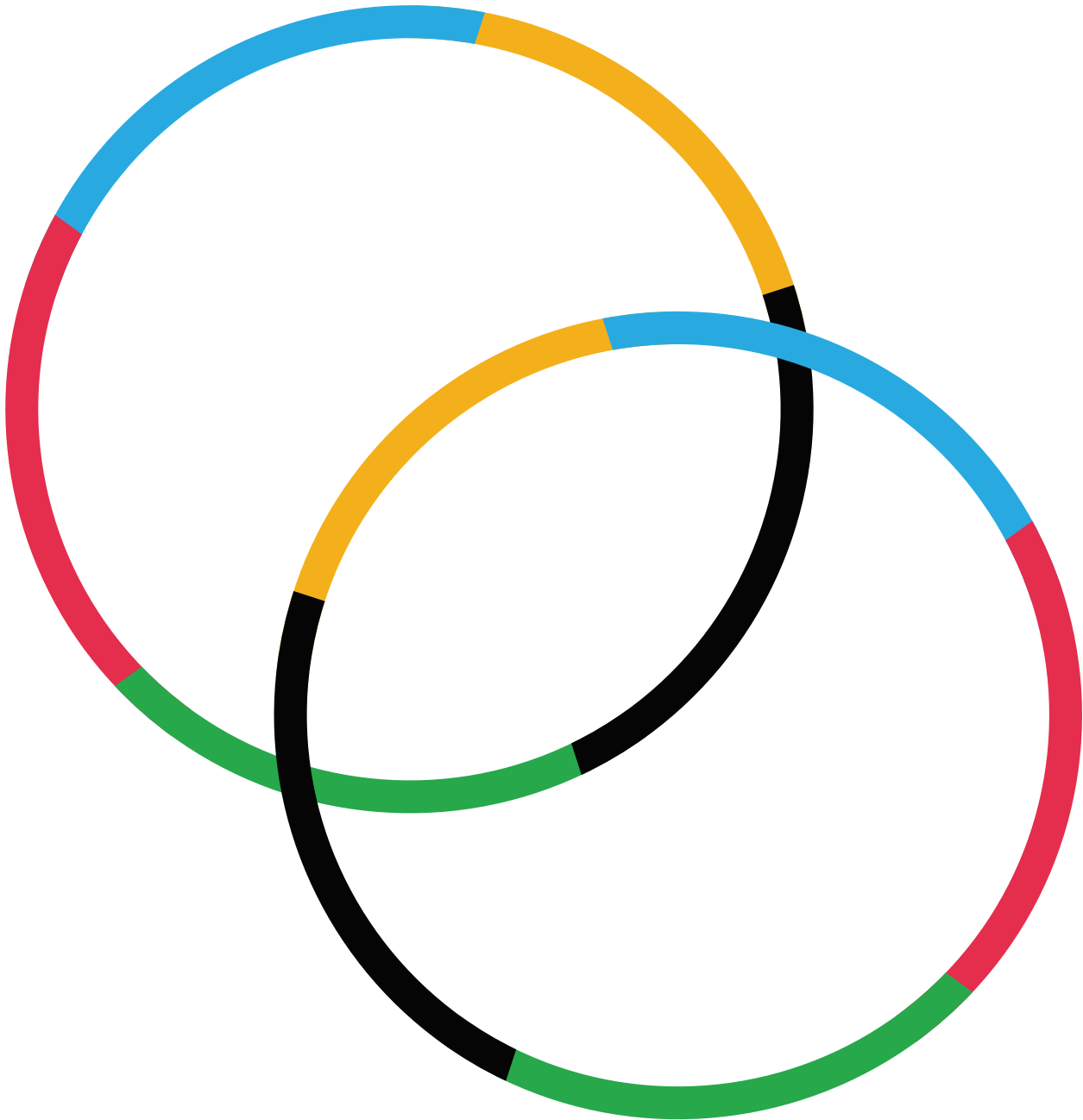
The Olympic Games have appeared in Greece since Antiquity. The Modern Olympics were brought back to life by the Greek baron Pierre de Coubertin. The first edition of the modern Olympic Games was held in Paris in 1894.

*The Olympic symbols are: the Olympic Flag, the Olympic Circles, the Olympic Motto, the sports relay and the Olympic flame.*

The *Olympic circles* are arranged from left to right: black, red and blue at the top, and yellow and green at the bottom. They give *Olympic Circles* represent the five continents.



● In the circle on the left, name the sports that were in the program of the ancient Olympic Games, and in the circle on the right, the sports in the program of the modern Summer Olympics. In space common to the two circles note the sports that are found in both programs.



● There is a map of the globe below on which the host cities of the Olympic Games are marked. Look carefully and with its help answer the following questions:

a) Which continents have never hosted an edition of the Olympic Games?

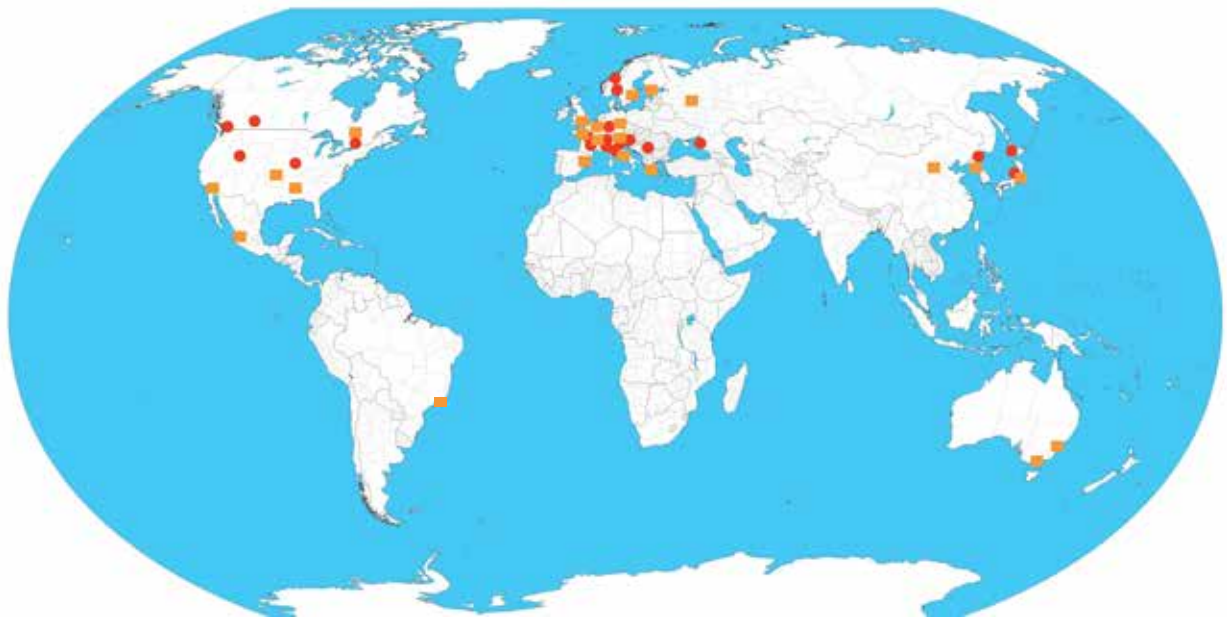
.....

b) Which continent hosted the most editions of the Olympic Games?

.....

c) Which continent hosted only summer editions of the Olympic Games?

.....



Summer Olympic Games



Winter Olympic Games



● Imagine you are a sports reporter. Choose a famous athlete and prepare five questions that you would like her/him to answer. Write down the questions and possible answers received in the space below.

**1** .....

.....  
.....  
.....

**2** .....

.....  
.....  
.....

**3** .....

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**4** .....

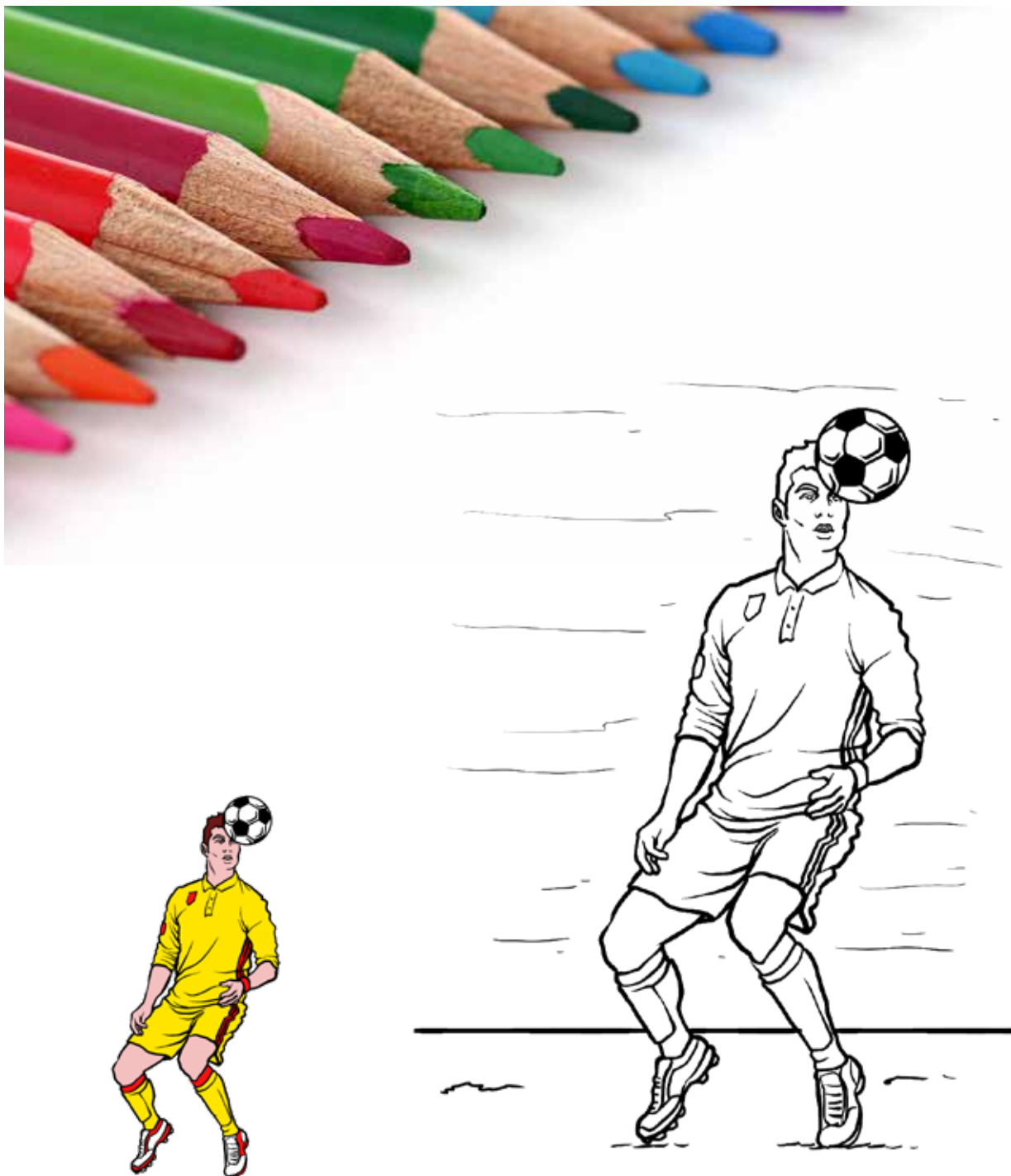
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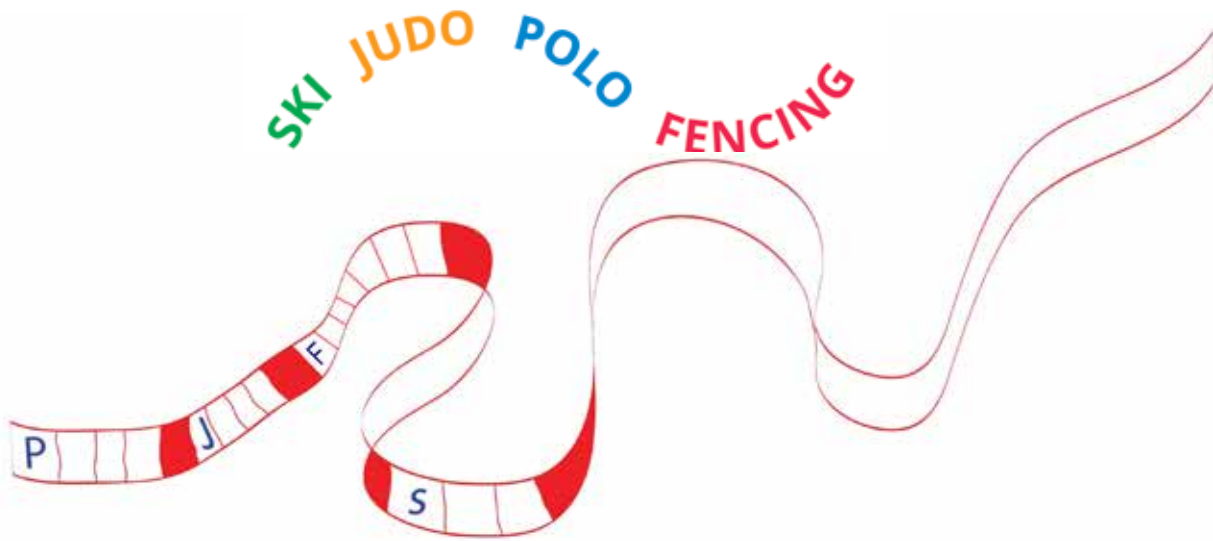
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● Name the sport, then color according to the pattern.



- Fill the ribbon with the right sports. Then add your favorite sports



- The *Olympic Flame* reaches your city. Which athletes would you choose to be part of the *Olympic Flame* relay?

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● Using dry autumn leaves, make the Olympic emblem of your class. It can be the reproduction of a real Olympics emblem or a personal creation perpetuating the values that the Olympic Movement supports: peace, friendship and respect.



● For a month, collect in the classroom all the lids from the plastic bottles. Once you get the required amount and diversity of colors, make the Olympic circles using these lids. The lids placed in the shape of Olympic circles can then be glued on a board and kept in the classroom/school, the message being by all means related to recycling and the sustainability of the world we live in.



- Imagine that you are the chef of the national judo team. You are in the training camp and you have to prepare the team menu for the next five days. How does your menu look like?



- Organize a sports-themed treasure hunt in the surrounding area of your school. Look for clues in various areas: the names of streets related to sports, the decorations on the buildings, etc.. Whoever has in the end the greatest number of hidden treasures becomes a skilled treasure hunter.





- Collect Olympic memories - Embark on a journey through the history of the Olympic Games with the help of your loved ones. Ask your parents, grandparents or neighbors to tell you five memories related to the Olympics. You can either record or write down in as much detail as possible everything they tell you. Going then through all the collected Olympic memories, you will write a short essay.

- Be your class observer for a day. At the end of the day make a list of fair play vs. non-fair play attitudes among your colleagues. Show them the list debating each situation to understand where the approach was the right one and where there is still room for the improvement of your relationship.

*fair-play*

*non fair-play*



● Hidden words: if you look closely at the table below, you will find the three Olympic values (respect, friendship, fair play) hidden among many other letters. When you find them, circle the words with a color of your choice.

A	V	G	T	H	X	X	E	A	Y	L	P	W	D	V	H	R	K
E	P	F	A	I	R	P	L	A	Y	O	L	C	F	S	D	G	L
Q	A	Z	W	S	X	E	D	C	R	F	V	T	G	B	Y	H	N
M	I	U	H	P	L	R	E	S	R	F	C	G	U	P	R	I	U
J	M	I	K	L	O	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	H	I	P	B	V
R	E	S	P	C	R	U	I	N	S	F	V	U	J	K	L	L	P
F	A	I	T	P	R	I	E	T	P	U	L	C	B	H	I	O	L
B	A	R	C	A	T	O	P	H	E	L	U	M	I	T	B	G	T
A	R	C	A	M	T	F	R	G	C	U	E	R	F	D	S	V	C
F	U	L	M	T	I	R	U	A	T	O	I	L	T	P	P	U	B
V	U	L	C	U	I	B	U	V	J	A	S	R	T	G	M	T	O

● Choose an Olympics edition where Romania won more than five medals. Find out who are the awarded athletes and what areas of the country they come from. Then make the map of the Olympic awards in Romania by positioning some gold, silver and bronze medals on the map below.



● What principles should you always follow on the playing field and during sports competitions?

Check the correct answers:

Respect for the other

You break the rules

You are the best

Give proof of good team spirit

You know how to cheat

Keep calm

You train hard

● Who is your favorite athlete? In the next box, draw the sport he/she practices, and in the medal from the corner write five qualities that make the chosen athlete a true champion.



● A new edition of the Olympic Games is about to start soon. In order to support the Romanian athletes who will participate in this competition, make a unique Romanian flag with messages for them with your classmates/school mates. What do you have to do? You need colored paper (blue, yellow and red), scissors, glue and a marker. Outline your hand with one of the three colors, then cut out the contour and on each one of these pieces write a message for the athletes competing in the Olympic arena. Stick your palms with messages on a panel of a moderate size. Remember, the correct order of the flag is: blue, yellow and red. Once you have completed the flag you can display it in the classroom/school.



● One of your colleagues does not know how to deal with defeat. That often causes unpleasant situations in your class/group/team. What advice would you give him to make him show fair play in the future?

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Do you know the game “I packed my suitcase”? Change a little bit the rules and add only sports items in the suitcase. Play it with your classmates. What do you have to do? Each colleague must successively name in a limited time an object that fits in a suitcase whose dimensions you set. If he does not answer in good time, that colleague is removed from the game. The objects cannot be repeated so you have to pay attention to each colleague. Example of objects that could fit in a suitcase: a tennis racket, a stopwatch or a swimming helmet.



- Did you know that the pictograms for each Olympic sport appeared at the 1964 Tokyo edition? Since then, each edition has had its own set of sports pictograms in the Olympic program. If you are passionate about drawing or graphics, make three or five pictograms of your favorite sports.



- Here below are five icons from the Athens 2004 Olympics. What do you think it was their inspiration source:



Cave paintings

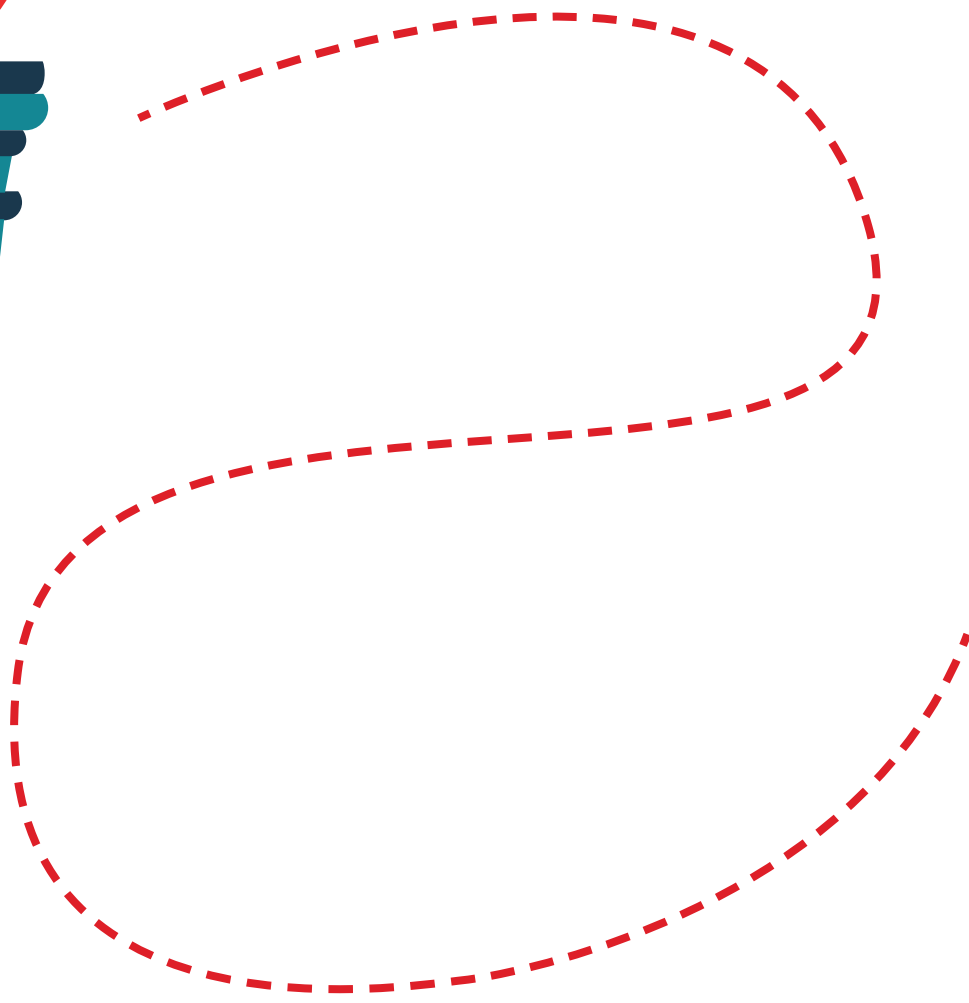
The image of the Delphi oracle

Fragments of ancient vessels

Photos of the Olympic 1896 champions



● The Olympic flame reaches your town. You are responsible for making the route that the flame will have to follow, including at least three monuments/places representative for your community. After you have created the route, invite your colleagues to accompany you on the suggested route in a short walk or run.



● You have the power to travel in the past and be a sports journalist at an ancient Olympic edition. Write a short article about the atmosphere you found in Olympia 2,500 years ago.

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● Your school has a new gym, and the principal has announced a competition to assign the gym name. What is the name you would suggest? How do you argue your choice?



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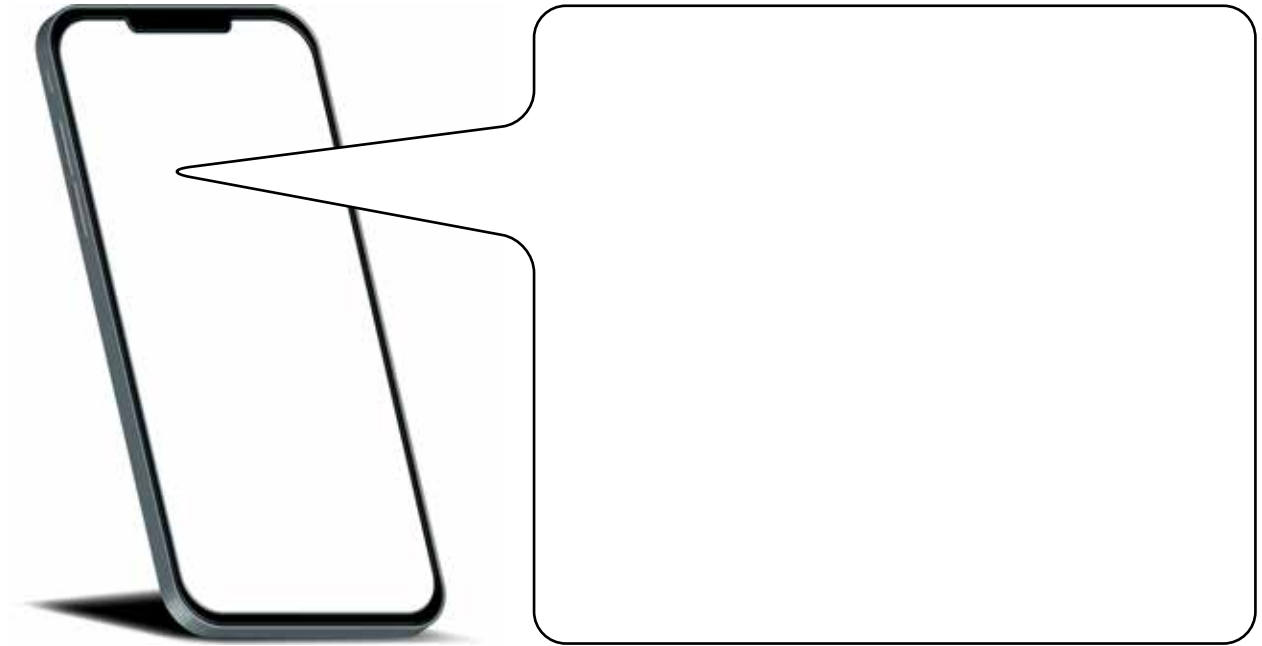
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● In the geography class, you usually work a lot with world maps. Make an Olympic map of the summer editions and one for the winter editions. Once you find them, what conclusions can you draw? Have the Olympics arrived on all continents?



- Digital challenge: agree with your classmates/friends on posting on your social accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Tik-Tok, etc.) only images/articles related to sports for 24 hours. What would be the first post you made?



- Identify in the school yard a wall that you could beautify by a mini mural made together with your colleagues. Don't forget to ask the principal and the drawing teacher for help with this project.



● In the lines below you shall find 15 words. Together with a colleague, choose a word related to fair play.

<b>SOLIDARITY</b>	<b>IMPULSIVITYE</b>	<b>RIVALRY</b>
<b>GENEROZITY</b>	<b>LOIALTY</b>	<b>COOPERATION</b>
<b>PERSEVERANCE</b>	<b>FRIENDSHIP</b>	<b>DOPING</b>
<b>CONCEALMENT</b>	<b>FAIRNESS</b>	<b>ALTRUISM</b>
<b>HUMILTY</b>	<b>PASSION</b>	<b>RESPECT</b>

● If in the list above you find words whose meanings you do not know, use a dictionary with your colleague to find out their meaning.

● Watch for a week on TV or in your surroundings various sports activities. It may as well be a neighbor who is a good cyclist, a football game at the city stadium or a tennis match from an international tournament. Write down what you feel watching the sporting event. It can be fear, emotion, the desire to try, anger, disappointment, worry, etc.. After a week, talk to your colleagues about the feelings that you experienced.

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- At the Olympic Games in antiquity, the Olympic champion received a laurel wreath from olive leaves. As you organize the Olympic Games in your city and you cannot find olive leaves, what kind of leaves would you consider using for the laurel wreath, depending on the vegetation of the area where you live?



- You are a reporter for a day with the mission to interview an athlete who returned from the Olympic Games without a medal. What questions would you ask him? What do you think would be the answers he would give to you?



- As you are always connected to technology, you have now the task to follow on a social network a Romanian or a foreign athlete that you admire. Follow his/her account on a social network for a week, then choose three posts that you liked and present them to your colleagues.



- Choose a poster for the Olympics and analyze it. What do you think it represents? What information can you easily find on this poster?



- On the Olympic Day/Environment Day, start with your colleagues a garbage collection campaign in the area of a sports base.



- Organize your class in the form of an Olympic Games Organizing Committee. Think about what positions are in such committees, then add in a bowl different positions such as: opening ceremony coordinator, international relations manager, doctor, anti-doping laboratory coordinator, etc.. Draw then each of you, one by one, the role you shall have in the committee. Once you have established the committee, simulate a discussion and see what problems you may encounter when organizing an Olympic edition.



- Together with three other classmates, write a letter to the IOC showing your support for your country in becoming next host of the Olympic Games.

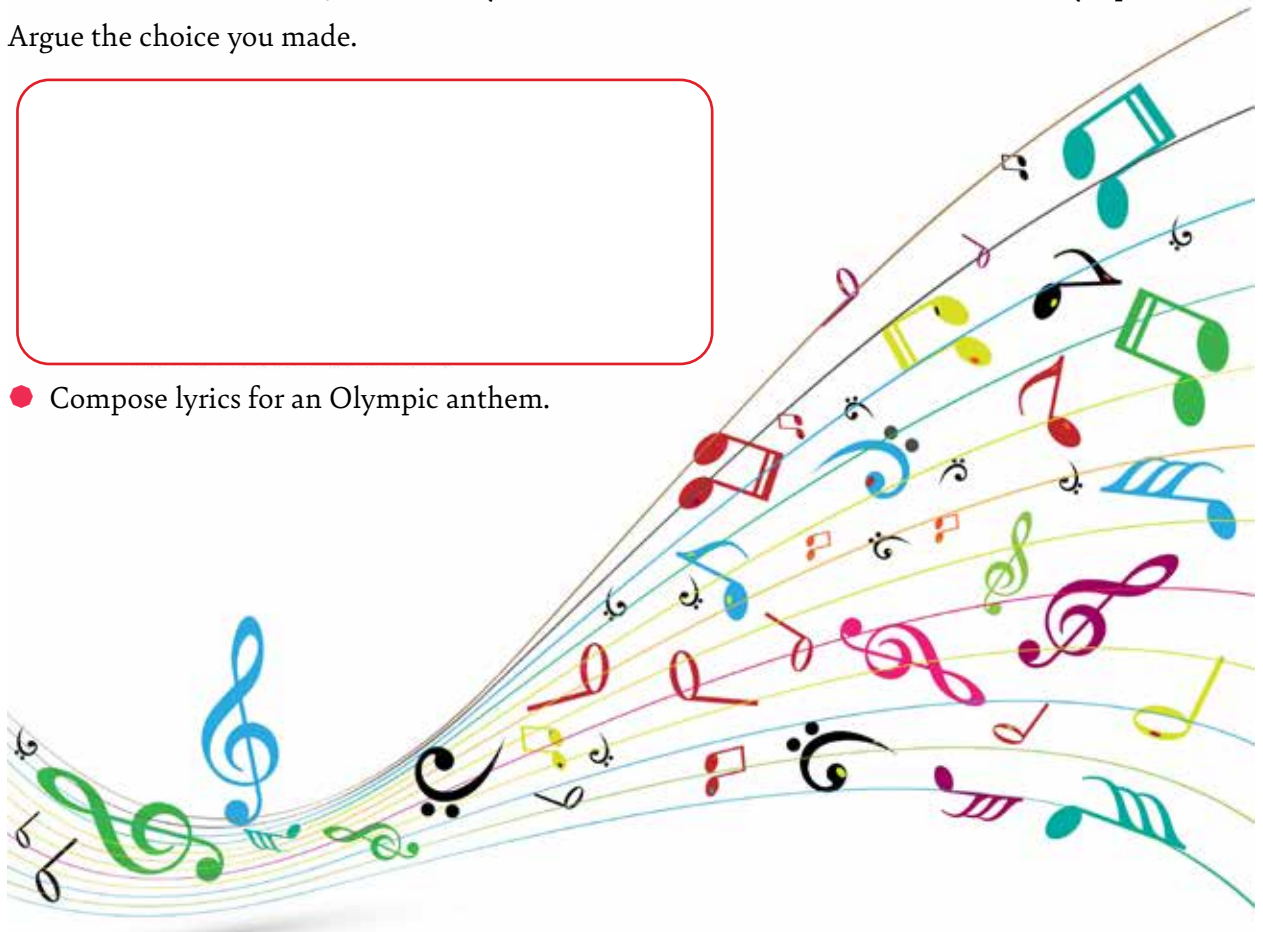


- Debate in class whether it would be appropriate or not to have an edition of the Olympic Games for children, too.

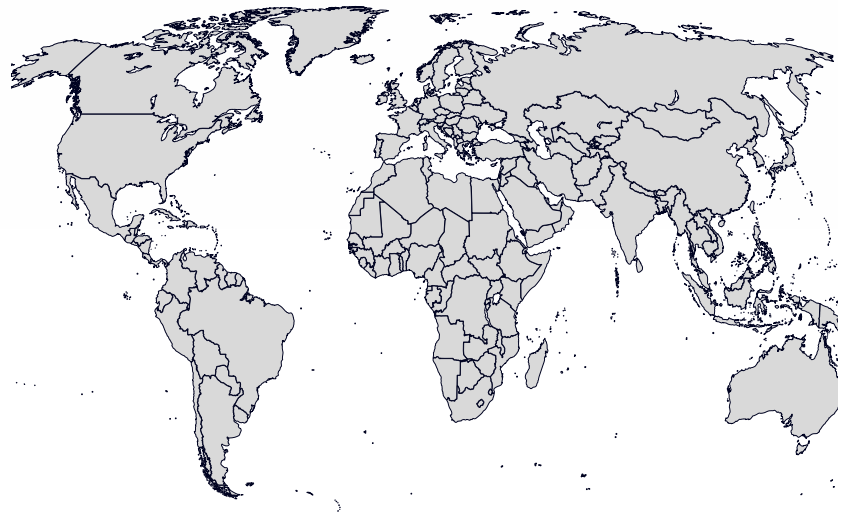


● Famous musicians often sing at the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games. Choose a series of artists/bands that you want to see at the next edition of the Olympic Games. Argue the choice you made.

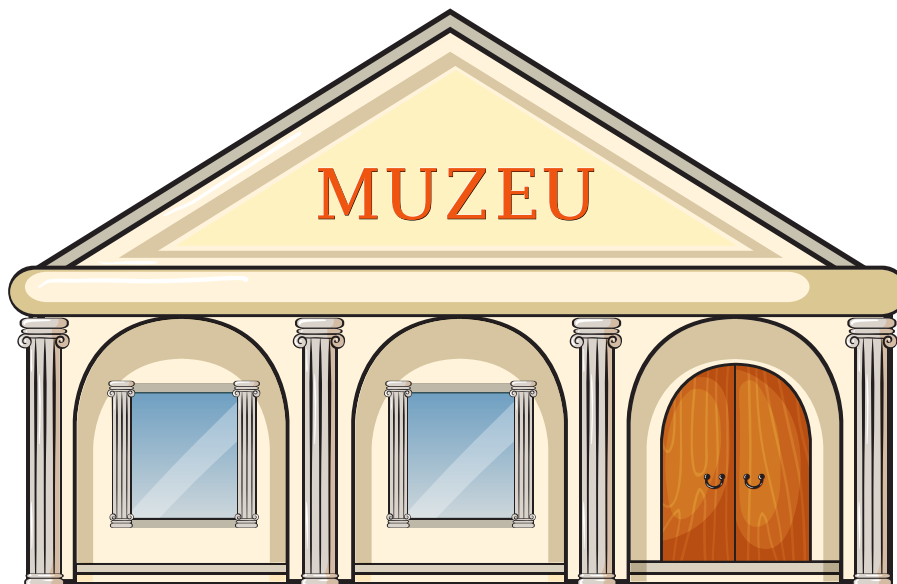
● Compose lyrics for an Olympic anthem.



● Find on the world map the next city to host an Olympic edition. Make the route from your city to the host city and then create a tourist route by choosing a cultural objective to see in each country on your route.



- You are responsible for opening an Olympic museum in your city. What objects or artifacts would you include in this museum?



- You have been chosen to participate with an artistic program in the opening ceremony of the next Olympic Games edition. Make a short class choreography for this ceremony.



- Choose three editions of the Olympic Games organized in countries using other languages than those spoken by you. Search, using a dictionary or even Google translate, how do they say in those languages the following:

Peace			
Friendship			
Champion			
Stadium			
Success			

- Organize the class in several groups for a relay race. Each group shall be timed for the same distance for an entire month. The order in which they run can be changed from one race to another. Then add the time achieved for each race to a chart, and analyze the group evolution.



● Did you watch the Olympic javelin throw competition? What would you say about having fun organizing a similar competition with colleagues/friends/family? We don't ask that you look for javelins, but we suggest that you replace the javelin with spaghetti/macaroni. Whoever throws their spaghetti the furthest shall win a group hug. Good luck with spaghetti throw!



● Are you passionate about cakes? Do you like to spend time in the kitchen? We have a challenge for you! Make Olympic circles out of bread/cake dough. Take a photo, then show your work to your colleagues.

● Look at the photo below for 15 seconds. Then, together with your desk mate, try to write down as much information as you can remember from the photo.



- You are an appreciated architect in your city and so you are invited to design the future Olympic stadium. Before you draw it, search for three Olympic stadiums which could inspire you. What would your stadium look like? What does it represent and what influenced you in choosing the design?



- The motto of the Olympic Games is “Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together”. Choose three games/sports representing this motto to practice with your colleagues.

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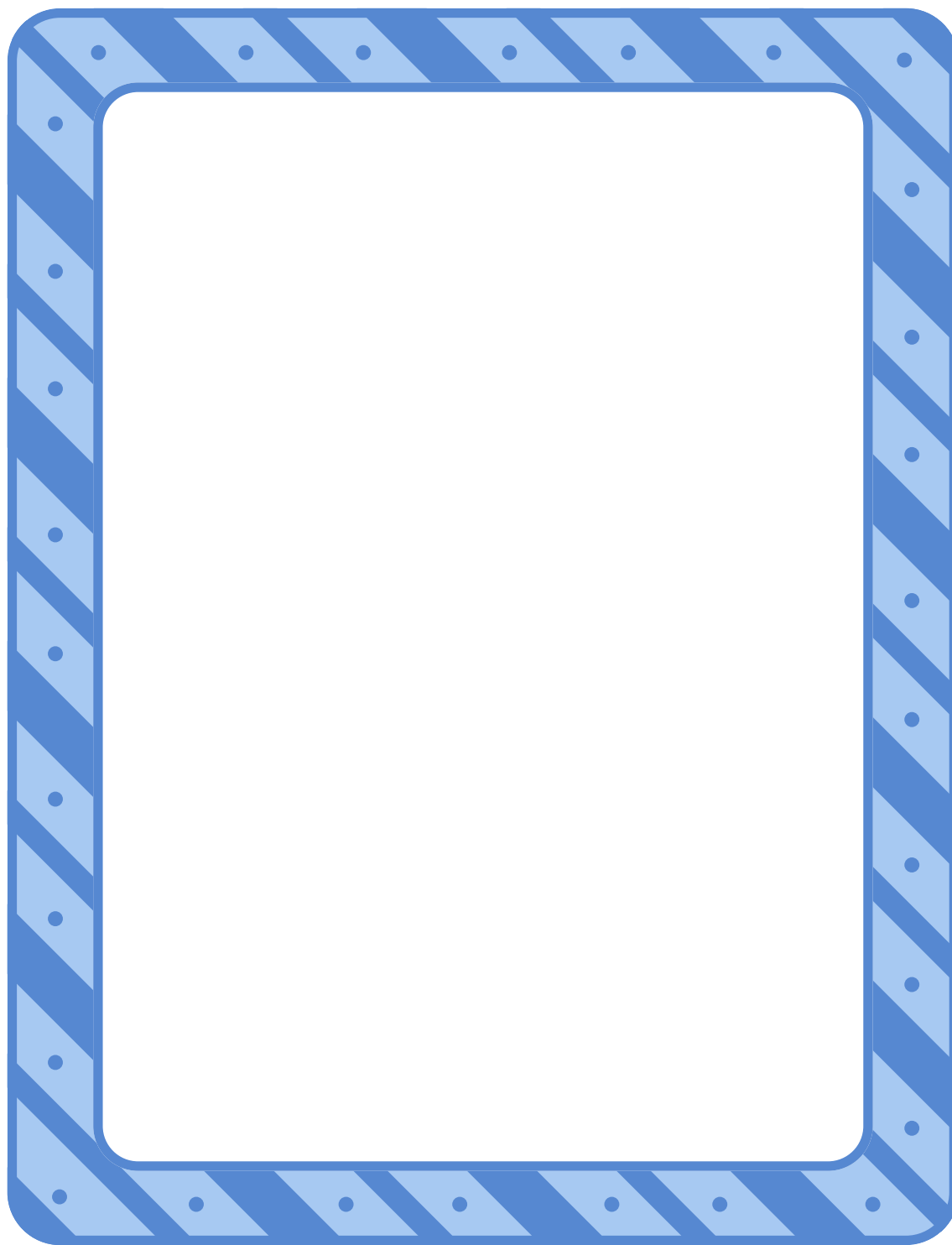
- Create a new game with its own rules referring to this Olympic motto: “Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together”.



- You have been assigned to direct the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games hosted by your city. What are the historical/cultural characters that you would integrate in this ceremony and why?



- Draw a poster symbolizing the Olympic peace.



- Make all of you in the classroom a promise wall. Each student shall write on a piece of paper the promise made to protect the environment. Check weekly whether the promises are kept or not.



- You have been selected to represent your country at the Youth Olympic Games. The main theme of the Youth Olympic Games is social responsibility. What would you do in terms of social responsibility in your community? What does this mean to you?

A red square on the left contains a white question mark icon. To its right is a large, empty white rectangular box with a thin red border, intended for a student's response.

- The Olympic Games take place in your city, and you are the doctor who coordinates the Olympic teams. As the Coronavirus danger is not over, you shall take some preventive measures for the athletes, coaches and officials you work with. What would be your recommendations?



● You wish to present your city as a happy place, fit and ready to host the Olympic Games. What activities would you include to show the unique qualities of your city's cultural life? Many host cities staged music festivals, art festival shows, sports events for the general public. What would be your choice?



● Sustainability and sustainable development are the current topics on the Olympic Agenda. What advice would you give on sustainable development and sustainability to the future host city which is currently building its own Olympic Village?



● What does the word “courage” mean to you? Think of a time when you felt challenged and wanted to give up. But you kept going. What do you think that power to move on gave you?

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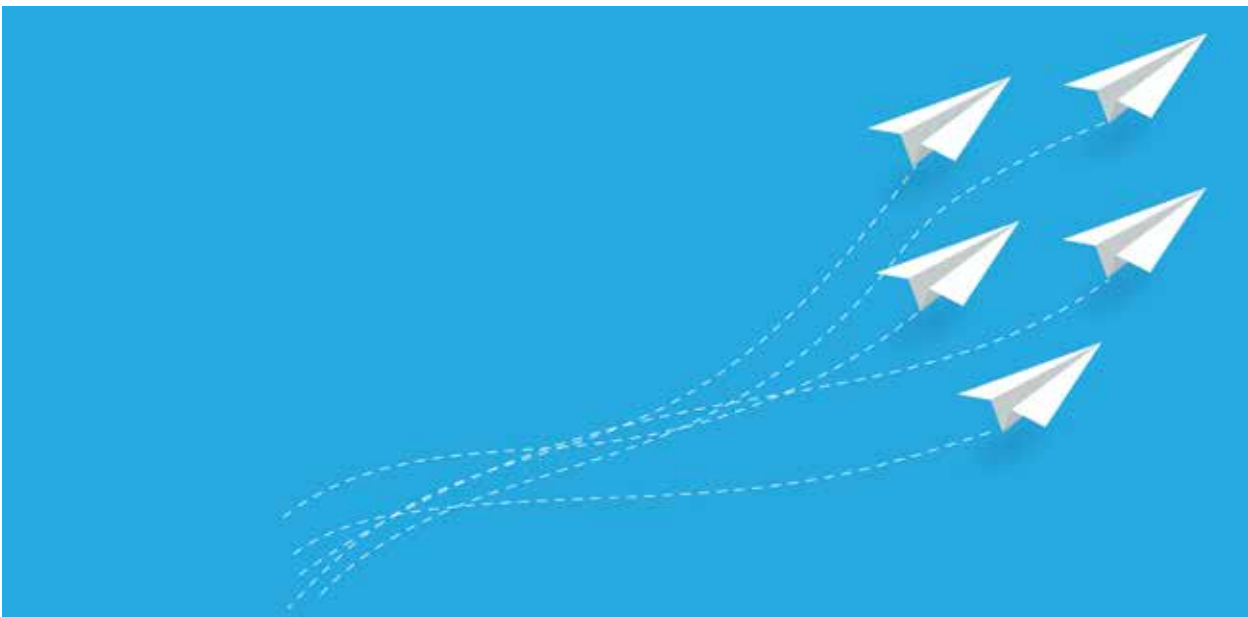
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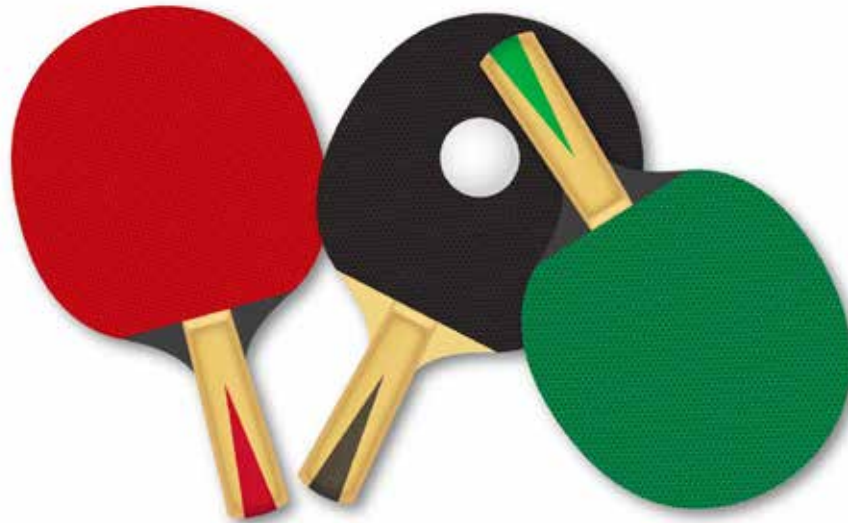
● The discus throw is one of the oldest sporting events. Make a disc of recyclable materials, with a diameter of about 20 cm and release/throw it from the starting line. Measure the distance. Such throwing competitions can be held during the physical education and sports classes. This contest can be held annually, students having the possibility to break the school record.



● From paper make the planes to transport Romanian athletes to the host city of the Olympic Games. Customize the planes with Romanian flags, Olympic circles, etc.. The take-off runway from Romania and from the host city of the Olympics are drawn on the asphalt. Each child launches his plane, and the game goal is to drive them to destination with as few stops as possible.



- „The sport connects, educates and inspires communities with different backgrounds, stories and cultures.” Organize a table tennis competition at the school level.

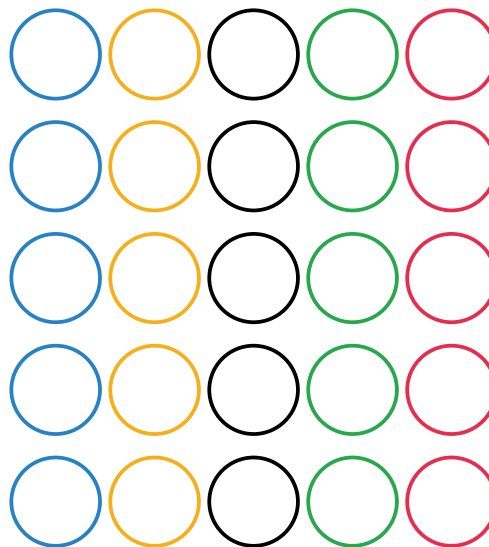
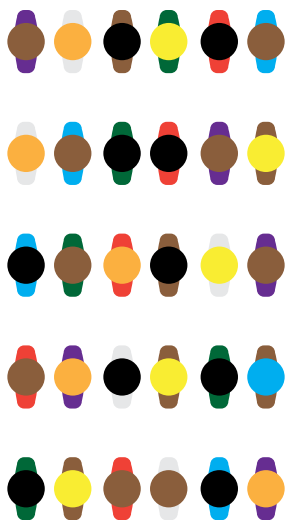


- Asphalt drawing competition.

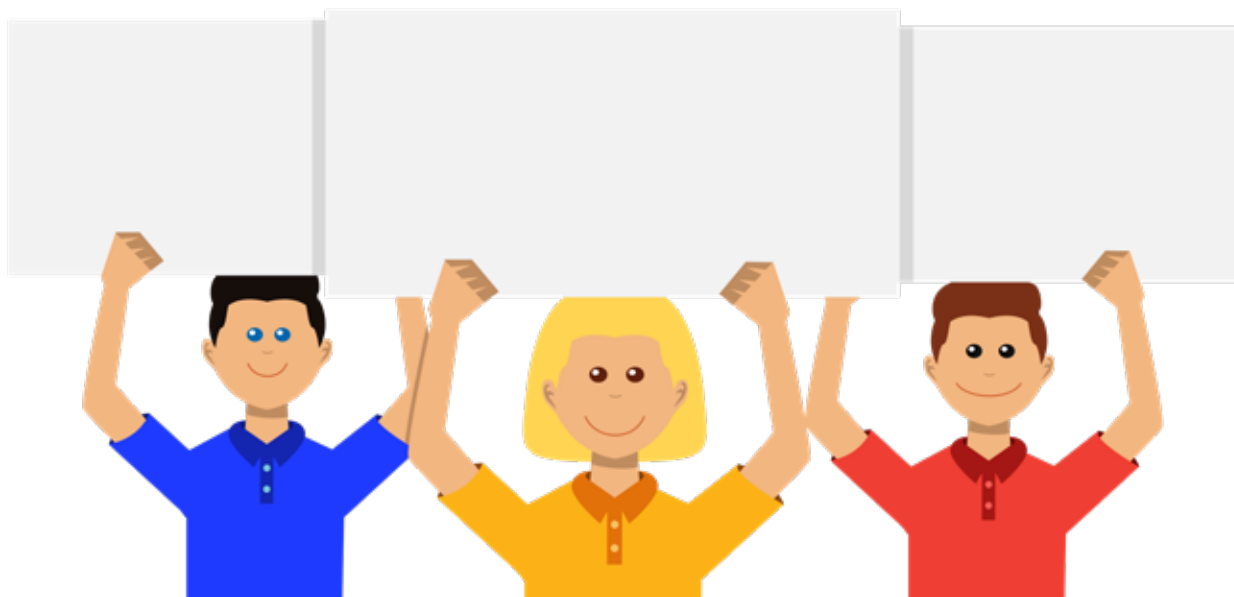
Organize a chalk drawing contest on asphalt (school yard). Each drawing shall represent an Olympic event.



● The players sit in five columns, with an equal number of participants, behind the starting line. At the sound signal, the first players move as fast as possible, performing jumps in circles with detachment on both legs, make their return to the starting line running, and then high-five the next players who start running, each of them passing to the back of his line. The first finishing team shall win.



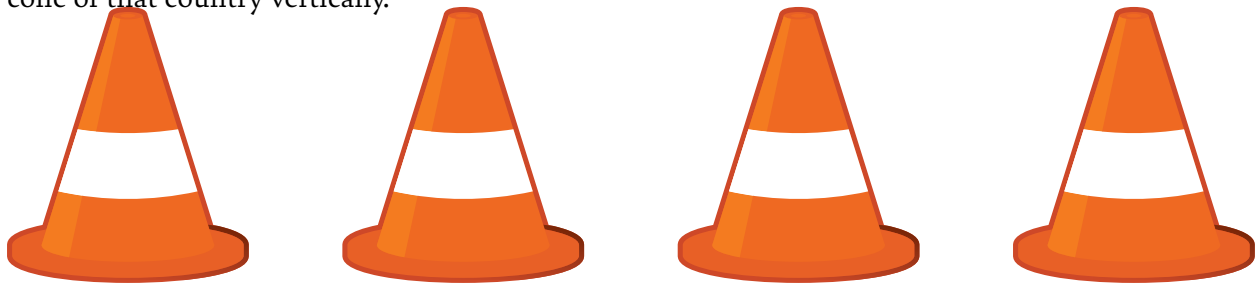
● The Romanian handball team is going to play the first match at the Olympic Games, and you are in the stands. Write three encouraging messages for the representative team of Romania.



● The players sit in five columns, with an equal number of participants, behind the starting line. Cones are placed in a row next to each team at a distance of 1 m from each other, every cone representing a participating country. When the game leader/professor names a country, the first players run at the cone of that country and place it horizontally (lying down), then make their return to the starting line running, each of them passing to the back of their line.

Observation: Players must remember which country each cone represents.

If the game leader/professor calls twice the name of a country, the players will go and raise the cone of that country vertically.



Place vertically five circles representing the Olympic circles. Organize a tennis ball throwing contest. Each player has five balls, and each circle has a different score, as follows:

Blue circle - five points

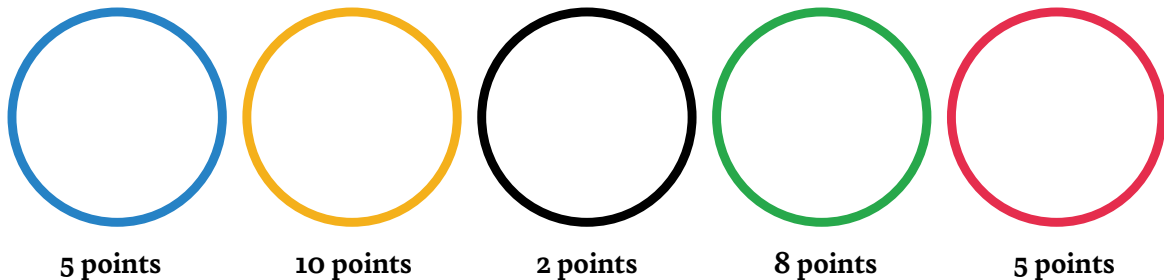
Yellow circle - ten points

Black circle - two points

Green circle - eight points

Red circle - five points

The throwing distance can be set according to the age of the players.



● The players line up five in a row, behind the starting line. Each player on a team has a circle representing one of the five Olympic circles (blue, yellow, black, green and red). At the sound signal, the first players run with the circle in their hands and place it on the playing ground, then make their return to the starting line running, high-fiving the next players, who will immediately start running, each of them passing to the back of their line. The first team to make the Olympic flag wins - ordering the five Olympic circles.

Observation: The order of the circle colors should be different for each team. Players must remember the correct order of the circles when placing them on the playing ground.



# OLYMPIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES OF THE ROMANIAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY













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