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# THE OLYMPIC GAMES





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## Introduction

My TRAPE this year is about the Olympic and the Paralympic Games. As I'm an athlete, I'm interested in all kinds of sports. The last Summer- and Winter Olympics were held exceptionally less than a year apart, so everyone could watch many high-level sports competitions during that period. Besides wanting to find out when the first Olympic Games took place, I was interested in finding out who participated at these Games for Luxembourg, in which Olympic Games and if the country has already been successful. Furthermore, the Olympics are one of the biggest sports events, so it needs lots of people for its organization. I tried to find out as much as possible, including who must organize this event.

# Chapter 1

## 1.1. The Olympic Games

Every one of us knows the Olympic Games. It's one of the biggest sport events all over the world. There are two different kinds of the Olympic Games, the Summer and the Winter Olympics. These games take place every 4 years, alternating between the Summer and Winter Olympics every two years.



Thousands of athletes from all over the world are taking part in various competitions. 206 nations participated in the Summer Olympics 2020 that took place in Tokyo, so almost every country had athletes participating. The range of the event is constantly growing, so each edition, there are new competitions in different sports. The today's Olympic Games are called the modern Olympic Games and are inspired by the ancient Olympic Games. These Games were held from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AC. The founder of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was Baron Pierre de Coubertin in 1894. This foundation led to the first modern Olympic Games two years later that took place in Athens. The IOC is the governing body of the Olympic Movement, with the Olympic Charter (a set of rules and guidelines for the organization of the Olympic Games) defining its structure and authority. In addition, the ICO also organizes the Paralympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games. (Wikipedia, Olympic Charter, 2021) (Wikipedia, Olympic Games, 2021) (Wikipedia, Olympische Spiele, 2021)

## 1.2. The Ancient Olympic Games

The origin of the Olympic Games is in the antique, most likely in the second century BC, and was reconstructed in the 4th century BC. The word *Olympiad* is not, like most people think a synonym for the Olympic Games, but it describes the period of four years, which begins with the Olympics. The Olympics are named after their venue named Olympia (Olympia is in the northwest of the island Peloponnese and was part of a cycle that included three other Panhellenic Games: The Pythian Games at Nemea and the Isthmian Game on the Isthmus of Corinth).

At the beginning, the Olympics only consisted in one single race of the stadium's length. After a certain time, the Games became more important. But they were not a sport-event like today, but more like a religious festival in honour of the god Zeus and the divine hero Pelops. Back then, the Olympic Games had a duration of 5 days. On the first day, there were certain ceremonies like the entering of the athletes, coaches, referees, and spectators into the sacred grove of Olympia. Besides the sport-competitions, artistic competitions had the same importance. The most important part was not the sport, but the religious component. The main part of the Olympics started by taking all participants to the temple of Zeus where the athletes had to swear to follow the rules of the games. The winners would receive a victory wreath made from olive branches as well as a headband, being seen as 'favoured by the gods' and being immortalized with poems and statues. Every defeat, even a second or third place, counted as an irredeemable dishonour and the losers had to return to their hometown using secret paths to avoid being mocked.



The ancient Olympics were a lot more brutal than they are nowadays, with every athlete competing in one of the martial arts competitions having to be prepared to eventually die. Some of those fighters even ended up winning their competitions despite dying during their fight, as it was seen as such a remarkable show of perseverance.

Before the Romans conquered Greece in 148 BC, only greek athletes were allowed to take part in the Olympic Games. In that period, the Olympics lost its Pan-Hellenic character.

In the year 393, the Roman Emperor forbade the Olympics, but they continued until the beginning of the 5th century AC, when the Kaiser definitively forbade the Games. It's likely that the Olympics secretly continued until the 6th century. At that time, the venue was destroyed by a natural disaster. (Wikipedia, Olympische Spiele, 2021) (IOC, The sports events, 2022).

### 1.3. The modern Olympic Games



The idea of the Olympics was not completely lost. In the beginning of the 17th century, the Cotswold Olympic Games took place in England. Another try to revive the Olympic Games, were the 'Olympiades de la République' which took place from 1796 to 1798 in France. In 1850, the agricultural reading society of Munch Wenlock in Shropshire, England, introduced an 'Olympic class'. Ten years later, these games developed into the Wenlock Olympian Games, that still exists today, but under the name Wenlock Olympian Society Annual Games. In 1866,

William Penny Brookes (the chair of the Wenlock Olympian Society) organized the national Olympic Games in London (Crystal Palace). From 1862 to 1867, Liverpool held an annual Grand Olympic Festival. The first modern Olympiad in Athens in 1896 had an almost identically programme as the Liverpool Olympics. The National Olympian Association was found in Liverpool in 1865 by Hulley, Brookes and E.G. Ravenstein. This association was the forerunner of the British Olympic Association. Its founding statutes provided the framework for the International Olympic Charter. (Wikipedia, Olympische Spiele, 2021) (Mallari, 2012)

## 1.4. The Top 6 Olympic Athletes

- Jesse Owens

Jesse Owens was an American track and field athlete who specialized in the sprints and the long jump. He was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 1913 and died on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1980. In his lifetime, he was called the greatest and most famous athlete in track and field history. He was able to set 3 world records and tie another one within less than an hour. All these records were set at the 1935 Big Ten track meet in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This performance has been called “the greatest 45 minutes ever in sports”. A year later, he was able to win 4 gold medals at the Olympic Games in Berlin: 100 meters, long jump, 200 meters, and 4 x 100 meters relay. This success made him even more famous. As he was a black man and achieved this much success while Hitler was the German ‘Kanzler’, with Hitler only shaking hands with the German victors. In addition, Owens wasn’t invited to the White House to shake hands either. The award named after the athlete is given to the year’s best track and field athlete of the USA. Owens was ranked as the sixth-greatest North American athlete of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and as the greatest in his sport. (Wikipedia, Jesse Owens, 2021) (Kracht & Aufmkolk, 2021) (Posnanski, 2016)

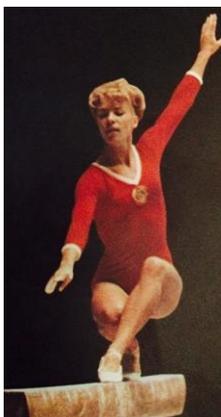


- Michael Phelps

Michael Fred Phelps II is a former American competitive swimmer and was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1985. He is the most successful Olympian of all time, and he holds the all-time record for multiple categories: most Olympic gold medals (23), most Olympic gold medals in individual events (13), and most Olympic medals in individual events (16). At the Olympic Games of 2008 in Beijing, he broke the record of the American swimmer Mark Spitz, by winning eight gold medals, one more than Spitz. In 2004, he already tied the record of eight medals of any colour at a single Olympics by winning six gold and two bronze medals. At the Olympics of 2012 in London, he won 4 gold and two silver medals. In 2016, he won five gold medals and one silver medal at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Those successes made him the most successful athlete of the Olympics, four times in a row. (Wikipedia, Michael Phelps, 2021) (Knoll, 2016) (Posnanski, 2016)



- Larisa Latynina



Larisa Semjonowna Latynina was a Soviet artistic gymnast who was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1934. She holds the record for the most won gold medals by a gymnast (male and female), with 9. In total, she won 18 Olympic medals, 14 individual Olympic medals and four team medals, which made her hold the record for 48 years. In addition, with 14 individual Olympic medals, she held the record for 52 years. She was a dominant gymnast in the Soviet Union. In addition to her Olympic medals, she also won several medals at the World- (9 gold medals, 4 silver medals, 1 bronze medal) and at the European Championship (7 gold medals, 6 silver medals, 1 bronze medal). (Wikipedia, Larisa Latynina, 2021) (IMDb, 2022) (Posnanski, 2016)

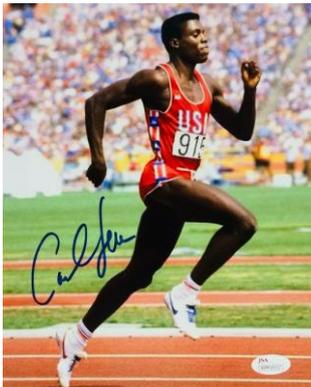
- Usain Bolt

Usain St. Leo Bolt was a Jamaican sprinter who's considered to be the greatest sprinter of all time. He was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1986. He holds several world records: 100 meters, 200 meters and 4 x 100 meters relay. Bolt won eight Olympic gold medals and is the only sprinter who won Olympic 100 m and 200 m titles at three consecutive Olympics (2008, 2012 and 2016). In addition, he won two 4 x 100 m relay gold medals. He became very famous all over the world for his double sprint victory as the fastest person ever, at the Olympics in 2008 in Beijing. Besides his success at multiple Olympic Games, he's an eleven-time World Champion, and he won all World Championships from 2009 to 2015 in 100 m, 200 m and 4 x 100 m relay, with just one exception, his false start at 100 m in 2011. He is the most successful male athlete at the World Championships, and he holds multiple other records. (Wikipedia, Usain Bolt, 2021) (RTL, 2020) (Posnanski, 2016)



- Carl Lewis

Frederick Carlton Lewis is a former American track and field athlete. He was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1961. He won 10 Olympic medals (9 gold, 1 silver) and 10 World Championship medals (8 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze). When he lastly won an Olympic competition, he was one of only six athletes who won a gold medal in the same individual competitions 4 times in a row. He specialized in sprinting and long jumping. In total, he won 22 gold medals at multiple competitions, and at least one in each of his disciplines (100 m, 200 m, 4 x 100 m relay, long jump). Furthermore, he set several world records. Besides his multiple gold medals, he won 65 consecutive competitions in the long jump achieved over a span of 10 years. (Wikipedia, Carl Lewis, 2021) (Catawiki, 2022) (Posnanski, 2016)



- Mark Spitz



Mark Andrew Spitz is a former American competitive swimmer who won nine Olympic gold medals. He was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 1950. He won 7 gold medals at a single Olympic event, the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972. In addition, he won all those medals in world record times. This performance saved him a record that lasted for 36 years.

(Wikipedia, Mark Spitz, 2021) (Spiegel, 2016) (Posnanski, 2016)

## 1.5. International Olympic Committee (IOC)



### INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

'The International Olympic Committee is a non-governmental sports organization based in Lausanne, Switzerland.'- Wikipedia.

The role of the IOC with 115 members is to organize and to supervise the modern Olympic Games. It has all rights for the Olympic symbols, the flag, mottos, and the anthem, as well as the Games themselves. Their main responsibility is to organize the Summer and Winter Olympics. The president is the German Thomas Bach.

The Baron Pierre de Coubertin saw an opportunity in bringing back the Olympic Games to put the people and nations closer together and to help with the peace in between the countries

and the communication all over the world. The increasing internationalization of society at that time, which went hand in hand with technological progress, reinforced his intention.

At the international sports congress in 1894 (16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June) in Paris, a commission formed by Coubertin dealt with the reintroduction of the Olympic Games. On the last day, they decided to arrange the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens. Their plan was to create a *Comité International Olympique* to organize those first modern Olympic Games. That's why the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June is the official date of foundation. He was inspired by the Jockey Club in England because they survived every bigger crisis, and they focused on the same social class as he wanted to. Half of the members of the Committee should come from sports, the other half should be interested in sports. The congress took place in the same week as the 'Derby of France', so that there were a lot of sports fans from nobility in Paris.

Coubertin had to implement the agreement from the congress of creating a committee. He wanted to find people with a high interest to be able to 'give them the aura of greatness and glory' as he put it himself. The first members of the committee, chosen one month after the congress by Coubertin, should come from all over the world to spread the Olympic idea due to their reputation and relationships.

The 13 founding members:

Name	State/Country	Task	Until
Dimitrios Vikelas	Greece	President	1897
Pierre de Coubertin	France	General Secretary	1925
Ernest Callot	France	Treasurer	1912
Viktor Balck	Sweden		1921
Alexei Butowski	Russia		1900
Leonard Cuff	New Zealand		1905
Jiří Guth	Bohemia		1943
Charles Herbert	England		1906
Ferenc Kemény	Hungary		1907
Mario Adinolfo Luccesi-Palli	Kingdom Italy		1894
Arthur Russell, 2. Baron Ampthill	England		1906
William Milligan Sloane	United States		1925
José Benjamin Zubiaur	Argentina		1907

Until the first Olympic Games, there were already some changes. At the time of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens, the committee consisted of 15 members.

All decisions and multiple resolutions are divided into 3 bodies.

- President
- IOC Executive Board
- IOC Session

The administration is guided by the director general (currently (August 2020) Christophe De Kepper) who is appointed by the IOC Executive Board on the proposal of the president. Around 500 people work in IOC's administration.

Previously, it was foreseen that the president should always come from the nearest venue. However, this did not work for long after some incidents.

Nowadays, the voting for the president is clearly regulated. The president is voted at an IOC-Session from the IOC-members by secret ballot. This president can stay for 8 years. In the case that he is voted again, he stays for 4 years. After those years, someone else must be voted. He represents the IOC at official occasions and events.

The Executive Board consist of the president, 4 vice presidents and 10 other IOC-members. These members are voted at an IOC-Session and stay for 4 years. After those for years, they can be voted for another 4 years. The Executive Board has the responsibility of all administrative tasks, finances, internal regulations and for the conduct of the IOC. It can propose new members who can be elected to the IOC by the IOC-Session. This Board also selects the cities who can be a candidate for the following Olympic Games. One of the most important tasks of the Executive Board is to supervise compliance with the Olympic Charter.



The IOC-Session is a yearly meeting with all IOC-members. Legally seen, the IOC-Session is the highest body of the IOC. At that meeting, the president and the Executive Board are elected, but also all members, the honorary members, and honorary presidents. Decisions on amendments or additions to the Olympic Charter are taken there as well.

Another task of the IOC-Session is to vote the host city for the next Olympic Games. Every member has one vote, but the members from the countries that could be voted, aren't allowed to give their vote until their country is out of the race.

Next to this main meeting, the president can call a meeting or at the written request of one third of the members. (Wikipedia, Internationales Olympisches Komitee, 2022) (Wikipedia, International Olympic Committee, 2022) (Wikipedia, Datei:IOC Logo.svg, 2022) (IOC, Health and safety paramount as IOC Executive Board agrees to step up scenario-planning for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, 2020)

## 1.6. The different disciplines of the Olympic- and Paralympic Games

### Olympic Summer Games:

- Archery
- Artistic gymnastics
- Artistic swimming
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Baseball softball
- Basketball
- 3 x 3 Basketball
- Beach volleyball
- BMX freestyle
- BMX racing
- Boxing
- Canoe / Kayak flat-water
- Canoe / Kayak slalom
- Diving
- Equestrian
- Fencing
- Football
- Golf
- Handball
- Hockey
- Judo
- Karate
- Marathon swimming
- Modern pentathlon
- Mountain bike
- Rhythmic gymnastics
- Road cycling
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Shooting
- Skateboarding
- Sport climbing
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Taekwondo
- Tennis
- Track cycling
- Trampoline
- Triathlon
- Volleyball
- Water polo



- Weightlifting
  - Wrestling
- (IOC, Sports, 2021)

Olympic Winter Games:

- Alpine skiing
- Biathlon
- Bobsleigh
- Cross-country skiing
- Curling
- Figure skating
- Freestyle skiing
- Ice hockey
- Luge
- Nordic combined
- Short track speed skating
- Skeleton
- Ski jumping
- Snowboard
- Speed skating

(IOC, Sports, 2021)

Youth Olympic Games:

- Acrobatic gymnastic
- Archery
- Artistic gymnastics
- Athletics
- Badminton
- 3 x 3 Basketball
- Beach handball
- Beach volleyball
- BMX freestyle
- BMX racing
- Boxing
- Breaking
- Diving
- Equestrian
- Fencing
- Futsal
- Golf
- Hockey
- Judo



- Karate
- Marathon swimming
- Modern pentathlon
- Mountain bike
- Rhythmic gymnastics
- Road cycling
- Roller speed skating
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Shooting
- Ski mountaineering
- Sport climbing
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Taekwondo
- Tennis
- Trampoline
- Triathlon
- Weightlifting
- Wrestling

(IOC, Sports, 2021)

Paralympic Games:

- Archery
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Boccia
- Canoe
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Football 5-a-side
- Goalball
- Judo
- Powerlifting
- Rowing
- Shooting Para sport
- Sitting volleyball
- Swimming



- Table tennis
- Taekwondo
- Triathlon
- Wheelchair basketball
- Wheelchair fencing
- Wheelchair rugby
- Wheelchair tennis
- Alpine skiing
- Biathlon
- Cross-country skiing
- Para ice hockey
- Snowboard
- Wheelchair curling



(IPC, 2021)

(Bantock, 2021) (DW, Tokyo Olympics: What is 3x3 basketball all about?, 2022) (IOC, The history of Olympic swimming, 2018) (XINHUANET, 2021) (Chodosh, 2018) (DW, Sochi Olympics Day 1, 2022) (Degun, 2011) (ASBC, 2022) (FocusTaiwan, 2018) (Eleiko, 2022) (Morgan, 2020)

## Chapter 2

### 2.1. The various Olympic Summer Games and the Luxembourgish participators

#### **1896: Athens**

The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896. There were only a few sports, track and field; gymnastic; stem; fencing; wrestling; shooting; swimming; water polo; cycling; tennis and cricket. Two other sports had to be cancelled, one because of the weather and the other one because of the financial situation. These games were the rebirth of an idea from the Ancient Greece with the French Baron, Pierre de Coubertin, to be considered its father. 300 athletes from 12 countries participated at the first modern Olympic Games. The Games took place in the Marble Stadium. The stadium was built from the ruins of the former Athens stadium thanks to a donation by the Greek millionaire Georgios Averhoff. The first Olympic winner was the American triple jumper Conelly. The most famous Olympic champion of 1896 is the Greek Spiridon Louis. (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

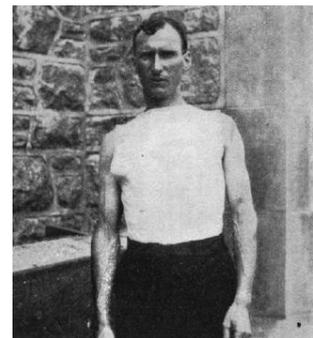
#### **1900: Paris**



The 1900 Olympics in Paris took place within the framework of the World Exhibition of Paris. They lasted 5 months and they were hardly noticed by the public. There was no opening and no closing ceremonies. Most people called the event “international championship” or “world championship”, but not “Olympic Games”. Some athletes didn’t even know the name of the competition. The first Luxembourgish took part in these games, but he counts as a Frenchman in the statistics. Michel Théato (picture) won the gold medal in the marathon and unofficially the first gold medal for Luxembourg. (Wikipedia, Michel Théato, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

#### **1904: St. Louis**

The third Olympic Games were held in St. Louis in 1904. These also took place within the framework of a World Exhibition. This exposition should have taken place in 1903 for the centenary of the city. But the planning came to a halt and the event had to be held a year later. The city wanted to additionally host the Olympic Games. The Baron had to choose between St. Louis and Chicago. Finally, the American president decided, and he chose St. Louis. Because of the financial aspect (high travel costs), only a few European athletes took part. There were 390 competitions and the marathon ended with a scandal. The American “Winner” Fred Lorz suffered from calf cramps, so that he covered half the distance by car. Instead, Thomas Hicks (picture) was celebrated as the winner. A thousandth of a gram of strychnine mixed with an egg white and a sip of brandy helped him over the distance several times after bouts of weakness. At that time, doping was still a foreign word. (Wikipedia, Thomas Hicks (Leichtathlet), 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

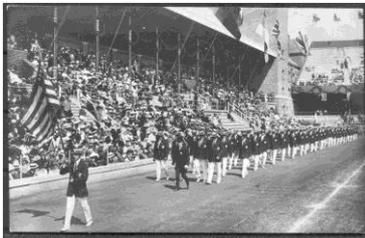


### **1908: London**

The fourth Olympic Games were held in London in 1908. These took place from the 27. April to the 29. October, so they lasted 6 months. Most of the competitions took place in the stadium that was built for the Games. 70,000 spectators watched the 2,034 athletes (including 36 women) entering the “White City”. Once again, the marathon race generated the most discussion. The winner was the American John Hayes, but he was not the first one crossing the finish-line. The first was the Italian Dorando Pietri (picture) who was disqualified. He was helped over the distance by officials, because he broke down in the middle of the race. They pushed him over the finish line. He didn't get the gold medal, instead he received a gold cup from Queen Alexandra. Fishing specialists competed in target casting, but no one won a medal. In the motorboat-sport, there were medals to be won in three disciplines. In each discipline, only one boat made it to the finish-line. (Wikipedia, Dorando Pietri, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)



### **1912: Stockholm**



The fifth Olympic Games were held in Stockholm in 1912. These were the first Games, where athletes from each continent took part. 20 Luxembourgish athletes participated in gymnastics and in track and field. The Luxembourgish gymnast-team reached the fourth rank out of five teams, in front of Germany. (delcampe, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1920: Antwerp**

Because of the first world war, certain nations weren't participating. The nations defeated in the war, Germany, and Austria, did not take part. In addition, Russia didn't participate as well since the country was in the middle of the revolution. 27 nations took part in the Olympics in 1920. 24 Luxembourgish athletes and 18 Luxembourgish officials participated. The heavy athlete Jos Alzin (picture) won the silver medal for Luxembourg, but he renounced the medal, because a complaint against the gold medalist was not considered by the referee Panel. Besides, the footballers lost with 0:3 against the Netherlands. In Antwerp, the Olympic flag (the five rings on a white background) was raised for the first time. (Olympedia, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)



### **1924: Paris**

To blur the bad impressions from their first Olympic Games in 1900, Paris organized the event again in 1924. Once again, the Olympics took place within the framework of the exhibition of 'Arts et Déco'. Luxembourg won its first gold medal in the art contest, in the section painting. 62 artists from 9 nations participated. The winner Jean Jacoby (picture) won the medal for his three-part work “Etude de Sport”. This covers soccer ('Corner'), athletics ('Départ') and rugby. In addition, Luxembourg also won a silver medal through the sculptor François Heldenstein and his statue 'Vers l'Olympiade'. Luxembourg was represented in soccer, cycling, boxing, gymnastics, tennis, wrestling, stemming and athletics. The swimmer Laury Koster reached the finals in 200 m breaststroke and made it to the sixth place. The footballers lost 0:2 against Italy. One of their players suffered an injury so that they had to play 70 minutes with just 10 players. (PostPhilately, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)



### **1928: Amsterdam**

To participate at all, Luxembourg had to make an appeal for donations. Everyone who would give 1,000 francs, would be an honorary member for their lifetime. At first, not many people wanted to donate. So, COL brought out diverse cards with the artworks of Jean Jacoby that he painted to win the last Olympic Games. Thanks to this initiative, a lot of money came together, so that the Luxembourgish athletes could participate. Jean Jacoby won once again the gold medal. He won in the category "Dessins" with his work "Rugby" (picture). 202 artists from 16 nations participated at the art competitions. However, the Luxembourgish athletes did not meet the expectations.



The best Luxembourgish result in a sport competition was the high bar obligation (Reckpflicht) of Metty Logelin. He came fourth. (Wikipedia, Jean Jacoby, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1932: Los Angeles**

Once again, Luxembourg didn't have enough money to participate at the Olympic Games. Luxembourg received a credit of 300 US dollars from the American organizing committee. With this money, Luxembourg could participate, but only at the art competitions with 3 artists. Jean Jacoby received a 'mention honorable' for his painting that represented an ice-hockey-scene. (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1936: Berlin**



The Olympics in Berlin in 1936, were the Games of the Nazis. 53 Luxembourgish athletes participated. 30 adolescents, under the supervision of Tony Krier, were invited to the 'Jugend-Zeltlager'. Luxembourg was represented in multiple sports. The boxer Ernest Toussaint (picture) was the first Luxembourger to ever reach the second round after beating the Austrian K. Lutz by one point. The weightlifter Nic Scheitler was the best Luxembourgish athlete. Among 14 participants he came 5th in the light heavyweight with 350kg. (Rodrigues, 2019) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1948: London**

Because of the second world war, the COL no longer existed. After the war, Jaquemart, who hid the flag, presided over the first meeting after the war on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1945. One year later, Hereditary Grand Duke Jean is appointed to the International Olympic Committee. On the way to London, the Olympic flame passes Luxembourg for the first time. 37 athletes carry the fire on the 112 km, from the French to the Belgian border. This cost the COL 11,000 francs. Back then, that was a lot of money. 52 Luxembourgish athletes (including 3 women) participated in 8 sports. In the run-up to the Games, there is a regrettable forfeit from the long-distance runner Charles Heirendt. He previously won the Kosice marathon and was considered as one of the very big favourites in London. Because no one wanted to pay for the worker's lost wages, Charles stayed at home. In total, the event cost 624.000,90 francs for the responsible. In fencing, Luxembourg had the best results. Dr. Emile Gretsches reached the 8<sup>th</sup> place out of 66 participants. The fencing-team



reached the 6<sup>th</sup> place out of 21 nations. The track and field athlete Josy Barthel reached the ninth place over 1500 m. The wrestler Nicolas Felgen was the first Luxembourgish wrestler to ever win a battle at the Olympics. The footballers won 6:0 against Afghanistan, but later they lost 1:6 against Yugoslavia. They finished on the 11<sup>th</sup> place out of 16 teams. The boxer Jeannot Welter won his first battle, but lost the second. (Wikipedia, Olympische Sommerspiele 1948, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1952: Helsinki**

The Olympic Games in Helsinki in 1952 were the most successful for Luxembourg. They participated



with 15 footballers, 7 track and field athletes, 6 gymnasts, 5 fencers, 4 cyclists, 4 canoeists, 4 boxers, 3 wrestlers and one swimmer. The athletes were accompanied by one 'chef de mission', one 'chef de mission adjoint', 3 officials, one 'attaché à la presse', one

doctor, one masseur and eleven 'technicians'. The biggest success for Luxembourg was Josy Barthel's (picture) victory in 1,500 meters. He beat the Olympic record and ran the 1,500 meters in 3.45.2 minutes. With this time, he won the gold medal. Other athletes did a great job as well. The footballers won 5:3 against England. Later they only lost 1:2 against Brazil. The fencer Léon Buck reached the final. He won six battles and finished on the 4<sup>th</sup> place. The fencing team reached the same rank. (Wort, Josy Barthel, ein Ausnahmelaäufer, 2018) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

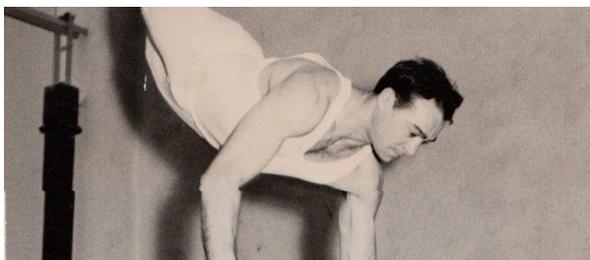
### **1956: Melbourne**

For Luxembourg, these Games weren't as successful as the ones before. Luxembourg participated with 11 athletes. Most of the athletes got eliminated early. The only ones reaching a semi-final were the fencer Edy Schmit and Dr. Emile Gretsch. (Wikipedia, 1956 Summer Olympics, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)



### **1960: Rome**

The Olympics in 1960 were held in Rome and Luxembourg participated with a total of 53 athletes. The most successful Luxembourgish athlete at the 1960 Olympics was the gymnast Josy Stoffel (picture). He reached the 18<sup>th</sup> place out of 130 athletes in the twelve-fight. He beat multiple class gymnasts like Fivian (Switzerland) and Banner (Germany). In team gymnastics, the team reached the 17<sup>th</sup> rank out of



20 teams. But you must consider that 3 athletes of the team had small injuries, so that they were handicapped. The wrestler and boxer couldn't win any battle. The cyclists Roby Hentges and René Andring reached the 12<sup>th</sup> place. The épée fencer reached the quarter-finals, where they lost against Hungary. The walker Charles Sowa finished on the 18<sup>th</sup> place out of 36 participators over 20 km. (Tageblatt, 2018) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney -

Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1964: Tokyo**

The 1964 Olympics were held in Tokyo. The Luxembourgish walker Charles Sowa improved his time of the 1960 Olympics by a whole 27 minutes. Over 50 km walking, he finished on the 9<sup>th</sup> rank out of 34 participants. Charles Sowa, the best Luxembourg athlete at these Games, finished on the 16<sup>th</sup> place in 20 km walking. The fencer Ginette Rossini had good results too. She reached the second round, where she managed to win two battles. The German athlete Helga Mees won two games too, so there had to be a battle between these two athletes. Unfortunately, the Luxembourgish athlete lost against the later silver medal winner. Jean Aniset finishes 34<sup>th</sup> in the marathon. The runner Michel Medinger finished 6<sup>th</sup> in 800 m and 8<sup>th</sup> in 1,500 m. The two cyclists Johny Schleck (picture)



and Edy Schütz finished the road race with the peloton. The two Luxembourgish wrestlers didn't have any chance to qualify for the next round. The career of a big Luxembourgish athlete ended at these Games. The gymnast Josy Stoffel tore his Achilles tendon. Despite the injury, he finished 104<sup>th</sup>, only 7 ranks behind the young Luxembourgish Ady Stefanetti who even reached European class in the rings. (Alchetron, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1968: Mexico**

Before the beginning of the Games, the 'Association Luxembourgeoise des Journalistes Sportifs' organized a football game between a selection of the writing and speaking guild, and a selection of old internationals. This game was organized to raise money to financially support the Luxembourg Olympic

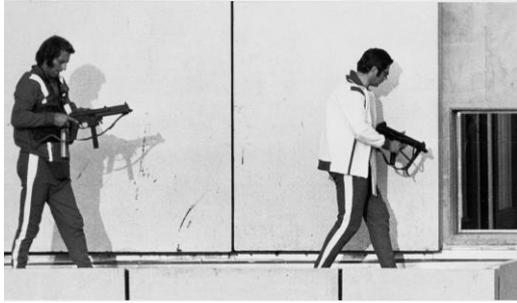


delegation. Even though it was raining, 2,500 people came to watch the game. The Old Internationals won 3:1, but later, just like all ALJS members who had FLF licences, they were suspended by the Football Association for participating in a "wild" game. The five Luxembourgish athletes Charles Sowa (track and field), Colette Flesch (fencing), Roger Gilson (cycling), Nico Klein (pistol shooting) and Arlette Wilmes (swimming) participated at the Olympic Games in 1968. The walker Charles Sowa showed the best performance. He only reached the 19<sup>th</sup> place of 20 participants in the 20 km walk, but he showed a very good performance in the 50 km walk. After 10 km in the 50 km walk, he was at the 13<sup>th</sup> place, after 20 km he was at the 25<sup>th</sup>. At 25 km, he was only on the 29<sup>th</sup> place. However, he then caught up. Until the finish in the Olympic Stadium, he caught up with no less than 13 other participants.

Among them world-class athletes like the Russian Agapov and the Frenchman Delerue. While 10 of his competitors fell back due to total exhaustion towards the end of this competition, which was held under inhuman conditions, Sowa continued to fight and finally reached the finish line as the 16<sup>th</sup>, 25 minutes behind the winner. Colette Flesch (picture) competed in the single foil and did not make it to the next round despite 2 wins. She won against the Argentine San Martin and against the later Olympic champion (4:1), but she lost against three other opponents. The decisive defeat was against the Dutch Anselma. Due to a defect in the electrical cable, the hits did not light up, which meant that some hits of the Luxembourgish did not count, which also cost her the victory. The cyclist Roger Gilson didn't reach the second round. The pistol shooter Nico Klein reached the 30<sup>th</sup> place out of 69 athletes. The swimmer Arlette Wilmes reached the sixth place out of 7 participants in her heat over 100 m and 200 m breaststroke. (Wikipedia, Colette Flesch, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1972: Munich**

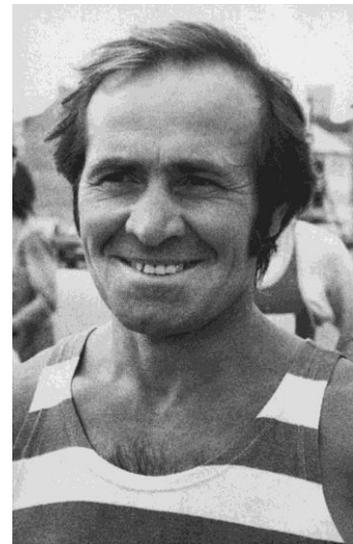
The Olympic Games in Munich started with a colourful opening ceremony. 3000 German boys and girls danced at the ceremony, but everything turned for the worst. Arab's terrorists managed to enter the



Olympic village and attacked the Israeli team quarters. They shot and killed an Israeli wrestler and an Israeli weightlifter. They then barricaded themselves in the flats with nine hostages and demanded the release of 200 criminals who were in custody in Israel. The Israeli government did not respond to the demands. After one day, the terrorists and the hostages were flown by two helicopters to a military airfield, where a Lufthansa plane was waiting for them. Afterwards, so-called snipers

opened fire on the terrorists. Then an Arab threw a hand grenade at the helicopter with the hostages. It turned into an hour-long shoot-out. In the end, 9 more Israeli athletes were killed. In addition, four Terrorists and a city police officer died. Two days before Olympia's bitterest hours, the Luxembourgish supporters could celebrate a good 10<sup>th</sup> place of Charles Sowa (picture) in walking. On the competition-

day, a flu and bronchitis gave him a hard time until the 20 km, but, after that, everything got better and he ended up finishing on an excellent 10<sup>th</sup> place. 89 supporters came with a special plane and cheered for him. Even the Grand Duke Jean and his son came to support him. With his 10<sup>th</sup> place, he had the best performance of the Luxembourgish athletes. Another good performance came from the épée specialist Robert Schiel, who reached the quarter-finals and who beat different world class fencers. He missed the semi-finals with 2 wins in 5 encounters in the quarter-finals. With this performance, he reached the 19<sup>th</sup> place out of 72 participants. In the team-competition, Luxembourg was eliminated after defeats to Switzerland and Poland. The last battle wasn't even played out because Luxembourg and Mexico had no more chances to qualify. The archer Nelly Wies reached a good 24<sup>th</sup> place out of 40 participants while scoring, 2258 points. Marcel Balthasar, however, only reached the 39<sup>th</sup> place. Surprisingly good results came from the bike-amateurs Erny Kirsch and Lucien Didier. Erny Kirsch kept up very well with the other participants. For a long time, it looked like he could finish in the top ten. However, his jersey was tugged twice, making it difficult for him to stay on his bike. He finished the race in 27<sup>th</sup> place. Lucien Didier finished in 56<sup>th</sup> place. Michel Braun (shooter) had bad luck because his car had an accident, what led to a lack of concentration. He finished on the 38<sup>th</sup> place. (Odeven, 2015) (Wort, Von Gaul bis Muller, 2014) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)



### **1976: Montreal**

Josy Barthel experienced his first and last Olympic Games as the COSL-president. However, the Luxembourg delegation travelled to Canada with high expectations, which were not met. For the bikers



Marcel Thull and Lucien Didier, the competition ended early. Lucien Didier could have continued if there would have been a second bike. The pistol shooter Michel Braun started good and was close to finish just below the 10<sup>th</sup> place before his ammunition fails. The high jumper Marc Romersa had technical problems too. He never jumped on a plastic plant before, which meant that he could not cope with the run-up. The épée fencers Roger Menghi and Robert Schiel both had two victories, but it wasn't enough to reach the second round. The walker Lucien Faber only finished on the 28<sup>th</sup> place out of 38 participants. The

runner Roland Bombardella (picture) was eliminated in the first round over 100 m. However, he showed a much better performance over the longer sprint distance. He outwent the national record in the quarter-finals and reached the semi-finals, where he was eliminated on the 6<sup>th</sup> place. He showed a good performance while finishing as the 3<sup>rd</sup> European participator over 200 m. (Wort, Bombardella schrieb Leichtathletikgeschichte, 2014) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1980: Moscow**

The Olympic Games in the capital of the Soviet Republic weren't the Games of joy. Over 50 nations boycotted the Games because the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan a year earlier. Other nations, such as Luxembourg, demonstratively stayed away from the opening and closing ceremonies and replaced their national flag with the Olympic flag when they marched in. In this way, Luxembourg and 19 other western European countries protested the soviet teams. The COSL took the decision of participating, while the government was for a boycott. Only three athletes participated, which was the smallest number of Luxembourgers participating in the Olympic Games with exception to the 1932 Olympics where Luxembourg had three participants as well. Luxembourg's participants were the shooter Roland Jacoby, the archer "Spatz" Braun and the walker Lucien Faber. Bormbardellas forfeit, with COSL's strict selection criteria as the motive. The shooter Jacoby showed a good performance and finished on the 11<sup>th</sup> place out of 56 athletes. He kept up with the best athletes and was even in the race to win a medal, but then he fluffed. The archer Braun showed good performances as well. After the two first rounds, he was on the 6<sup>th</sup> place, but then he fell behind and finished on a still good 16<sup>th</sup> place out of 38 participators. A less good performance was shown by the walker Lucien Faber. He didn't start the 20 km walk under optimal conditions and had to stop after 12.5 km so he didn't start the 50 km competition. (Barker, 2020) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)



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### **1984: Los Angeles**



The COSL conclusion states that all athletes performed reasonably well. No one showed an exceptional performance, but no one showed a poor performance either. 'Le Conseil d'Administration, en examinant les résultats obtenus par les différents athlètes, de façon absolue ainsi que par rapport aux critères de sélection et par rapport à leur meilleure performance antérieure, constate de façon générale que tous les résultats sont satisfaisants, dans une mesure variable, qu'aucun résultat ne constitue une déception et qu'aucun ne peut être considéré comme performance exceptionnelle.'

First, the air rifle specialist Roland Jacoby shot 591 rings in the small-bore prone competition and came 17<sup>th</sup> out of 71 athletes. The archers showed good performances as well. Especially Jeannette Goergen had good results and had in total, 2452 ring points. She finished as 16<sup>th</sup> out of 47. The other archer "Spatzt" Braun finished on a good 24<sup>th</sup> place out of 62 participators with a total of 2459 points. For the third archer, Claude Rohla, it was the first time competing on such a high level. Thus, he could be quite satisfied with his 32<sup>nd</sup> place while scoring, 2421 points. Lastly, the marathon-runner Marc Agosta fell in the early stages, preventing him from matching the national record he had set of 2.18'15". However, he still finished in the first half, on the 52<sup>nd</sup> place out of 107 athletes in 2.27'41". (Chiland, 2018) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1988: Seoul**

From Luxembourg's point of view, these Olympic Games were the Games of Danièle Kaber (picture). The runner reached an excellent 7<sup>th</sup> place after finishing the marathon after 2.29'23". She started strong, in the leading group, but then she fell back to the 17<sup>th</sup> place. She never seemed to be tired and overtook 10 other athletes to reach the finish-line as the 7<sup>th</sup> athlete. As a reward, the COSL invited her for a dinner with Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte in their hotel. There, the head of mission handed her a collection of Korean pins of all federations. Danièle Kaber showed the best performance of the Luxembourgish athletes who participated. The marathon runner Justin Gloden showed a pretty good performance too. He finished on the 36<sup>th</sup> place out of 118 runners. The third track and field athlete, Marco Sowa was disqualified because he violated a rule (one foot must constantly touch the ground). The two swimmers Yves Clause and Nancy Arendt had different results. Yves Clause stayed in his three competitions under the minimum of the COSL (to even be allowed to participate). He finished on the 35<sup>th</sup> place out of 77 swimmers. Nancy Arendt showed a decent performance. However, better times were expected (especially over 100 m and 200 m breaststroke). The two shooters had different results as well. Claude Kremer stayed over the COSL-minimum and finished as 34<sup>th</sup>. Roland Jacoby's performance was not as good as expected. He finished on the third last place. Ilse Ries showed two different performances. On the first day she disappointed, but on the second day she improved and finished on the 48<sup>th</sup> place. She stayed under the COSL-minimum. (Wort, Kaber: "Habe das Bestmögliche erreicht", 2014) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)



### **1992: Barcelona**

Luxembourg sent only six athletes to the Jubilee Games. These athletes made it to the Olympic Games despite the strict selection criteria of the COSL. Half of the athletes were shooters. The swimmer Yves



Clause showed different performances. In the 100 m freestyle, he was still in an excellent second place at the turn, but in the end, he was 6<sup>th</sup> in his forerun and finished at the 32<sup>nd</sup> place. Over 50 m, he was sent early to the locker room after two false starts and over 200 m he didn't reach the COSL-minimum. In archery, Jeannette Goergen reached the 38<sup>th</sup> place out of 62 participants. She remained well above the standard required by the COSL. Unfortunately, she just missed out on a place in the sixteenth-finals. After the first day of the trap competition, Michel Think had a chance to reach the semi-finals. At that point, he was on the 24<sup>th</sup> place and even climbed up two spots after the second day, but then he fell back. At the end, he finished as the 29<sup>th</sup> out of 54 participants and narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals. However, he beat the COSL-minimum. Air rifle specialist Claude Kremer came 27<sup>th</sup> out of 44 participants. Constant Wagner remained somewhat below his normal performance, coming 35<sup>th</sup> out of 45 participants. In judo, Igor Muller (picture) defeated his first opponent without any problems, but afterwards he met a Belgian against whom he had fought several times before. In these fights, sometimes one won, sometimes the other. In Barcelona, Muller lost and was eliminated. (Wort, Judo: Georgery non renouvelé et démission d'Igor Muller, 2012) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)

### **1996: Atlanta**

At the Olympic Games in 1996, 10,361 athletes out of the 197 federations affiliated to the IOC participated. It has been the first time that all those nations participated at one Olympic event. Not all athletes took part at the colourful opening-ceremony, because their competitions started just a few hours later. 85,000 spectators watched the opening-ceremony. For Luxembourg, Grand Duke Jean, and the sport-minister Alex Bodry (picture) were present. The 13-year-old Luxembourgish girl Véronique Pierrot could carry the Olympic flame over 1000 meters through Atlanta. Multiple time medallist Janet Evans finally brought the flame into the stadium, where she handed it over to Muhammad Ali, who lit the Olympic flame. In judo, Igor Muller made it to the second round after a win, where he met the future Olympic champion. He lost the fight in the last minute, but Muller was allowed to enter the hope round. There he met the Belgian who had eliminated him in the previous games. This time, the Luxembourger lost again because he had more warnings than his opponent. The two shooters showed different performances. Iris Kremer-Roseneck shot 387 out of 400 possible rings and reached the 31<sup>st</sup> place out of 49 female participants. Even though she had a slow start, she stayed over the COSL-minimum. In trap competition, Armand Dousemont reached the 42<sup>nd</sup> place out of 58 participants with 116 out of 125 possible clays. Dousemont's biggest disappointment, however, was the double trap, where he finished in third last place. Shortly after the start of the competition, he was warned. In the first and second round, he got 42 clays and in the last 41 clays, but in the second only 37 clays. With this performance he even stayed below the COSL-minimum. In tennis singles, the expectations for Anne Kremer were not so high. In her first and last game, she competed against the number 10 of the world, and she didn't really have a chance. Her opponent won the gold medal afterwards. The épée fencer Mariette Schmit fought in the first round against a more agile Ukrainian. She lost the battle after 7.17 minutes. Véronique Linster also failed to qualify for the second round in the 100 m hurdles after finishing 6th out of 7 competitors in her series. However, Luxembourg scored in another area, as photographer Arthur Thill won the 1st prize of "The IOC Best of Sport Photography Contest". (Kraizbiere, 2022) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)



### **2000: Sydney**

The Olympic Games in 2000 in Sydney were the "world's best Olympic Games ever", as the IOC President said during his closing speech at the Olympic Stadium in Sydney. At these Games, the focus was really on the athletes and not on the doping problem or even the miserable transport as at previous Games. The Games set multiple records. These Olympics were broadcasted in more countries than ever before. In addition, the highest number of tickets was sold - 6.7 million. There were also many volunteers - 64,000 of them. One Luxembourgish female athlete showed an excellent performance in triathlon. Nancy Kemp-Arendt finished as the 10<sup>th</sup> athlete and as the 5<sup>th</sup> European athlete. In tennis, Anne Kremer survived her first round, but she lost in the sixteenth finals against Amanda Coetzer. In table tennis, Ni Xia Lian survived her first round and could finish under the first 16. Unfortunately, Ni Xia Lian and Peggy Regenwetter (picture) missed the chance to reach the last eight in the doubles. The swimmers were unable to achieve their goal of swimming national records in all distances. In 100 m breaststroke, Alwin de Prins came 39th out of 66 participants. In 100 m butterfly, Luc Decker came 47th out of 62 participants. The only female swimmer, Lara Heinz, came 34th out of 74 swimmers in the 50 m crawl and 37th out of 54 participants in the 100 m crawl. (Turmes, 2017) (Lahure, Von Athen bis Sydney - Luxemburg und die Olympischen Spiele, 2000)



### **2004: Athens**

At the Olympic Games in 2004 in Athens, eleven Luxembourgish athletes participated in 7 different sports. The archer Jeff Henckels qualified for the Men's individual competition. His final score was 623, and he finished on the 55<sup>th</sup> place. The runner David Fiegen participated in the men's 800 m event. He finished at the 5<sup>th</sup> place of his heat, but he couldn't qualify for the next round. 3 Luxembourgish cyclists took part at these Olympics. Fränk Schleck, Benoît Joachim and Kim Kirchen participated in the men's road race. Kirchen (picture) and Schleck finished in the first group and reached the 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> place, while Joachim finished on the 45<sup>th</sup> rank. He took part at the time trial as well and finished after 1:01:50 on the 26<sup>th</sup> place.



In swimming, Alwin de Prins participated in the men's 100 m breaststroke event, but he didn't reach the second round and finished 27<sup>th</sup>. Lara Heinz participated in women's 50 m and 100 m freestyle, but she couldn't qualify for the next round as well. She finished as the 30<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup>. The two tennis players Anne Kremer and Claudine Schaul both took part in the women's singles and doubles competition. They both lost their first game in singles against higher ranked players and didn't qualify for the second round. In doubles, they lost their first game too. The last Luxembourgish athlete was the triathlete, Elizabeth May. With a total time of 2:08:29.22, she reached the 17<sup>th</sup> place. (Wikipedia, Kim Kirchen, 2022) (Wikipedia, Luxembourg at the 2004 Summer Olympics, 2022)

### **2008: Beijing**



13 athletes competed at the Olympics in 2008 in Beijing for Luxembourg. The three Luxembourgish cyclists Kim Kirchen, Andy Schleck and Fränk Schleck qualified for the men's road race, while Kirchen participated in the men's time trial as well. Andy Schleck (picture) finished on a very good 4<sup>th</sup> place while finishing the race almost 3 minutes faster than his brother and Kim Kirchen who finished on the 42<sup>nd</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> place. Kim Kirchen finished on the 23<sup>rd</sup> place in time trial after finishing the race in 1:06:29. In gymnastics, Sascha Palgen participated in the All-around event and finished 37<sup>th</sup>. In judo, Marie Müller competed in Women's -52 kg. She lost in the round of 32. In repêchage, she won her first battle, but lost in repêchage 2. In sailing, Marc Schmit participated at the laser event and finished with 227 net points on the 42<sup>nd</sup> place. 4 Luxembourgish swimmers took part at the 2008 Olympics, however, no swimmer reached the second round. Laurent Carnol participated in 200 m breaststroke and finished as the 40<sup>th</sup> in his heat. Alwin de Prins participated in 100 m breaststroke and finished as the 51<sup>st</sup> in his heat. Raphaël Stacciotti participated in 200 m freestyle and finished as the 49<sup>th</sup> in his heat. The only female swimmer, Christine Mailliet qualified for 200 m freestyle and finished as the 39<sup>th</sup> of her heat. She didn't advance to the second round as well. The table tennis player Ni Xia Lian qualified for women's singles and started in the second round. She won her first battle, but was eliminated in the third round by a Dutch player. Lastly, in triathlon, Dirk Bockel and Elizabeth May participated for Luxembourg. Bockel finished on the 25<sup>th</sup> place in men's and May on the 41<sup>st</sup> in women's. (Radsport-News, 2014) (Wikipedia, Luxembourg at the 2008 Summer Olympics, 2022)

### **2012: London**

A nine-athlete delegation was sent to the 2012 Olympics by Luxembourg, who participated in 7 different sports. In archery, Jeff Henckels (picture) qualified for the men's individual competition, by showing a good performance at the 2011 World Archery Championships. He reached the quarter-finals and could participate at the Olympic Games. In the preliminary round, he had a score of 654 which

placed him on the 49<sup>th</sup> position. He lost his first battle against the Dutch Van den Ven and couldn't reach the following round. For the two cyclists, the 2012 Olympics were their first. They both took part at the road race. Didier finished on the 64<sup>th</sup> position in men's road race and Majerus on the 21<sup>st</sup> in women's road race. In judo, Marie Müller was eliminated in the quarter-finals in women's-52 kg. In repêchage, she advanced and finished on the 5<sup>th</sup> rank. In shooting, Carole Calmes participated in 10 m air rifle. In the qualification round, she scored 390 points and reached the 48<sup>th</sup>. However, she didn't qualify for the final round. The swimmer Laurent Carnol took part in 100 m and 200 m breaststroke. In 100 m he finished on the 26<sup>th</sup> place in his heat, but he didn't advance to the semi-finals. In 200 m breaststroke, he finished as the 12<sup>th</sup> in his heat and qualified for the semi-finals. There he reached the 15<sup>th</sup> place but couldn't advance to the final. Raphaël Stacchiotti participated in 200 m and 400 m individual medley. In 200 m, he finished as the 17<sup>th</sup> in his heat, but he didn't reach the following round. In 400 m, he reached the 18<sup>th</sup> place in his heat in the first round. The table tennis player Ni Xia Lian participated in women's singles. She lost her first battle after starting in the second round. Lastly, the tennis player Gilles Müller won his first battle in men's singles in the round of 64. In the round of 32 he lost and was eliminated. (Zeyen, Bogenschießen / Für Jeff Henckels ist der Traum von Olympia vorerst geplatzt, 2021) (Wikipedia, Luxembourg at the 2012 Summer Olympics, 2022)



### **2016: Rio de Janeiro**

10 Luxembourgish athletes participated at the Olympic Summer Games in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, starting with the track and field athletes. Charles Grethen took part in the men's 800m event. He reached the 5<sup>th</sup> place of his heat, but he didn't qualify for the semi-finals. The female athlete Charline Mathias participated in the women's 800 m event. She reached the 8<sup>th</sup> rank in her heat, but couldn't qualify for the semi-finals as well. Three cyclists participated for Luxembourg at these Olympic Games. Fränk Schleck took part in the men's road race and crossed the finish-line as the 20<sup>th</sup> athlete. Chantal Hoffmann and Christine Majerus participated in the women's road race. Unfortunately, Hoffmann didn't finish the race, however, Majerus reached the 18<sup>th</sup> rank. She participated in the women's time trial too and finished 22<sup>nd</sup>.



The swimmer Laurent Carnol qualified for the 100 m and 200 m men's breaststroke. Both times he didn't qualify for the following round. In 100 m, he reached the 27<sup>th</sup> rank in his heat, in 200 m he reached 21<sup>st</sup> place in his heat. Raphaël Stacchiotti (picture) took part in men's 100 m freestyle and in

men's 200 m and 400 m individual medley. He didn't reach the next round in any event. In 100 m freestyle he reached the 47<sup>th</sup> place in his heat, in 200 m individual medley, he reached the 21<sup>st</sup> rank from his heat and in 400 m individual medley he finished as the 23<sup>rd</sup> in his heat. The only Luxembourgish female swimmer participated in women's 50 m and 100 m freestyle. In both rounds, Julie Meynen didn't reach the semi-finals. In 50 m, she finished as the 26<sup>th</sup> in her heat, in 100 m, she finished on the 25<sup>th</sup> rank of her heat. The table tennis player Ni Xia Lian qualified for women's singles and was only eliminated in the third round after winning her first two games. The tennis player Gilles Müller participated at the men's singles event and was also eliminated after winning his first two battles. He lost against the Spanish player Bautista Agut in the round of 16. (Zender, 2021) (Wikipedia, Luxembourg at the 2012 Summer Olympics, 2022)

## 2.2. Tokyo 2020



The Olympic Games of 2020, officially called the Games of the XXXII Olympiad, took place in Tokyo, the capital of Japan. They were held from July 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. In total, 11,656 athletes from 206 different nations participated.

Tokyo was selected as the host of the Olympics in 2020, during the 125<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The games were supposed to take place from the 24<sup>th</sup> of July to the 9<sup>th</sup>

August 2020, but the event had to be postponed to 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the first time in history. The previous Olympic events, that had been cancelled, hadn't been rescheduled. Even though, that the Games were held in 2021, they kept the name 'Tokyo 2020' for marketing and branding purposes. The Games were held with no supporters due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions at that moment. The Olympic Games of 2020 were the most expensive ever, with a total of over \$20 billion spent. The Summer Paralympics were held in 2021 as well, from the 24<sup>th</sup> of August to the 5<sup>th</sup> September, 16 days after the Summer Olympics.

Tokyo is the only Asian city to hold the Olympic Games more than once. In addition, several new events were introduced at the Olympics in 2021, for instance 3x3 basketball, freestyle BMX, and mixed gender team events in some existing sports. Besides that, Madison cycling returned for men and was introduced for women. The new IOC policies also allows the host organizing committee to add new sports and disciplines for just one Games. The disciplines added by the Japanese Olympic Committee were baseball and softball, karate, sport climbing, surfing, and skateboarding. The last three will remain on the Olympic program for the following Summer Games.

The United States won the most gold medals (39), as well as the most medals in total (113). China finished on second place with 38 gold medals and 88 medals in total. The hosts were third with 27 gold medals and 58 medals in total, while setting the record for the most gold medals and total medals ever won by their delegation at an Olympic Games. Great Britain is fourth in that ranking, with 22 gold medals and 65 medals in total. The Russian delegation finished on the fifth place while winning 20 gold medals. They also won the third most medals with a total of 71. Bermuda, the Philippines, and Qatar could win their first ever Olympic gold medal. Burkina Faso, San Marino, and Turkmenistan won their first-ever Olympic medals. (Wikipedia, 2020 Summer Olympics, 2022) (Lausanne, 2021) (Mather, 2021)



### 2.3. Luxembourgish athletes who participated at the Olympic Games in Tokyo (2020) in 2021

Luxembourg participated in the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2021 with twelve athletes who lined up in seven different sports. It was the countries 25<sup>th</sup> participation.

#### Table tennis:

- Ni Xia Lian

The Chinese table tennis player was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1963. At the beginning of her career, she was a Chinese athlete, and later she participated at multiple competitions for Luxembourg. She is team world champion and twice European champion in singles. At 55, she won the European bronze medal in doubles and reached the third place at the European Games in 2019. Currently (December 2021), she is the 40<sup>th</sup> in the world ranking and in 1985 she even reached the 6<sup>th</sup> place in the world ranking.



At the Olympics in Tokyo in 2021, she skipped the first round but lost her game in the second round against the Korean athlete Shin Yubin. She finished on the 33<sup>rd</sup>-48<sup>th</sup> place. (Wikipedia, Olympische Sommerspiele 2020/Teilnehmer (Luxemburg), 2021) (Wikipedia, Ni Xialian, 2021) (Wikipedia, Ni Xialian, 2021)

- Sarah de Nutte

The Luxembourgish table tennis player was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 1992. She's an athlete for the club "Tennis de Table Saint-Quentinois" since 2020. In 2018, she finished the European championship on the third place in doubles. In 2021, she reached the semi-finals of the world championship in doubles as well. Currently (December 2021), she is the 76<sup>th</sup> in the world ranking and in 2018 she even reached the 57<sup>th</sup> place.



At the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2021, she was beaten in her first game against Polina Trifonowa which led to her finishing on the 49<sup>th</sup>-64<sup>th</sup> place. (Wikipedia, Olympische Sommerspiele 2020/Teilnehmer (Luxemburg), 2021)

(Wikipedia, Sarah De Nutte, 2022) (FLTT, 2022)

#### Track and field:

- Charel Grethen

The Luxembourgish track and field athlete, who specializes in middle-distance running, was born on the second of June 1992. He's an athlete for the Luxembourgish club "CSL Luxembourg". He finished on the 5<sup>th</sup> place at 800 m at the Universiade in Taipei. Furthermore, he did a great job at the Olympics in Tokyo in 2021 as well. He reached the finals in 1500 m and finished on the 12<sup>th</sup> place. At the Olympic Games, he broke the Luxembourg record in the 1500 m race! (Wikipedia, Olympische Sommerspiele 2020/Teilnehmer (Luxemburg), 2021) (Wikipedia, Charles Grethen, 2021) (Diederich,



2021)

- Bob Bertemes

The Luxembourgish track and field athlete, who specializes in shot put, was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 1993. He's a sport soldier and won multiple medals at different competitions. He won two bronze medals and 3 gold medals in different years at the games of the small states of Europe. At the military world games, he once won the bronze and once the silver medal. In addition, he won the silver medal at the U23-European championship. At the Olympics in Tokyo in 2021 he reached the 21<sup>st</sup> place after he resigned after the qualification round. (Wikipedia, Olympische Sommerspiele 2020/Teilnehmer (Luxemburg), 2021) (Wikipedia, Bob Bertemes, 2021) (Schleimer, 2021)



#### Cycling:

- Christine Majerus



The Luxembourgish cyclist was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 1987 and the dominant cyclist of Luxembourg since the mid-2000s. She's an athlete for the team "SD Worx". One of her most important successes was the second place at the UCI Women's WorldTour in 2015, 2017 and 2018 with her team (team time trial). At the Olympics in Tokyo in 2021, she participated in two different disciplines, the road race and individual time trial. For the first, she reached the 20<sup>th</sup> place and for the second the 21<sup>st</sup> place. (Wikipedia, Olympische Sommerspiele 2020/Teilnehmer (Luxemburg), 2021) (Wikipedia, Christine Majerus, 2021) (Zeyen, "Der bisher schönste Erfolg": Christine Majerus gewinnt die 22. "Boels Ladies Tour", 2019)

#### Other athletes who participated:

- Jeff Henckels (archery)
- Kevin Geniets (cycling)
- Michel Ries (cycling)
- Nicolas Wagner (dressage)
- Julie Meynen (swimming)
- Raphaël Stacchiotti (swimming)
- Stefan Zachäus (triathlon)

(Wikipedia, Olympische Sommerspiele 2020/Teilnehmer (Luxemburg), 2021)

## 2.4. Beijing 2022

The 24<sup>th</sup> Olympic Winter Games took place in Beijing in China. They were held from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2022 in the Chinese capital. In the medal table, Norway was in the first place. The country won 16 gold medals, 8 silver medals and 13 bronze medals. In addition, Norway set a record in winning the most gold medals on the Olympic Winter Games. The record has been 14.

The search for a venue for the Winter Olympics in 2022 already started in June in 2013. The interested cities had to send their application to the IOC until the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2013. At the end, The IOC had to choose between Beijing and Almaty. Beijing got 44 votes; Almaty got only 40.

109 different competitions (52 for men, 46 for women and 11 for mixed teams) took place in 7 sports/15 disciplines. (Wikipedia, Olympische Winterspiele 2022, 2022) (IOC, Beijing 2022 Medal Table, 2022)

### For Luxembourg:

The 2022 Winter Olympics were the 10<sup>th</sup> Winter Olympics for Luxembourg. Two Luxembourgish athletes participated, one woman and one man. The 16 years old Gwyneth ten Raa started skiing when she was three years old. When she was 6 years old, she participated in her first race. In November 2021, she participated at a FIS-race for the first time. A couple of months later, she qualified for the Olympic Games in Beijing. She took part in the giant slalom and slalom. Unfortunately, she didn't reach the finish line in both competitions. (Wikipedia, Gwyneth ten Raa, 2021) (Wikipedia, Olympische Winterspiele 2022/Teilnehmer (Luxemburg), 2022) (Beneké, 2022)



The second Luxembourgish participator Matthieu Osch also qualified for the giant slalom and slalom competition. In slalom, he didn't reach the finish line as well, but in giant slalom, he reached the 34<sup>th</sup> rank after his first run. After the second run, he finished the competition on the 28<sup>th</sup> place. (Wikipedia, Olympische Winterspiele 2022/Teilnehmer (Luxemburg), 2022) (Morawski, 2021)

## Chapter 3

### 3.1. The organization of the Olympic Games

The Olympic Games is one of the biggest sport events, so its organization is quite complex. The first Olympic Games were held in 1896 and only 245 male athletes participated in 43 competitions in nine different disciplines. By comparison with the last Olympic Games (Tokyo 2020), there participated over 11,000 male and female athletes in 33 different disciplines and 339 events.

In the last 125 years, the Olympics have changed a lot. Many more athletes are participating, male and female athletes are participating and there are a lot more disciplines, so also more events. These changes reflect the Olympics' motto (faster, higher, stronger). With each edition, the Games are getting bigger and bigger. So, the organization of the Olympics is getting 'bigger' and harder too. The host city must prepare the whole event for the participating athletes, their teams, all the visitors but also for the city inhabitants, who will be affected by the event.

#### Who's responsible for the Olympics?

The three main constituents of the Olympic Movement are the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Sports Federations and the National Olympic Committees. In addition, there is the Organising Committees of the Olympic Games (OGOC) that is also important for the organization.

Before organizing an Olympic event, the International Olympic Committee selects a city to hold the Olympic Games. After, the chosen city and the National Olympic Committee of the host country create an Organising Committee of the Olympic Games. Those actions usually happen seven years before the actual event. Then the IOC and the OCOG work together to prepare the Games



#### How to prepare for the Olympic Games?

You can't really find a guide like "Olympics Preparations", but researchers from the Australian Griffith University decided to break down the role of bureaucracy in organizing the Olympic Games.

As the authors say, the Games' organizers and managers have a challenging task. They must plan, organize, and coordinate a lot of tasks, but they must do it in a way that the stadium and television spectators wouldn't realize how much work and time it costs to organize the event. An easy example is the track and field hurdle event. An exact number of hurdles must be sourced, stored and placed in the right places on track at the correct times. After the race, they must be removed quickly, so that the next event can take place. Afterwards, the hurdles must be stored after the race and removed/disposed of after the Games. Even though no one of the spectators thinks about these little tasks, they must be planned by the organizer too.

The researchers found four main phases of the preparation of the Olympic Games that should make the organizers act effectively and efficiently:

It seems like the OGOC uses the Classic approach. There are no repetitions between the different phases, the steps are clear from each other. In addition, there is only one test, just before the beginning of the event.

About three months before the actual event, there is a 1-week simulation exercise, where all the important managers of the Games are involved (at the main and venue level administration). As the Games can only be organized once, several possible time scenarios for the Games are tested under simulated real-life conditions and challenges. When this scenario happened before the Olympic Games



of 2004, a number of people involved in the decision-making were asked to resolve multiple issues and problems. For the Athens Olympics in 2004, the paid staff to organize the event consisted of only 17 people in 1998, but this number increased to a total of 13,710 people in August 2004. For the 2020 Olympics, Tokyo hosted almost 80,000 Olympic officials, journalists and support staff!

This number has, as cause, made these Games more significant than in 2004, it also includes more groups in this count. But the principles stay the same, the Olympic Games are an enormous event that must be planned many years in advance and the organization should be hidden from the spectators. (BigPicture, 2021) (Park & Murakami, 2021) (Martin, 2021)

### 3.2. Volunteering



You can not only participate at the Olympic Games by qualifying as an athlete, but you can serve as an Olympic volunteer as well. Thousands of volunteers help at each Olympic event to ensure the Games to go as planned. For the 2020 Tokyo Games, more than 80,000 volunteers served. It's not an easy job to host the Olympic Games, so the help of everyone is needed. You need tourist officials, security experts as well as judges and translators. The tasks of volunteers include checking tickets, welcoming dignitaries and delivering equipment to athletes.

For the 2020 Tokyo Games, thousands of volunteers were needed. Most applications (64%) came from Japanese townspeople. The rest came from people spread all over the globe. For sure, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all the people who were involved. (Callos, 2020) (Uliana, 2017)

### 3.3 How can you qualify for the Olympic Games?

A lot of athletes are participating at each Olympic event, but who decides which athletes can participate?

In golf, it's quite simple. 60 men and 60 women can participate at the Olympics in 2020. The 59 best golfers (according to the world ranking) are qualified, and the last spot is reserved for the host country. The athletes have until a certain point in time to collect points in other competitions and thus get into the top 59 in the world rankings and qualify for the Olympics. (Matern, 2019) (Paisley, 2021)



### 3.4. The Olympic Games ceremonies

During the Olympic Games, there were a couple of ceremonies. At the Ancient Olympic Games, the ceremonies were an important part of the games. Today, there are opening, closing and medal ceremonies. Some parts of those ceremonies are inspired by the Ancient Games, which also inspired the Modern Games. An example is, that in the opening- and closing ceremony, Greece plays an important role. During the 2004 Games, the winners also received a crown of olive branches. During the Ancient Games, the winners received a similar prize, an olive wreath. All the elements of the ceremonies are defined by the Olympic Charter. These can't be modified by the host nation. This requirement to obtain approval from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) also applies to the artistic part of the opening and closing ceremonies.



The different ceremonies have changed over the centuries. During the Ancient Games, there was, for example, a ceremony at each beginning and ending of each successive game. So, there are similarities but also

differences between the ceremonies of today and during the Ancient Games. The presentation of the Games has changed in the aspect of technology and the desire of the host country to show their own artistic utterance, but the basic ceremonies have not changed. The presentation keeps changing in scope, scale, and expense with each Games, but still, the main traditions stay. (Wikipedia, Olympic Games ceremony, 2022) (imgur, 2012)

### 3.5. Olympic flame

The Olympic flame is a symbol, which is used in the Olympic movement. In addition, it's a sign of continuity between ancient and modern games. A couple of months before the Olympics start, the Olympic flame is lit at Olympia, Greece. This observance starts the Olympic torch relay, which ends with inflaming of the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. This flame burns in the cauldron, until the Olympic closing ceremony, where it is extinguished.

The symbol of the Olympic flame was introduced by the architect Jan Wils. He designed the stadium for the Summer Olympics in 1928 in Amsterdam.

The idea for the Olympic flame has its origins from ancient Greece. During those Ancient Olympics, a holy fire was kept burning during the celebration of this event on the altar of the sanctuary of Hestia. In ancient Greek mythology, fire had divine significance - Prometheus is said to have stolen it from the gods. Sacred fires existed in many ancient Greek sanctuaries, including Olympia. Every four years, when Zeus was honoured at the Olympic Games, extra fires were lit in his temple and in his wife's Hera. The modern Olympic fire is lit in front of the ruins of Hera's temple.



This tradition was reintroduced during the 1928 Summer Olympic Games in Amsterdam. An employee of the Electric Utility of Amsterdam lit the first modern Olympic flame in the Marathon Tower of the Olympic Stadium, which is in Amsterdam. Since 1928, the Olympic flame has been part of all Summer Olympics. The torch relay came 8 years later, when it was introduced at the Summer Olympics in Berlin in 1936. (Wikipedia, Olympic flame, 2022) (IOC, Torches, priestesses and time travel: Watch the Olympic flame begin its journey to Beijing, 2021)

### 3.6. What's the meaning of the Olympic Rings?



The five rings, represent the connection of the five continents and the encounter of the athletes from all over the world as part of the Olympic Games. This symbol shows the catholicity of the Olympic movement. Blue represents Europe, yellow represents Asia, black represents Africa, green represents Australia and red represents America. In addition, you can find one of the six colours (including the white) on each national flag.

(DasOlympischeMuseum, 2022) (Heilman, 2021) (Chung, 2017)

### 3.7. What are the Olympic values?

The Olympic devise consist of three Latin words, 'citius', 'altius' and 'fortius'. These mean faster, higher, and stronger. (DasOlympischeMuseum, 2022)

### 3.8. The Olympic Museum

The Olympic Museum is in the "Olympic capital" Lausanne. The museum was opened on the 23. June 1993 on the initiative of Juan Antonio Samaranch. The museum is in the district 'Ouchy' on the coast of the 'Gendersee' in a modern building next to a mansion which belongs to the International Olympic Committee for decades.

The museum brings a piece of sports and cultural history closer, but in a fun way. It uses ways like audiovisual shows and original paraphernalia of famous Olympians from around the globe. Several times each year, next to the permanent exhibition, there are temporary expositions. One example is the philatelic collection of the International Olympic Committee.

But the museum is not used just for expositions, but it also has an Olympic study centre with a library, a video library where you can find videos of the Olympic history and multiple auditoriums. In the park in front of the museum, you can see sculptures referring to a sport or the Greek antiquity. (Wikipedia, Olympisches Museum, 2022) (Hanka, 2018)



### 3.9. Facts around the Olympic Games

- The modern Olympic Games started in 1896 in Greece.
- From 1912-1948, there were artistic competitions and artists could also fight for a medal.
- The Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin designed the Olympic logo with the 5 rings.
- No Games were held because of the second world war from 1937-1947.
- Various athletes used unfair methods to win the games. German athlete Dora Ratjen competed in the high jump and finished fourth. However, two years later, it turned out that she was not a woman at all, but a man.
- In 1984, the Puerto Rican athlete Madeline de Jesus got injured in her first competition. However, to not harm her team during the rest of the competition, her twin sister competed in her place.
- The medals from the Olympic Games in Tokyo were made from no longer used smartphones, laptops and other electronic devices.
- The 1912 Olympics were the last time a gold medal was awarded that was made entirely of gold.



(DERTOUR, 2022) (Planbar-Magazin, 2014) (Isabelle, 2020)

## Chapter 4

### 4.1. The Paralympic Games

The Paralympic Games have a similar idea than the Olympic Games, and they are a global sports competition for athletes with a physical disability. The Paralympics are organized by the International Paralympic Committee and are divided into the Paralympic Summer Games and the Paralympic Winter Games. These Games take place every four years, after the Olympic Summer/Winter Games, and in the same city.

Paralympic recognized sports and their starting classes are recognized and classified uniformly all over the world. Competitions for these athletes are organized all over the globe.



The term 'Paralympics' first came from the combination of the two words *Paraplegic* and *Olympic*. But later, the signification of the term was switched and today consists of the two words *Para* (*next to*) and *Olympics*. This means that these Paralympics are always next to the Olympics, so they are held after at the same place. So, it expresses how close these Games are to the Olympic movement. The term 'Paralympics' was first used at the Olympic Games in 1988 in Korea. Before, these Games were called 'World Games of

the Paralysed', 'Olympics of the Disabled' or 'World Games of the Disabled'.

In 1948 started the first sport games for athletes in a wheelchair in England. These were called 'Stoke Mandeville Games' and were held on the same days as the Olympic Games in London. The neurologic Sir Ludwig Guttmann initiated these Games to connect the competitions for people with a disability and for athletes without. At these Games, 14 war wounded men and women participated. All athletes had a spinal cord injury, and the only sport was archery.

The first 'World Games of the Paralysed' were held in 1960 in Rome, but not at the same time as the Olympic Games. They took place a few weeks later. 400 athletes from 21 nations participated at these Games, but only for wheelchair athletes. Since those Games, the Paralympic Games take place every four years, always in the same year as the Olympic Games.

Every time, more and more athletes are participating not only at the Summer, but also at the Winter Paralympics:

year and city	Number of athletes
Rome 1960	400
Tokyo 1964	335
Tel Aviv 1968	750
Heidelberg 1972	1000
Toronto 1976	1600
Ornskoldsvik 1976 (winter)	250
Arnhem 1980	1600
Geilo 1980 (winter)	350
Stoke Mandeville & Hempstead (New York) 1984	2105
Innsbruck 1984 (winter)	419
Seoul 1988	3053
Innsbruck 1988 (winter)	397
Barcelona 1992	3020
Tignes 1992 (winter)	365
Lillehammer 1994 (winter)	1000
Atlanta 1996	3195
Nagano 1998 (winter)	571

Sydney 2000	4000
Salt Lake City (winter)	500
Athens 2004	4000
Turin 2006 (winter)	477
Peking 2008	4000
Vancouver 2010 (winter)	600
London 2012	4237
Sochi 2014 (winter)	541
Rio de Janeiro 2016	4328
Pyeongchang 2018 (winter)	569
Tokyo 2020	4403
Beijing 2022 (winter)	564

Athletes are only allowed to participate at a Paralympic event if they permanently exhibit at least one of the following ten impairment categories.

- Impairment of muscle strength
- Impairment of passive mobility
- Amputation or malformation of limbs
- Different leg lengths
- Short stature
- Muscle hypertonia
- Ataxia
- Athetosis
- Impairment of vision
- Intellectual impairment

Some athletes can participate in competitions of all categories, others only for specific ones. Deaf athletes and organ transplanted athletes are not allowed to participate at the Paralympic Games, because they have their own Games.

People with intellectual disabilities cannot participate in every sport because it is not possible for several sports. For this purpose, there are the Special Olympics, which are organized for the mentally disabled, so that these people can also participate in a sports event. In the 2004 and 2008 Games, athletes with intellectual disabilities were not allowed to compete because, in the previous Games, Spain competed in basketball with athletes who did not have a disability, and so they had to give up their medals. For the Games in 2012 and 2016, athletes with an intellectual disability were allowed to participate again.

First, the athletes are classified to one of the categories mentioned earlier. For the different sports, the kind of disability and how it affects the performance in the sport is taken into consideration. After an individual test, the athletes are separated in different starting classes of the Paralympic sports. These can be very different in every disability category. This classification is necessary to have fair competitions to be able to compare the results. (Wikipedia, Paralympische Spiele, 2022) (paralympic.org, STOKE MANDEVILLE & NEW YORK 1984 PARALYMPIC GAMES, 2022) (paralympic.org, TIGNES-ALBERTVILLE 1992 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES, 2022) (Wikipedia, 1984 Winter Paralympics, 2022) (Wikipedia, 1998 Winter Paralympics, 2022) (paralympic.org, LONDON 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES, 2022) (paralympic.org, SOCHI 2014 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES, 2022) (Lange, 2020) (Wikipedia, 2018 Winter Paralympics, 2022) (Arba, 2021) (Wikipedia, 2022 Winter Paralympics, 2022) (WantedInRome, 2021) (NextDayAccess, 2021)



## Conclusion

I found out a lot about the Olympic Games, that I didn't know before. I was surprised how many Luxembourgish athletes have participated at the different Olympics over the last 100 years. In addition, almost at every Olympic Games, there was one athlete who showed a good performance. Furthermore, I was surprised by the number of athletes participating at a single event and how many volunteers are needed to hold the Olympic Games.

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