

# The International Olympic Committee

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## Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at WAMUNC XXVIII! A little bit about me: I am a first-year student in the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University, working towards a B.S. in International Affairs and Economics. Previously, I have vice-chaired GWCIA, GW's middle school Model UN conference; additionally, I am a member of GWMUN, our school travel Model United Nations team. Outside of Model UN, I participate in Greek life. When I have free time, I love to hang out with friends and run in the National Mall.

I believe that international sporting events are a way to bolster diplomatic ties between nations, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is a key facilitator in that mission. Additionally, the IOC serves as an advocate for human rights. Overall, the IOC plays a unique role in the international community, and I look forward to hearing your ideas on how to improve the IOC and the Olympics.

This weekend, we will be discussing issues surrounding the Olympics and complex geopolitical issues. I would like to recognize that in such a discussion, any form of hateful speech will not be tolerated. I want this committee to be a place where everyone feels comfortable participating. If such actions do occur, they will be reported to my USG, and the appropriate measures will be taken to address the behavior.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out with your advisor CCed. I am looking forward to hearing all your ideas and energetic debate!

All the Best,  
Meghan Zimmerman  
[Meghanz@gwu.edu](mailto:Meghanz@gwu.edu)  
Chair of the IOC

## Committee Overview

Over the course of the weekend, you will be participating in the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOC is the primary authority and facilitator of the Summer, Winter, and Youth Olympic Games. Specifically, the IOC chooses the host country for the games, ensures the following of the Olympic Charter, and plays a central role in the organization of the event.<sup>1</sup> The IOC members continuously attend and participate in sessions where the Olympic Charter is modified and interpreted, make recommendations to the IOC Executive Board, and choose what sports to recognize.<sup>2</sup> Such policies all work toward the IOC's central goal of ensuring the following of the Olympic Charter, last updated in 2025.

It is important to note the structure of the IOC. The IOC is led by an Executive board. This body has several responsibilities, including management of finances, agenda setting for IOC sessions, and allocation of IOC honorary distinctions.<sup>2</sup> Although individual positions on the executive board may give a country more influence, such capabilities will not be used in this session. For example, the IOC president, Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe, the delegate of Zimbabwe will not have extra authority in this committee. That being said, delegates are able and encouraged to reference the actions by their countries toward the IOC.

This committee will function as a general assembly, and delegates are expected to build and debate unique resolutions on the chosen topic: Sustainability at the Olympics or Political Statements at the Olympics. In the first session, a vote will be held on which topic this committee will pursue; therefore, it is advisable to thoroughly research both topics.

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<sup>1</sup>“The IOC as the Owner of the Olympic Games,” International Olympics Committee , accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/human-rights/the-ioc-as-the-owner-of-the-olympic-games>.

<sup>2</sup>“IOC Executive Board—Management of IOC Affairs & Administration,” International Olympics Committee , accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/executive-board>.

## History of the IOC

Approximately 3,000 years ago, the first Olympic Games were held in Olympia, Greece. Although the country hosted several athletic events across Greece, the ones held in Olympia were the most prominent.<sup>3</sup> The Olympics served as a key part of religion, as they served to worship the Greek God Zeus.<sup>4</sup> It is not only in this way that the old Olympic Games differed significantly from the modern games; previously, the games were very limited in athletic variety, only hosting a few different events.<sup>5</sup>

Despite having seemed to end several centuries prior, the International Congress of Paris, with significant contributions from Pierre de Coubertin, would revive the Olympics with the establishment of the IOC in 1894.<sup>6</sup> The first of the new Olympic Games was held in Greece in 1896. The role of the IOC has grown and evolved significantly since its founding. The first Olympic Charter was published in 1908 and has been updated several times.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, an executive board was created in 1921.<sup>8</sup>

In recent years, the IOC has committed itself to several issues concerning sustainability, human rights, and equality in the games. Through the formation of the Olympic Refugee Foundation in 2017, the organization made an effort to support vulnerable youth through sports.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, with the creation of the “Olympism in Action Forum” in 2018, the IOC made the organization more involved in the promotion of peace through sports globally.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> “Olympic Games,” Britannica, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/sports/Olympic-Games>.

<sup>4</sup> See note 3 above.

<sup>5</sup> See note 3 above.

<sup>6</sup> “Pierre de Coubertin: Visionary and Founder of the Modern Olympics,” International Olympics Committee, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/pierre-de-coubertin>.

<sup>7</sup> “The Olympic Charter,” American Bar Association, accessed November 30, 2025, [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public\\_education/publications/teaching-legal-docs/the-olympic-charter/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/publications/teaching-legal-docs/the-olympic-charter/).

<sup>8</sup> “Key Milestones in the IOC’s History,” International Olympics Committee, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/history/institutional>.

<sup>9</sup> “2017: The Olympic Refugee Foundation,” International Olympics Committee, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/2017-the-olympic-refuge-foundation>.

<sup>10</sup> “Olympism in Action Forum,” International Olympics Committee, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/olympism-in-action-forum>.

Further growth in the IOC's commitment to the betterment of humanity can be seen in the games strides in gender equality. When the modern Olympic games opened, only 2.2% of the athletes were women. The lack of women participation can be blamed on sexist beliefs about women's capabilities, which were commonplace in the early 1900s.<sup>11</sup> However, in the most recent summer olympics 50% of participants were women. This is primarily due to the fact that the IOC committed itself to gender equality and took action by increasing women's opportunities to participate in the events.<sup>12</sup> Although there is still work to be done as seen by the fact that only about 13% of coaches are female.<sup>13</sup>

The summer games, today, host 206 National Olympic Committees (or countries). The number of athletes participating in the summer games have been over 10,000 since the Atlanta, Georgia summer games in 1996.<sup>14</sup> While the winter games welcome roughly 80 and host approximately 2,900 athletes.<sup>15</sup> Athletes participate in 43 different sporting events, varying significantly in skill sets.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Stephanie Sy and Harry Zahn, "Exploring the History of Gender Equity at the Olympics and Where Things Stand Today," PBS, August 11, 2024,

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/exploring-the-history-of-gender-equity-at-the-olympics-and-where-things-stand-today>.

<sup>12</sup> "Gender Equality Through Time: At the Olympic Games," International Olympics Committee , accessed December 28, 2025,

<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/gender-equality/gender-equality-through-time>.

<sup>13</sup> See note 11 above.

<sup>14</sup> Mary Cunningham and Taylor Johnston, "How Many Athletes Compete in the Olympics, and More Details by the Numbers for the 2024 Paris Games," CBS News, accessed December 28, 2025,

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/athletes-olympics-numbers-2024-paris-games/>.

<sup>15</sup> "How Many Countries and Athletes Participate in the Olympic Games?," International Olympics Committee , accessed December 28, 2025,

<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/faq/competing-and-being-part-of-the-games/how-many-athletes-and-countries-take-part-in-the-olympic-games>.

<sup>16</sup> "Olympics Sports List," International Olympics Committee , accessed December 28, 2025,

<https://www.olympics.com/en/sports/>.

## Topic 1: Sustainability at the Olympics

In recent years, one of the primary goals for the IOC has become to make the Olympics more sustainable. This mission comes in light of the increasing relevance of the climate change issue, which can greatly impact the ability of athletes to perform. Climate change impacts athletes in a variety of ways, including the destruction of athletic facilities in natural disasters that have increased due to climate change alongside intense heat and poor air quality hindering athletes' abilities to participate in their sport.<sup>17</sup>

Through partnerships with the United Nations (UN), the UN Sports for Climate Action was created. This was formed as a call to action to align international sporting events with the UN goal to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) by 50% with a base year of 2019.<sup>18</sup>

The 2024 Olympic Games, hosted by France, aimed to be a “greener” Olympics, following the goals of the UN Sports for Climate Action. Previously, the Olympics have been very costly in terms of carbon emissions; at the summer games in 2016 and 2021, each game released on average roughly 3.6 million tonnes of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. The 2024 Olympics, although still high, were able to significantly reduce this amount of carbon emissions to 1.58 million tonnes.<sup>19</sup> France and the IOC were able to accomplish such sustainability goals through the implementation of a variety of systems, including the use of

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<sup>17</sup> “The Olympics Are Part of a Push to ‘Green’ Sports. Here’s Why That’s Important.,” UN Environment Program, accessed November 30, 2025,

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/olympics-are-part-push-green-sports-heres-why-thats-important>.

<sup>18</sup> “Sports for Climate Action,” United Nations Climate Change, accessed November 29, 2025,

<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/sectoral-engagement/sports-for-climate-action>.

<sup>19</sup> Matthieu Choukroun, “Paris 2024 Olympics: A Greenwashing Nightmare or a Genuine Effort to Save the Planet?,” Earth Day, February 28, 2025,

<https://www.earthday.org/paris-2024-olympics-a-greenwashing-nightmare-or-a-genuine-effort-to-save-the-planet/>.

renewable energy in vehicles, reduction of single-use plastic, reuse of buildings, rented or loaned sports equipment, and venues powered by renewable sources.<sup>20</sup>

Although the climate issues addressed in the 2024 Olympics lend to optimism, issues such as the displacement of vulnerable groups still remain prevalent. Historically, the Olympics have forced homeless people out of settlements. The 2024 Olympics, in one instant, forced roughly 450 people to move in order to construct parts of the Olympic Village and other relevant facilities.<sup>21</sup> This issue is not limited to the 2024 Summer Olympics. In 2008 the Olympics were being hosted in Beijing, China and are estimated to have displayed 1.25 million people.<sup>22</sup> Thus the actions of the Chinese government were met with backlash from the international community, including organizations such as Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE). Beyond the environmental implications of the Olympics, significant concern has been raised over the displacement of individuals, primarily vulnerable groups, in the construction done to host the games.

### *Issue*

As global temperatures rise as a result of climate change, athletes are being negatively affected. With increasing cases of extreme temperatures, the health and performance of athletes are hindered. The summer prior to the Paris Olympics, the hottest summer on record was recorded. Both heat and air quality impact athletes; such issues are only increased with continued carbon emissions.

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<sup>20</sup> “Paris 2024 Sustainable Games,” International Olympics Committee, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/paris-2024-sustainable-games>.

<sup>21</sup> Thomas Adamson The Associated Press, “French Police Evict Hundreds from Abandoned Paris Warehouse Ahead of Olympics,” The Canadian Press News, April 18, 2024, [https://www.thecanadianpressnews.ca/world/french-police-evict-hundreds-from-abandoned-paris-warehouse-ahead-of-olympics/article\\_9a0a7b49-3530-5be8-9b5c-a9f28658d794.html](https://www.thecanadianpressnews.ca/world/french-police-evict-hundreds-from-abandoned-paris-warehouse-ahead-of-olympics/article_9a0a7b49-3530-5be8-9b5c-a9f28658d794.html).

<sup>22</sup> “Olympic Scale of Sport-Induced Displacement,” Forced Migration Review, August 27, 2024, <https://www.fmreview.org/duplessis/#:~:text=Researchers%20from%20the%20Geneva%2Dbased,demolition%20of%20poor%20people%20houses>.

Additionally, sporting venues are also threatened by climate change. It is estimated that by 2025 weather-related events will cause \$11 billion in damages. Winter sporting events are also facing challenges with warming climates. As the temperatures rise, snow is becoming less frequent, and artificial snow is being used in its place. However, the use of artificial snow is also bad for the environment, as it contributes to carbon emissions.<sup>23</sup>

The Olympics have contributed vast amounts of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. The games require new construction and infrastructure to house and host the athletes and administrators. For instance, the installation of the Olympic Village, which houses and feeds athletes, takes up a large portion of land and imposes a significant monetary cost. In the 2024 Paris Olympics the village cost over \$1 billion. Although the 2024 summer olympic village was more sustainable than previous years it took up 130.966 acres of land<sup>24</sup> and still contributed to the carbon footprint of the games.

The most taxing activity of the Olympics is transportation. Accounting for roughly 70% of carbon emissions, transportation is the most significant contributor to GHG emissions at the Olympics.<sup>25</sup> Other factors that add to environmental damages caused by the Olympics are deforestation, strain on water supply, and increases in waste.

The Olympic Games play a key role in geopolitics; however, they are substantially harming the environment due to their GHG emissions and other detrimental factors. Additionally, they contribute to social issues, as the land and resources needed to facilitate the events lead to the displacement of vulnerable groups.

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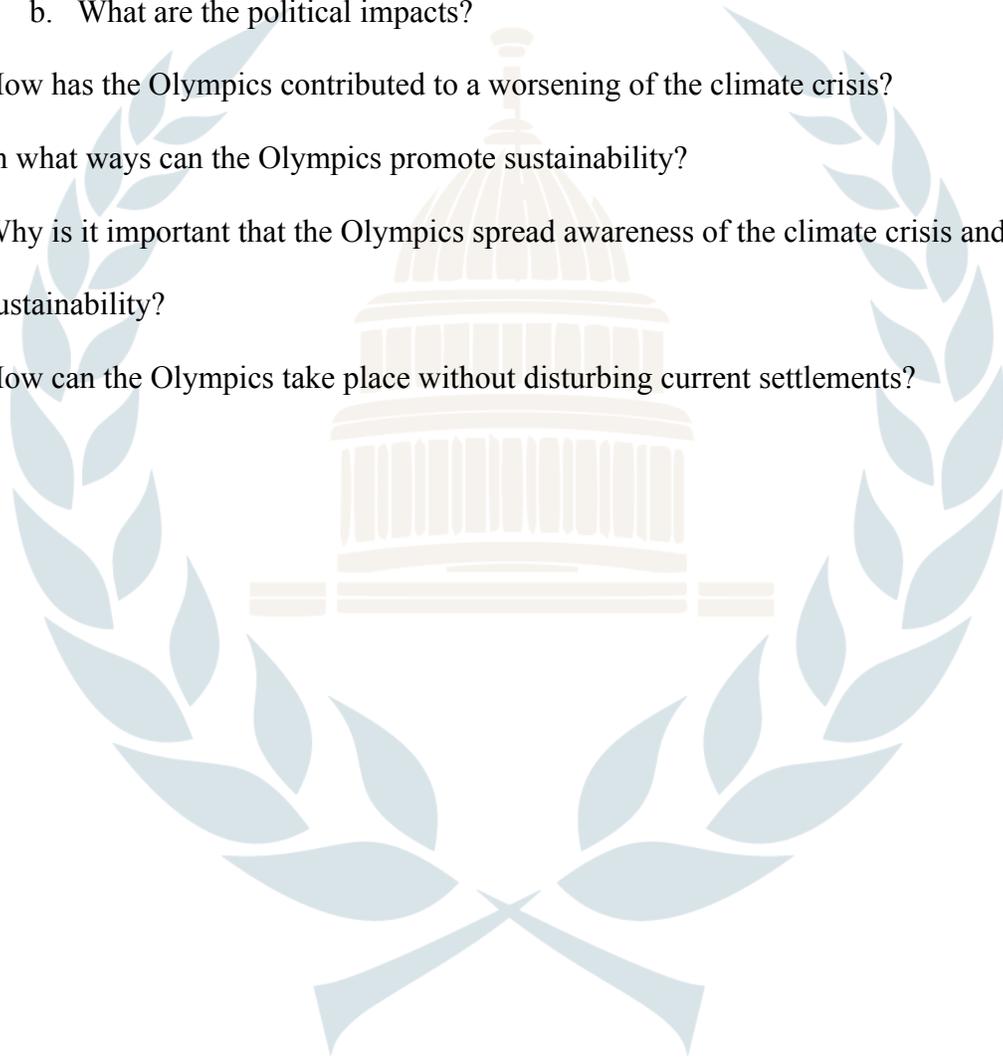
<sup>23</sup> Annie Button, "How Climate Change Is Affecting Professional Sports Worldwide," Earth.Org, December 4, 2024, <https://earth.org/how-climate-change-is-affecting-professional-sports-worldwide/>.

<sup>24</sup> Alex Ledson, "Paris 2024 Olympic Village: Key Details You Need to Know," Forbes, May 23, 2024, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledson/2024/05/23/paris-olympic-village-2024/>.

<sup>25</sup> Angelique Ceccon, Andrew Hargrove, and Jamie Sommer, "Do the Olympics Impact CO2 Emissions? A Cross-National Analysis," Science Direct , accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.med.upenn.edu/pmi/events/https-www-sciencedirect-com-science-article-abs-pii-s1047847720300046-via-3dihub>.

## Guiding Questions

1. What are some sustainability and climate problems associated with hosting the Olympics in your country?
  - a. What are the economic impacts?
  - b. What are the political impacts?
2. How has the Olympics contributed to a worsening of the climate crisis?
3. In what ways can the Olympics promote sustainability?
4. Why is it important that the Olympics spread awareness of the climate crisis and model sustainability?
5. How can the Olympics take place without disturbing current settlements?



## Topic 2: Political Statements at the Olympics

### *Background*

The International Olympic Committee remains steadfast in its commitment to ensure that the Olympic Games are politically neutral. Outlined in the Olympic Charter rule 50.<sup>26</sup> This rule has changed over the years to allow increased freedom of expression in the Olympic Games, while also limiting it so that no group is targeted.<sup>27</sup> Previously the Olympic Charter prohibited any form of political expression, however today it allows athletes to showcase “expressions” prior to the event on the field of play so long as it is not targeting any particular people or nation and not disruptive.<sup>28</sup>

Historically, athletes and countries alike have used the coverage of the Olympic Games to voice political and social messages. The first major case of an athlete protest can be seen in Irish athlete Peter O’Connor climbing the Olympic flagpole with an Irish flag in protest of being considered a British competitor in the 1906 summer games.<sup>29</sup> Additionally, athletes protesting political and social issues can be seen notably in the 1968 Olympics held in Mexico City. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, Olympic medalists Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in support of the movement in the U.S. while on the podium receiving their medals. In response, the US Olympic Committee removed them from the team.

The use of the Olympics for political statements has not been limited to athletes. Countries have repeatedly used the Olympics for geopolitical purposes. At the 1960 Olympics

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<sup>26</sup> Rule 50 Guidelines” (The IOC Athletes’ Commission, 2020).

<https://www.olympics.com/athlete365/app/uploads/2020/12/Rule-50-Guidelines-Tokyo-2020.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> The Regulatory Review and Chui Ling Goh, “Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter and Freedom of Expression,” The Regulatory Review, March 22, 2022,

<https://www.theregreview.org/2022/03/22/goh-rule-50-of-the-olympic-charter-and-freedom-of-expression/>.

<sup>28</sup> See note 27 above.

<sup>29</sup> “Timeline: Politics and Protest at the Olympics,” Council on Foreign Relations, accessed November 29, 2025,

<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/olympics-boycott-protest-politics-history>.

opening ceremony, athletes from Taiwan organized to wear no names on their uniforms after the IOC refused them to participate under the name Republic of China. During the Cold War, after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, the USSR was set to host the 1980 Winter Olympics in Moscow. However, due to their invasion of Afghanistan, the Carter administration in the United States led a campaign to boycott the Winter Olympics. As a result, the U.S. did not send any athletes to the games.<sup>30</sup> More recently, the United States staged a diplomatic boycott, the refusal of participation in international events by a country's government, of the 2022 Winter Olympics hosted by China. This diplomatic boycott was the result of human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region of China, where there is significant evidence of a genocide against the Uyghurs, a Turkish Muslim group. Several other countries joined in the boycott, including Australia, Canada, and the U.K.<sup>31</sup>

The IOC has kept its belief that the Olympics should be a place of political neutrality, as the games are held in an effort to unite the global community rather than to divide it. The IOC is committed to keeping politics out of the Olympic Games; however, it reserves the right for athletes and countries to use the right of freedom of expression, so long as no group is directly targeted.

### *Issue*

As domestic and international issues become more prevalent, the Olympics are inevitably going to become a place where athletes and countries try to leverage the media coverage to promote a targeted message. However, the freedom that athletes have to express such messages can clash with the goals of the IOC to create a place of unity. Oftentimes, when politics are brought into the spotlight, it increases global tensions, working against the goal of the IOC.

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<sup>30</sup> See note 29 above.

<sup>31</sup> Lindsay Maizland, "The Debate over Boycotting the 2022 Beijing Olympics," Council on Foreign Relations, December 6, 2022, <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/debate-over-boycotting-2022-beijing-olympics>.

However, the IOC has previously come under scrutiny for not remaining neutral. In 2022, the International Paralympic Committee banned athletes from Russia and Belarus from competing in the games.<sup>32</sup> Although not directly related to the IOC, the IPC are long-term partners through bilateral agreements. The Russian Paralympics Committee was very critical of the decision, as they believed it to be out of line with the organization's goal of keeping politics out of sports.

Additionally, the IOC banned the Russian Olympic team from competing for four years after a government-sponsored doping scheme was uncovered. As outlined in the Olympic Charter, performance-enhancing drugs are forbidden from the games, and to ensure compliance, athletes are required to participate in drug tests. In 2016 it was discovered that Russian authorities had been manipulating drug testing materials and data to cover doping that was being facilitated by the state. Again, Russia was suspended from participating in the games due to the continued invasion of Ukraine, as it violates the Olympic Charter.<sup>33</sup> The Kremlin was critical of the ban, calling it politically motivated. Russia, in recent years, has been restricted in participating in the games due to doping scandals alongside its geopolitical actions.

The IOC plays a delicate role in ensuring that athletes and countries can express their beliefs while keeping the games apolitical.

### *Guiding Questions*

1. Should the IOC install stricter regulations on political statements at the Olympics?
  - a. By limiting the actions that athletes can take, is freedom of expression being undermined?
2. What role should the Olympics play in geopolitics?

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<sup>32</sup> Associated Press, "Russia and Belarus Fully Reinstated by International Paralympic Committee Vote," CNN, September 27, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/27/europe/paralympic-ban-russia-belarus-lifted-latam-intl>.

<sup>33</sup> Lucia Suarez Sang, "Russian Athletes Allowed to Participate at 2026 Winter Games under Neutral Flag, IOC Says," CBS News, accessed November 29, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-athletes-2026-winter-games-neutral-flag-ioc/>.

- a. Is it appropriate to ban countries from the Olympic Games for geopolitical reasons?
3. How can the IOC provide an outlet for statements to be made without showing political bias?
4. How should the IOC distinguish between political advocacy and expressing support of human rights?



## Countries

1. **Algeria:** Algeria first began participation in the Olympic Games in 1964 and was recognized by the IOC the same year. Since then, the country has participated in 17 Olympic Games.<sup>34</sup> Before the independence of Algeria in 1962, participants competed with the French.<sup>35</sup>
2. **Australia:** Australia has been an active member of the IOC and the Olympic Games since their founding.<sup>36</sup> Over the years, it has participated in 50 summer and winter Olympics and acquired 630 medals.<sup>37</sup> Additionally, Australia has hosted the Olympic Games twice, once in 1956 and again in 2000. Currently, Australia is set to host the 2032 Summer Olympic Games as well.<sup>38</sup>
3. **Brazil:** Brazil became a recognized participant in the Olympic Games in 1935; however, it first sent athletes to the games in 1920.<sup>39</sup> Brazil's athletes have won a total of 170 medals since their joining<sup>40</sup>, and the country was the host of the 2016 Summer Games.<sup>41</sup>
4. **Canada:** Being recognized by the IOC in 1907, Canada has hosted one summer Olympics and two winter games.<sup>42</sup> Over the course of their years participating in the Olympics, their representatives have acquired 578 medals.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> "Algeria," International Olympics Committee, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/algeria>.

<sup>35</sup> "Algeria (ALG)," Olympedia, accessed November 29, 2025, <https://www.olympedia.org/countries/ALG>.

<sup>36</sup> "100 Years of the AOC," Australian Olympic Committee, accessed November 29, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com.au/100-years-of-the-aoc/>.

<sup>37</sup> "Australia," International Olympics Committee, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/australia>.

<sup>38</sup> Ali Asgar Nalwala, "From Melbourne 1956 to Brisbane 2032, Australia's Olympic Legacy," International Olympics Committee, October 30, 2024, <https://www.olympics.com/en/news/how-many-times-australia-olympics-host>.

<sup>39</sup> "Brazil at the Olympics," Wikipedia, November 20, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil_at_the_Olympics).

<sup>40</sup> Comitê Olímpico do Brasil, "Time Brasil Cob, Comitê Olímpico do Brasil, accessed November 29, 2025, <https://www.cob.org.br/time-brasil>.

<sup>41</sup> "Rio 2016 Summer Olympics - Athletes, Medals & Results," Olympics, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/en/olympic-games/rio-2016>.

<sup>42</sup> Cdnolympicteam, "FAQ: What Are the Olympic Games?," Team Canada, April 24, 2019, <https://olympic.ca/2019/02/08/faq-what-are-the-olympic-games/>.

<sup>43</sup> "Canada at the Olympics," Wikipedia, November 26, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics#cite\\_note-r262-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_at_the_Olympics#cite_note-r262-1).

5. **Chile:** Chile gained recognition by the IOC in 1934.<sup>44</sup> Chile has won a total of 15 medals in Olympic games.<sup>45</sup>
6. **China:** Gaining IOC recognition in 1979, the country has hosted the 2008 Summer Games and the 2022 Winter Games. China has also been subject to boycotts. In 2022, the Winter Games were boycotted by the U.S., U.K., France, and Australia.<sup>46</sup>
7. **Colombia:** The state of Colombia was recognized by the IOC in 1948; however, they first formally participated in the games in 1938.<sup>47</sup>
8. **Costa Rica:** Costa Rica has not yet hosted the Olympics but is very active in international environmental sustainability efforts. They were recognized by the IOC in 1936.<sup>48</sup>
9. **Cuba:** Cuba gained recognition by the IOC in 1955.<sup>49</sup> The IOC's Refugee team has had members from Cuba; consequently, Cuba believes that the Refugee team violates the Olympic Charter, as they believe it breaks the apolitical objective of the games.<sup>50</sup>
10. **Egypt:** In 1910 Egypt was formally recognized by the IOC. The country has participated in boycotts and walkouts at the Olympics.<sup>51</sup> Egypt has yet to host the Olympics, although they have considered bids for the 2036 and 2040 Olympic Games.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> "Chile," International Olympics Committee, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/chile>.

<sup>45</sup> "Chile at the Olympics," Wikipedia, December 24, 2024, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chile_at_the_Olympics).

<sup>46</sup> See note 31 above.

<sup>47</sup> "Colombia at the Olympics," Wikipedia, July 17, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombia\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colombia_at_the_Olympics).

<sup>48</sup> "Costa Rica," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 1, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/costa-rica>.

<sup>49</sup> "Cuba," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 1, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/cuba>.

<sup>50</sup> "At the United Nations, Cuba Reiterated Its Strongest Rejection of the Political Manipulation of Refugee Status.," Cuba Diplomacia, November 17, 2025, <https://misiones.cubaminrex.cu/en/articulo/united-nations-cuba-reiterated-its-strongest-rejection-political-manipulation-refugee>.

<sup>51</sup> Steve Cady, "Egypt, Morocco Join Olympic Walkout (Published 1976)," The New York Times, July 21, 1976, <https://www.nytimes.com/1976/07/21/archives/egypt-morocco-join-olympic-walkout-egypt-and-morocco-pull-out-of.html>.

<sup>52</sup> Bjm, "Egypt on Course to Host the 2036 and 2040 Olympic Games: An African Dream in the Making," ANOCA, August 15, 2024, <https://africaolympic.com/en/egypt-on-course-to-host-the-2036-and-2040-olympic-games-an-african-dream-in-the-making/>.

11. **Fiji:** Fiji gained IOC recognition in 1955.<sup>53</sup> This small island nation emphasizes sustainability and in recent years has translated such efforts to the country's tourist industry.<sup>54</sup> The country has not hosted the Olympic Games.
12. **France:** France became a recognized member of the IOC in 1896. The country hosted the 2024 Summer Olympics and made an effort to make the games more sustainable and cut carbon emissions.<sup>55</sup>
13. **Germany:** Recognized by the IOC in 1895, Germany has hosted the Olympic Games on three separate occasions—twice under the Nazi regime and the Summer Olympics in 1972. Germany's hosting of the 1936 Olympics serves as an example of the Games being used by a sovereign nation to spread propaganda.
14. **India:** While still under control of the British Empire in 1927, India was recognized by the IOC.<sup>56</sup> India has never hosted the Olympics but will be bidding to host the summer 2036 games.<sup>57</sup>
15. **Italy:** Gaining recognition from the IOC in 1915, Italy will be hosting the Olympics for the fourth time in 2026.<sup>58</sup>
16. **Jamaica:** Jamaica was recognized by the IOC in 1936.<sup>59</sup> The country has never hosted the Olympics but has acquired a total of 94 medals over the years.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> "Fiji," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 1, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/fiji>.

<sup>54</sup> Travel + Leisure Editors and Madeline Weinfeld, "This Gorgeous Island Nation Is More Popular than Ever—and Now Travelers Can Give Back through Tourism," Travel + Leisure, April 7, 2025, <https://www.travelandleisure.com/fiji-tourism-led-sustainability-loloma-hour-11709257>.

<sup>55</sup> "France," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 1, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/france>.

<sup>56</sup> "India," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/india>.

<sup>57</sup> "India Eyes Hosting 2030 Commonwealth Games as It Bids for 2036 Olympics," Al Jazeera, March 21, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2025/3/21/india-eyes-hosting-2030-commonwealth-games-as-it-bids-for-2036-olympics>.

<sup>58</sup> "Italy at the Olympics," Wikipedia, July 28, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy_at_the_Olympics).

<sup>59</sup> "Jamaica," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/jamaica>.

<sup>60</sup> "Jamaica at the Olympics," Wikipedia, December 20, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamaica_at_the_Olympics).

- 17. Japan:** After being recognized by the IOC in 1912<sup>61</sup> Japan has hosted the Olympics on four separate occasions. Two were Summer Olympics, and the other two games were winter. Japan was forced to navigate hosting the games amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>62</sup>
- 18. Kenya:** Kenya gained recognition from the IOC in 1955.<sup>63</sup> Kenya has participated in politically based boycotts of the Olympic Games in 1976 and 1980.<sup>64</sup>
- 19. Kuwait:** As of 1966 Kuwait has been recognized by the IOC. Kuwait has participated in 12 Summer Olympic Games in total and has yet to host or participate in the Winter Games.<sup>65</sup>
- 20. Mexico:** Hosting the Olympic Games twice since it was recognized by the IOC in 1923.<sup>66</sup> The Summer Olympics held in Mexico City in 1968 is generally regarded as being one of the most politically charged Olympics in the history of the games, with protests in support of the American Civil Rights movement being made.<sup>67</sup>
- 21. Netherlands:** Although having participated in the Olympic Games since 1900, the Netherlands was only formally recognized by the IOC in 1912.<sup>68</sup> The Netherlands previously hosted the Olympic Games in 1928 in Amsterdam.<sup>69</sup>
- 22. Papua New Guinea:** The National Olympics Committee of Papua New Guinea was recognized by the IOC in 1974. Additionally, Papua New Guinea has engaged in political language at the Olympics, as seen by their boycott of the 1980 Games held in Moscow.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> "Japan," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/japan>.

<sup>62</sup> "Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics - Athletes, Medals & Results," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/en/olympic-games/tokyo-2020>.

<sup>63</sup> "Kenya," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/kenya>.

<sup>64</sup> "Kenya at the Olympics," Wikipedia, December 20, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya_at_the_Olympics).

<sup>65</sup> "Kuwait at the Olympics," Wikipedia, December 20, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuwait\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuwait_at_the_Olympics).

<sup>66</sup> "Mexico," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/mexico>.

<sup>67</sup> "Mexico City 1968 Olympic Games" Britannica, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Mexico-City-1968-Olympic-Games>.

<sup>68</sup> "Netherlands," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/netherlands>.

<sup>69</sup> Aisha Villegas, "The 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam - Remembering an Olympics of Firsts," Europeana, July 28, 2021, <https://www.europeana.eu/en/stories/the-1928-olympic-games-in-amsterdam>.

<sup>70</sup> "Papua New Guinea at the Olympics," Wikipedia, August 19, 2024, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papua\\_New\\_Guinea\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papua_New_Guinea_at_the_Olympics).

**23. Qatar:** Qatar’s National Olympic Committee gained recognition from the IOC in 1980.<sup>71</sup>

The country has repeatedly made efforts to involve itself in international sporting events, including hosting the World Cup in 2022. Currently Qatar is bidding to host the 2036 Olympic Games.<sup>72</sup> However the country's hosting of international sporting events remains controversial as the country has been accused of violating human rights.

**24. Russia:** Currently there is not a formally recognized Russia team. Due to both the doping scandal and the action of Russia in the Ukraine war, Russia has not been able to formally send athletes to represent Russia since 2016. Over the past nine years Russian athletes have still been able to compete as Individual Neutral Athletes.<sup>73</sup> Russia has also previously hosted two Olympic Games.

**25. Saudi Arabia:** Becoming formally recognized by the IOC in 1965, Saudi Arabia has only allowed women to participate in the games since 2012.<sup>74</sup>

**26. Senegal:** The National Olympics Committee of Senegal was recognized by the IOC in 1963.<sup>75</sup> Currently, it is set to host the 2026 Summer Youth Olympics.<sup>76</sup> This will make it the first country on the continent of Africa to host an Olympics event.

**27. South Africa:** South Africa was recognized by the IOC in 1991, only after the apartheid was ended. From 1904 to 1962 South Africa sent athletes to the games. They were only forced to stop after the passage of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1761,

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<sup>71</sup> “Qatar,” International Olympics Committee , accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/qatar>.

<sup>72</sup> “Sports in Qatar: Global Events & Excellence,” International Media Office, State of Qatar, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://imo.gov.qa/priorities/sports>.

<sup>73</sup> S. Dev, “What Is ‘Ain’ in the Olympics? Why Russian and Belarusian Athletes Can’t Represent Their Countries,” CBS News, August 2, 2024, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/what-is-ain-olympics-russia-belarus/>.

<sup>74</sup> “Saudi Arabia at the Olympics,” Wikipedia, December 11, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi\\_Arabia\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia_at_the_Olympics).

<sup>75</sup> “Senegal,” International Olympics Committee , accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/senegal>.

<sup>76</sup> “Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG),” International Olympics Committee , accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/en/olympic-games/dakar-2026>.

which prohibited the participation of South Africa in the Olympics due to apartheid policies.<sup>77</sup>

**28. South Korea:** After being recognized by the IOC in 1947, South Korea competed in their first Olympics in 1948. Since then, the country has hosted the Olympics twice: one Summer Olympics in 1988 and a Winter Olympics in 2018.<sup>78</sup>

**29. Switzerland:** Switzerland has sent athletes to the Olympics since its rebirth. The current IOC headquarters are located in Lausanne, Switzerland. Since the IOC's founding, Switzerland has hosted the Olympics twice, once in 1928 and again in 1948.<sup>79</sup>

**30. UAE:** The National Olympics Committee in the UAE was formally recognized in 1980. Recently the UAE hosted the Special Olympics in 2019 in Abu Dhabi.<sup>80</sup>

**31. UK:** Team Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been formally recognized by the IOC since 1905. The United Kingdom has hosted the Summer Olympics on three separate occasions, most recently in 2012.<sup>81</sup> It is also important to note that the UK has participated in political dialogue through the Olympics, including the boycotting of the 1980 Moscow Olympics as previously mentioned.

**32. United States:** The United States has been recognized by the IOC since its beginning in 1894. Currently Team USA is the dominant force at the Olympics, winning more medals than any other country. The US has hosted eight Olympic Games and is expected to host the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, California. Beyond their prevalence in the Olympics, the US has participated in the politicalization of the Olympics through

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<sup>77</sup> "South Africa at the Olympics," Wikipedia, December 3, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Africa\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa_at_the_Olympics).

<sup>78</sup> "Republic of Korea," International Olympics Committee, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/republic-of-korea>.

<sup>79</sup> "Switzerland at the Olympics," Wikipedia, December 16, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland\\_at\\_the\\_Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland_at_the_Olympics).

<sup>80</sup> "Special Olympics: UAE Embassy," Special Olympics | UAE Embassy, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.uae-embassy.org/sports/special-olympics>.

<sup>81</sup> "Great Britain at the Olympics," Britain For Events - Everything You Need to Know, accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.britainforevents.co.uk/great-britain-at-the-olympics/>.

boycotts. In 1980 and in 2022, the U.S. government led boycotts against host countries Russia and China.<sup>82</sup>

**33. Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe was recognized by the IOC in 1980 and has sent athletes to each of the following Summer Olympics. The current president of the IOC, Kirsty Coventry, is from Zimbabwe and competed for the country as a swimmer.<sup>83</sup>



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<sup>82</sup> See note 31 above.

<sup>83</sup> “Mrs Kirsty Coventry,” International Olympics Committee , accessed December 28, 2025, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/mrs-kirsty-coventry>.

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