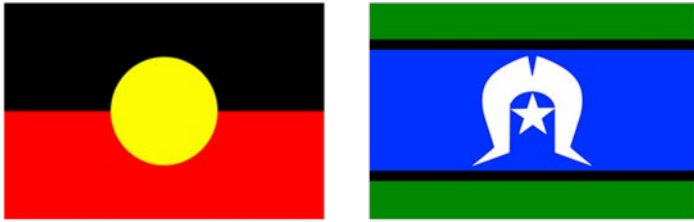


Key Developments in the Evolving Olympic Games Sports Program: Brisbane 2032 and Beyond

We acknowledge support from The Institute for Health and Sport (VU) and University of Queensland



Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge, recognise and respect the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Traditional Owners of University land where our campuses are situated. In Victoria, the Bunurong/Boonwurrung, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung of the Kulin Nation; in Sydney, the Gadigal and Guring-gai of the Eora Nation; and in Brisbane, the Turrbal and Yugara people.

As we share our own knowledge practices within the University, we acknowledge that the land on which we meet, learn and grow is a place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We honour the depth of wisdom held by Aboriginal communities and recognise their enduring connection to Country. Sovereignty has never been ceded.



Dr. Richard Baka
History and Growth
of the Summer Games



Dr. Björn Galjaardt
Current Setting
& New Framework

Agenda

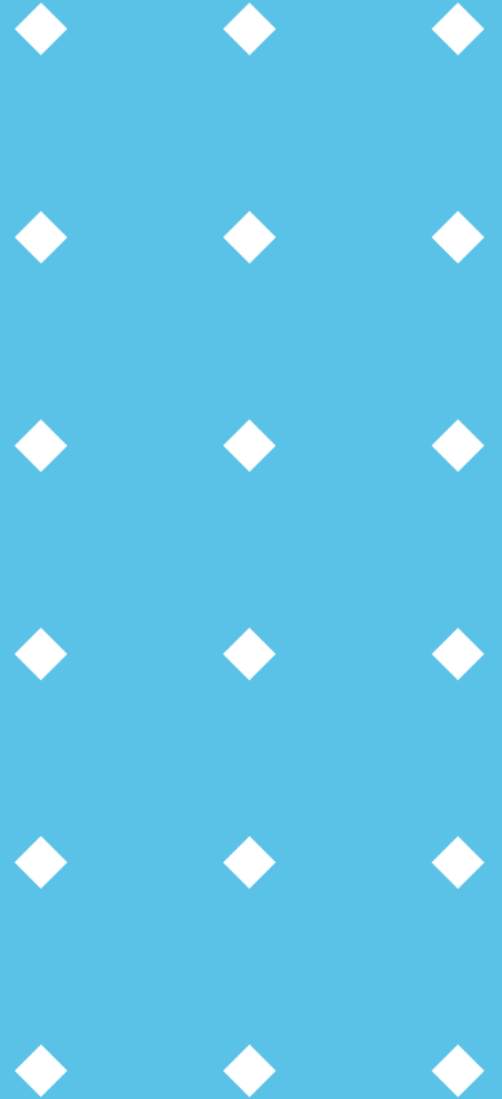
History

Future

Conclusion

Panel discussion

Audience questions



Huge Growth of the Summer Olympics

- 1896 Athens - 14 nations, nine sports, 43 events, 243 male athletes
- 2024 Paris - 206 nations, 32 sports, 329 events & 10,500 athletes with gender parity
- 2028 LA, 10,500 athletes, 5167 males and 5333 females. With quota spots in new sports it is 11,198 5565 females and 5543 males



Growth of the Summer Olympics

- five sports at every summer Games: fencing, cycling, swimming, gymnastics and athletics; last three have many events (e.g. in Paris athletics has 48 events)
- some sports lasted only a brief time, some were “one and done” and there were unusual ones like tug of war, pigeon racing, ballooning & rope climbing



- 60 demonstration sports were trialed until 1992 and 20 remained; Australian Rules Football in 1956 was one of many that did not last

Factors Influencing the Selection Process for New Sports



Important Considerations in the Selection Process

1. Youth appeal and inspiring the next generation (e.g. breakdancing)
2. Innovation and adaptation (e.g. skateboarding with its music vibe and unique fashion)
3. Cultural diversity (e.g. cricket's appeal to the sub-continent, especially India)
4. Popularity (i.e. worldwide profile, athlete-base for both sexes, media, etc.)



Important Considerations in the Selection Process

5. Integrity issues including doping and governance (e.g. boxing)



6. Gender equity (Paris has achieved this and new sports must guarantee a 50-50 ratio)

7. Television appeal and media innovation



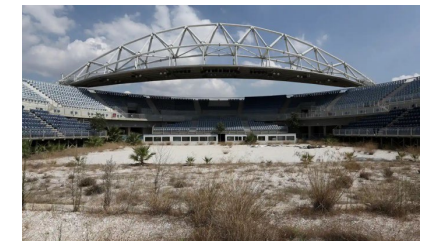
Important Considerations in the Selection Process

8. Corporate Funding and Support



9. Lobbying by the international federations (persistence – squash)

10. Infrastructure costs including legacy and sustainability (**no white elephants**)



11. New IOC policy since 2020/21 allows host cities to recommend preferences



An Arduous IOC Selection Process for a New Sport

1. A sport must gain recognition by the IOC with its IF given provisional or full recognition but this still does not mean it will make it on the sports programme (e.g. 10 pin bowling)
2. Sport must then apply for admittance by filing a petition establishing its criteria of eligibility to the IOC



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

An Arduous IOC Selection Process for a New Sport

3. IOC Programme Commission evaluates all of this information including the preferences of the host city and provides a report to the IOC Executive Board; it can be recommended to be a new sport or a discipline or event within a current Olympic sport; a new sport is not guaranteed inclusion at future Games

4. Board assesses the report & makes a recommendation to the IOC membership who vote



New Sports and Events



New Sports and Events



New Sports and Events

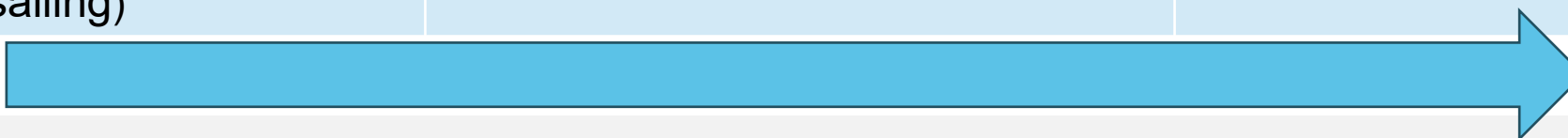


New Sports and Events



New Sports and Events

Tokyo 2021	Paris 2024	LA 2028
• Surfing • Sport climbing • Skateboarding • 3 x 3 basketball (as a new event) • Karate (then cancelled for Paris) • Baseball & Softball (in the Games previously; not in Paris but in LA) • Mixed events (18 in Tokyo: relays in triathlon, athletics, swimming; changes in shooting, archery, badminton, tennis, equestrian, sailing)	• Kept Skateboarding, Surfing & Sport climbing, • Breakdancing - new sport, not in LA • Mixed team walking – new event not in LA • Kiteboarding- new event • Kayak cross- new event • Men allowed in team synchronized swimming	• Flag football • Squash • Cricket (T20) • Lacrosse • Beach sprint rowing • Baseball & Softball (back from 2020 Tokyo Games)



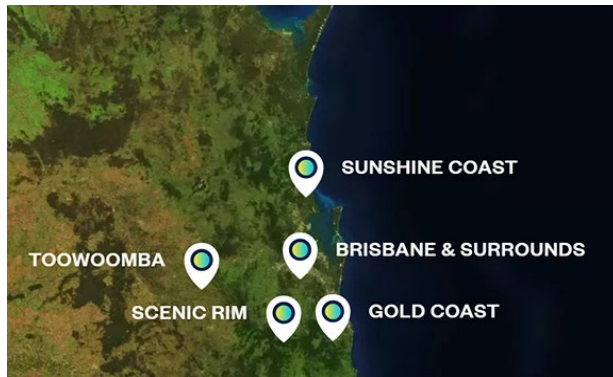
Expectations and Predictions for New Sports at the Brisbane 2032 Games

Favourites*	Maybe's	Long shots
<u>LA Additions</u> • Cricket • Lacrosse • Flag Football • Baseball/softball • Squash • Beach Sprint Rowing <u>Tokyo Additions</u> • Sport climbing • Surfing • Skateboarding	• Netball • Surf Lifesaving • Boxing	• Pickleball • Motor Sports • Muay Thai • 10 pin bowling • Lawn bowls • Wushu • Karate • Sambo • MMA (mixed martial arts)

**Recent Olympic Sports Likely to be retained or added*

Can the Games Expand & Admit More Sports

1. Regionalise the Games further beyond the host city; doing this already but it could be expanded further (World Cup in 2026 is using three countries and a number of cities); would permit more sports to be added



2. Reduce events in some sports & limit the number of countries in team sports

3. Expand (e.g., >19 days as Paris 2024), shared venues.

4. Cull traditional sports **IOC has a new framework, which is not expansion friendly*

Latest updates I



- From 'new' sports to more classic disciplines, modern pentathlon has long been singled out as vulnerable, and canoe slalom remains tethered to a highly specialised venue. The sports added for Los Angeles will have to earn their continuity..

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/brisbane-2032-coventry-cleans-up-disciplines-returns-in-future> (28/5/26)

- "For 2030 Winter Games: no crossover sports, no summer sports", stated Coventry, IOC have already decided that no summer sport and no all-season sport will be included. It will only be snow and ice".

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/game-on-for-ioc-on-fit-for-the-future-plan> (10/5/26)

- IOC will have sports presented by end of 2026, and confirmed by the IOC meeting at the start of 2027 for Brisbane 2032

https://www.theaustralian.com.au/sport/ioc-opens-door-for-brisbane-2032-to-have-say-in-olympic-program/news-story/710bf58de45a4635194daa92ed8decba?utm_source=chatgpt.com (11/6/26)

Latest updates II

- Fit for the Future: New Olympic programme methodology approved.

1. Disciplines

- *Incumbent disciplines, already included in an Olympic Games*
- *Candidate disciplines, which are not part of that edition's programme.*

DISCIPLINE DEFINITION

An Olympic discipline is one or more events within a sport that require either a dedicated field of play or a significant modification of a shared field of play with another Olympic discipline, generally involving a separate group of athletes.

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK THEMES

- 01 Integrity, Fairness, Sustainability and Safety
- 02 Global Appeal
- 03 Cost and Complexity
- 04 Athlete Participation
- 05 Host Country Context

2. A three-stage evaluation framework

<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/news/fit-for-the-future-new-olympic-programme-methodology-approved-to-shape-more-relevant-flexible-and-sustainable-olympic-games> (26/6/2026)

Latest updates III

3. Transparent timelines 7, 6 and 5 years.

4. Additional disciplines from the Organising Committee

- Organising Committees will have the possibility to propose a maximum of four additional disciplines for the Summer Games and two for the Winter Games.

- Select from Recognised IFs that are either new to the Olympic programme or govern disciplines within sports already included in the programme – subject to defined limits and full cost responsibility.



<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/news/fit-for-the-future-new-olympic-programme-methodology-approved-to-shape-more-relevant-flexible-and-sustainable-olympic-games> (26/6/2026)

Conclusions

- Despite a new framework with some flexibility, the IOC has a difficult task admitting new sports and finalising the sports programme for each Olympics
- A number of sports are disappointed when not admitted as it is a very competitive field
- New sports like skateboarding can breathe fresh life into the Olympic movement ensuring its relevance and appeal – however, also uncertainty for the athletes and a new Olympic cycle



Conclusions

- Youth friendly sports are favoured; IOC uses YOG and regional games to trial sports e.g. 3 x 3 basketball
- Gender equality is vital with an increase of womens' and mixed events
- Sports program issues also applies to the winter games with ongoing challenges with weather, venues, and decentralisation, e.g., speedskating in 2030 (Netherlands). *new framework for the winter games starting for 2034.
- New policy of host city input is an excellent move ensuring popular sports are included in host city/region/country



Thank you



Key Developments in the Evolving Olympic Games Sports Program: Brisbane 2032 and Beyond

Panel Discussion



Panel Members



Professor Tracy Taylor (VU)



Professor John Cairney (UQ)



David Culbert (AOC)

Facilitators



Dr. Richard Baka



Dr. Björn Galjaardt