

MODERN OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

OCCURRENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

(1894 – 1944)

The first occurrence of the Olympic Games was in Greece in the mid-19th century. In 1859, 1870, 1875, and 1889 in Athens were held competitions in running, jumping, throwing, gymnastics, etc., in which Greek athletes participated.

During this period, the rapid development of international, cultural, and economic relations also affects the development of sports. The first international sports associations were established with the participation of athletes from different countries. With the emergence of sports in the international arena, there is a need for large complex competitions and international sports movements. Under these conditions, the French public figure Pierre de Coubertin (1863–1973) proposed the resumption of the Olympic Games. Believing that the ideas of the Olympic movement will inspire humanity with a "spirit of freedom, peaceful competition, and physical improvement" and will help the cultural cooperation of peoples.



In 1889, the French Ministry of Education commissioned Pierre de Coubertin to organize an international sports congress to discuss current issues in physical education. The congress was held in 1894 in Paris with the participation of representatives of sports organizations from 12 countries (including Bulgaria). After hearing the report of P. de Coubertin and getting acquainted with the organizational foundations of the Olympic movement developed by him, the Congress decided to resume the Olympic Games, to hold the first Olympic Games in 1896 in Greece, and to establish a governing body of the Olympic movement - International Olympic Committee (IOC). As a sign of respect for the homeland of the Olympic Games, the representative of Greece Demetrius Vikalas was elected the first president of the IOC, and Coubertin was elected General Secretary. But as early as 1896, Coubertin was elected president of the IOC, which he headed until 1925. He was a historian by profession and had extraordinary organizational talent, extensive knowledge in the field of sports and physical education, thanks to which he actively contributed to the development of the International Olympic Movement.

Art competitions - cultural festivals. At the beginning of the modern Olympic Games, at the suggestion of Coubertin, made in 1906, the introduction of competitions in the arts was proposed: poetry, literature, sculpture, architecture, and painting. Initially, the plan was to hold such a competition in Rome in 1908, but the city refused to hold the Games a year before the Olympic Games. That is why the organizers of the London Games do not have the opportunity to implement Coubertin's idea. The first art competitions were held in Stockholm in 1912. The immortal Ode to Sports, which then won an Olympic gold medal because it expressed the values of Olympism in a full poetic way, was also associated with the holding of art competitions in 1912. The author of this work is Georges Oro - a pseudonym of Pierre de Coubertin. Until World War II, such competitions were held at all games. In one of these competitions in 1936, the team "Bulgarian wrist" led by Boris Tsonev won an Olympic gold medal. After the Second World War, the organizers of the Olympic Games replaced these competitions with cultural festivals, exhibitions, youth camps, and meetings of artists who present their work related to human values and sports. These festivals present the cultural features of the host country. Due to the difficulties of holding accompanying cultural events, the IOC, in the middle of the

twentieth century, redirected efforts to link the arts with sports to the opening and closing ceremonies of the games.

The Olympic Games ceremonies are of particular importance for the promotion of the Olympic principles. Their author is again Pierre de Coubertin. Through the Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremony, he seeks to manifest the sublime religious spirit of Olympism, taking as an example the pagan ceremonies at Olympia in antiquity in honor of Zeus. Unlike today, in the ancient Olympic Games, everything was religious ceremonies and ceremonies, including competitions. In its current form, the Olympic Ceremony was established in 1920. It includes the *opening ceremony of the Games, the award ceremony of the winners, and the closing ceremony of the Games*. Of all of them, the greatest attention is paid to that of their discovery.

The Olympic Charter is the statute of the Olympic Games, the foundations of which, at the suggestion of P. de Coubertin, were approved by an international sports congress in Paris in June 1894, subsequently several additions and clarifications were made in this document, as the main provisions of the OC over the years have not changed significantly.

The Olympic Charter is a codification of the fundamental principles of Olympism, of the rules and regulations adopted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). It determines the organization, activities, and actions of the Olympic Movement and the conditions for the celebration of the Olympic Games. In essence, the Olympic Charter serves three main purposes:

- ✓ It is a basic instrument of a constitutional nature, defining and repealing the fundamental principles and the most important values of Olympism.
- ✓ Serves as the statute of the International Olympic Committee.
- ✓ Defines the main reciprocal rights and obligations of the three main constituent bodies of the Olympic movement: the International Olympic Committee; International Federations and National Olympic Committees; The Organizing Committees for the Olympic Games. They should all abide by the Olympic Charter.

THE OLYMPIC SYMBOLS, HYMN, AND OATH



The Olympic Games logo consists of five equal size circles, which are intertwined from left to right (blue, black, and red are located at the top, yellow and green - at the bottom, according to the following graphic reproduction). These circles express the activity of the Olympic movement and represent the union of the five continents and the meeting of athletes from all over the world at the Olympic Games. The emblem is accompanied by the motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius" ("Faster, higher, stronger"). Each Olympics has its distinctive symbol, which is combined with the five Olympic rounds.



The Olympic flag is white - a symbol of peace with the Olympic emblem placed in the middle, singing parallel circles. In 1913, Pierre de Coubertin came up with the idea of a symbol that was best associated with the Olympic Games. Each circle corresponds to one of the five continents. Although there are seven continents, Antarctica is excluded, and North and South America are united in one. The connection of the circles symbolizes the unification of the continents during the games and the idea of peace and brotherhood of the whole planet. The flag of the modern Olympic Games was first hoisted at the Antwerp Games in 1920.



Olympic fire - The flame of the Olympic fire is ignited in the area of Olympus, Greece in the same way as in ancient times with the help of parabolic mirrors reflecting the sun's rays. The place is not accidental - this is how the connection between the ancient and modern Olympic Games is observed. The Olympic flame first appeared in the modern era in Amsterdam in 1928. Since 1934, the International Olympic Committee has introduced a torchlight procession with the Olympic flame. In 1936 the first

relay race was held with him. The initiator of the idea is sports theorist Carl Diem. The torch-moving ceremony, starting with the lighting of the fire in the area of Olympia (Greece), passes relay through many countries to the arrival in the host city. This symbolizes the strong connection between the ancient Olympic villages and modern Olympic cities.



Olympic Anthem - For the opening ceremony of the first edition of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 in Athens, Greece, a specially written song was played, adopted as the anthem of the Games. In subsequent editions, the organizing committees of each host country commissioned various musicians to compose an Olympic anthem, but in 1958, at the 54th session of the IOC in Tokyo, Japan, the anthem of Spiridon Samaras and Costis Palama was declared the official Olympic anthem. and was performed in English at the 1960 Winter Olympics in the Scuo Valley. From then until now, this anthem has been played during the opening ceremony - at the raising of the Olympic flag, and during the closing ceremony - at its lowering.

The Olympic oath was first pronounced in Antwerp in 1920. It was taken by the water polo and fencing athlete from the host country, Victor Buen, during the official opening. He was accompanied by an Olympic flag bearer: "On behalf of all athletes, I promise to present ourselves as loyal athletes who respect the rules and participate with a chivalrous spirit for the glory of the sport and the honor of our teams."

CHRONICLE OF THE GAMES

RESUMPTION OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES (1896 - 1916)

№	Date	Location	Countries	Participants	
				Total	Female
1	Apr. 6-15, 1896	Athens (Greece)	14	311	
2	May 14 – Oct. 28, 1900	Paris (France)	22	1319	11
3	July 1 – Oct. 29, 1904	Saint Louis (USA)	12	681	6
-*	Apr. 22 – May 2, 1906	Athens (Greece)	18	868	6
4	Apr. 27 – Oct. 31, 1908	London (England)	22	2035	36
5	May 5 – July 27, 1912	Stockholm (Sweden)	28	2547	48
6*	1916	Berlin (Germany)	Not held		

-* – Greece is holding this race on its initiative. Therefore, these games remain unclear because they are not recognized by the IOC and are not under their auspices. It was not until 1948 that the IOC Commission decided to name it the Interim Olympic Games.

6* – On June 28, 1914, the Austro-Hungarian heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo, marking the beginning of the First World War, the reason for not holding the Games.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS (1920-1944)

№	Date	Location	Countries	Participants	
				Total	Female
7	Apr. 23 – Sept. 12, 1920	Antwerp (Belgium)	29	2607	64
8	May 4 – July 27, 1924	Paris (France)	44	3092	136
9	May 17 – Aug. 12, 1928	Amsterdam (Netherlands)	46	2724	290
10	July 30 – Aug. 14, 1932	Los Angeles (USA)	37	1458	127
11	Aug. 1-16, 1936	Berlin (Germany)	46	4397	328
12*	1940	Tokyo (Japan)	Not held		
13*	1944	London (England)	Not held		

12* & 13* – In 1938, Tokyo (Japan) refused to host the Games, but the idea of holding them in Helsinki (Finland) did not succeed either, due to the outbreak of World War II, which also hampered the 1944 London Olympics.

WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES (1924 -1944)

The Swede Victor Gustav Balk is the main organizer of a winter race called the Northern Games, which was first held in 1901. In its first two editions, they were held every two years - until 1905, and then every four years. Balk is also a member of the IOC and expresses his views and ideas for organizing and holding the Winter Olympics. He managed to realize part of his idea by including figure skating in the program for the Summer Olympics in London in 1908. At a meeting of the IOC, the Italian Eugenio Bruneta proposed for the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912, to organize a "Week of Winter Sports". The hosts refused to hold and relied on the lack of specific winter facilities. They, in turn, want to keep the Nordic Games as a major international event. Such a "Winter Sports Week" was planned for the Olympic Games in 1916 in Berlin, but unfortunately, they were not held, the reason was the outbreak of World War I.

At the first post-war Olympics in Antwerp in 1920, figure skating and ice hockey competitions were held. At the next IOC Congress, its members decided that the host of the 1924 Summer Olympics, France, would organize a "Winter Sports Week," so Chamonix hosted the 11-day competition. The races are a great success. This led to the long-awaited moment and in 1925 the IOC undertook the organization of winter games after the summer and those of 1924. held in Chamonix were announced and called - the First Winter Olympics. In its history, two consecutive Winter Olympics were not held in the period 1940-1944 due to the devastating World War II.

№	Date	Location	Countries	Participants	
				Total	Female
1	Jan.25 – Feb. 5, 1924	Chamonix (France)	16	258	13
2	Feb. 11-19, 1928	Saint Moritz (Switzerland)	25	464	26
3	Feb. 4-15, 1932	Lake Placid (USA)	17	252	21
4	Feb. 6-16, 1936	Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany)	28	668	80
5*	1940	Sapporo (Japan)	Not held		
6*	1944	Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy)	Not held		

5* & 6* – World War II was also an obstacle to the holding of the Winter Olympics planned for 1940 and 1944.

The Olympic Games at all times in human history have been, are, and will be the world's most spectacular sporting event uniting all nations. In support of these words, we will quote Professor Lozan Mitev (2016): *“Olympic values represent the hidden spiritual and moral power of sport, which ennobles the personality of the athlete and turns the sports competition into a worthy test of valor and philanthropy. The noble spirit of athletics in sports makes it a powerful cultural and educational factor for the full education and development of youth and therefore from antiquity to today, competition based on moral values is a source of social progress and development in societies. The manifestation of the noble principles in the competitions, which today we call by the generalized name **Olympic principles**, is a universal phenomenon in human culture manifested in all cultures and peoples in different forms. **The contribution of the founder** of the modern Olympic movement, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, was that he succeeded in uniting them in one movement and one common ideal. Thanks to this ideal, the Olympic Games for a little over 100 years have made the sport attractive to young people around the*

world. The Olympic Games are one of the great symbols of the European cultural heritage and to our pride, Bulgaria is one of the few countries whose sports culture is so closely connected with the Olympic ideal and the athletic spirit over the centuries. Both in antiquity and in our time, the achievements of our ancestors were part of the sports culture of Europe and the world.”

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