

Facts about the Olympic Games

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

Opening Ceremony: August 8, 2008

Closing Ceremony: August 24, 2008

Sports: 28

Events: 302

Athletes: 10,708

Torch: The torch for the 2008 Olympic Games is 72 cm (28.3 in) high, weighs 985 g (2.1 lb) and is made of aluminum. The torch has been produced to withstand winds of up to 65 km/hr (40 mph).

List of Competition Venues – In Beijing

Venues	Location	Games
National Stadium	Olympic Green	Athletics and Football
National Aquatics Center	Olympic Green	Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronized Swimming
National Indoor Stadium	Olympic Green	Artistic Gymnastics, Trampolines and Handball
Beijing Shooting Range Hall	Shijingshan District	Shooting
Wukesong Indoor Stadium	Wukesong Sports Center, Haidian District	Basketball
Laoshan Velodrome	Laoshan, Shijingshan District	Cycling (track)
Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park	Mapo Village, Shunyi District	Rowing and Canoe/Kayak (flat-water racing and Slalom Racing)
China Agricultural University Gymnasium	China Agricultural University (East Campus), Haidian District	Wrestling
Peking University Gymnasium	Peking University, Handian District	Table Tennis
Beijing Science and Technology University Gymnasium	Beijing Science and Technology University, Haidian District	Judo and Taekwondo
Beijing University of Technology Gymnasium	Beijing University of Technology, Chaoyang District	Badminton and Rhythmic Gymnastics
Olympic Sports Center Stadium	Olympic Sports Center, Chaoyang District	Football and Modern Pentathlon (running and equestrian)
Olympic Sports Center Gymnasium	Olympic Sports Center, Chaoyang District	Handball
Workers' Stadium	Gongti Lu, Chaoyang District	Football

Workers' Indoor Arena	Gongti Lu, Chaoyang District	Boxing
Capital Indoor Stadium	Baishi Bridge, Haidian District	Volleyball
Fengtai Softball Field	Fengtai Sports Center, Fengtai District	Softball
Ying Tung Natatorium	Olympic Sports Center, Chaoyang District	Water Polo and Modern Pentathlon (swimming)
Laoshan Mountain Bike Course	Laoshan, Shijingshan District	Cycling (Mountain Bike)
Beijing Shooting Range Clay Target Field	Xiangshan Nan Lu, Haidian District	Shooting
Beijing Institute of Technology Gymnasium	Beijing Institute of Technology, Haidian District	Volleyball
Beihang University Gymnasium	Beihang University, Haidian District	Weightlifting
Fencing Gymnasium	Olympic Green	Fencing preliminaries and finals and Modern Pentathlon (fencing and
Hockey Field	Olympic Green	Hockey
Archery Field	Olympic Green	Archery
Tennis Center	Olympic Green	Tennis
Wukesong Baseball Field	Wukesong Sports Center, Haidian District	Baseball
Beach Volleyball Ground	Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District	Beach Volleyball
BMX Field	Laoshan, Shijingshan District	Cycling(BMX)
Triathlon Venue	Ming Tomb Reservoir	Triathlon
Urban Road Cycling Course	TBD	Cycling(Road Race)

List of Competition Venues – Outside of Beijing

Venues	Location	Games
Hong Kong Equestrian Venueses	Hong Kong	Equestrian
Qingdao International Sailing Centre	Qingdao	Sailing
Qinhuangdao Olympic Sports Centre Stadium	Qinhuangdao	Soccer Preliminary
Shanghai Stadium	Shanghai	Soccer Preliminary
Tianjin Olympic Centre Stadium	Tianjin	Soccer Preliminary
Shenyang Wulihe Stadium	Shenyang	Soccer Preliminary

Olympic Games

Olympic Rings: Created in 1913, added to Olympic flag in 1920. Rings represent five original continents: Africa, America (North & South), Asia, Australia and Europe. The flag of each competing nation has at least one of the colors of the rings: blue, black, red, yellow and green.

Olympic Motto: Citius, Altius, Fortius (Swifter, Higher, Stronger)

Olympic Oath: Originated in 1920. At the Opening Ceremonies, one athlete from each country takes the oath on behalf of all athletes. The oath reads:

In the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams.

Olympic Hymn, written in 1896:

Ancient Immortal Spirit, chaste Father
Of all that is Beauty, Grandeur and Truth
Descending appear with Thy presence
Illuminate Thine Earth and the Heavens.

Shine upon noble endeavors wrought
at the Games on Track and in the Field.
Crown with thy eternal evergreen branch
The bodies, making them stronger and worthy.

Dale, Mount and Ocean, with Thy Light,
Is a white a purple temple, brighten!
To thine Temple, to Thy Worship, come all.
Oh! Ancient Eternal Spirit!

Medals:

The last completely gold, gold medals were awarded in 1912. Today, they are 92.5% silver, with six grams of gold coating. The host city designs the medals.

History of the Games:

The first Winter Olympic Games were held in 1924 – 25 years after the first modern Olympic Games. Women were allowed to participate in 1900. The games were cancelled in 1916, 1940, and 1944.

Past Olympic events: Cricket, Croquet, Golf, Jeu de paume, Lacrosse, Motor boating, Pelote basque, Polo, Rackets, Rink-hockey, Roque, Rugby, Tug-of-war, Water skiing