

## Chapter - 1

The modern **Olympic Games** or **Olympics** (French: *Jeux olympiques*)<sup>[a][1]</sup> are the leading international sporting events featuring summer and [winter sports](#) competitions in which thousands of [athletes](#) from around the world participate in a [variety of competitions](#). The Olympic Games are considered the world's foremost sports competition with more than 200 teams, representing sovereign states and territories participating; by default the Games generally substitute for any World Championships the year in which they take place (however, each class usually maintains their own records).<sup>[2]</sup> The Olympic Games are held every [four years](#); since [1994](#), they have been alternated between the [Summer](#) and [Winter Olympics](#) every two years during the four-year period.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

Their creation was inspired by the [ancient Olympic Games](#), held in [Olympia, Greece](#) from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. [Baron Pierre de Coubertin](#) founded the [International Olympic Committee](#) (IOC) in 1894, leading to the first modern Games in [Athens](#) in 1896. The IOC is the governing body of the [Olympic Movement](#), which encompasses all entities and individuals involved in the Olympic Games. The [Olympic Charter](#) defines their structure and authority.

The evolution of the Olympic Movement during the 20th and 21st centuries has resulted in numerous changes to the Olympic Games. Some of these adjustments include the creation of the Winter Olympic Games for snow and ice sports, the [Paralympic Games](#) for athletes with disabilities, the [Youth Olympic Games](#) for athletes aged 14 to 18, the five Continental games ([Pan American](#), [African](#), [Asian](#), [European](#), and [Pacific](#)), and the [World Games](#) for sports that are not contested in the Olympic Games. The IOC also endorses the [Deaflympics](#) and the [Special Olympics](#). The [IOC](#) has needed to adapt to a variety of economic, political, and technological advancements. The [abuse of amateur rules](#) by the [Eastern Bloc](#) nations prompted the IOC to shift away from pure [amateurism](#), as envisioned by Coubertin, to the acceptance of [professional athletes](#) participating at the Games. The growing importance of mass media has created the issue of [corporate sponsorship](#) and general commercialisation of the Games. World Wars [I](#) and [II](#) led to the cancellation of the [1916](#), [1940](#), and [1944](#) Olympics; large-scale boycotts during the [Cold War](#) limited participation in the [1980](#) and [1984](#) Olympics;<sup>[5]</sup> and the [2020](#) Olympics were postponed until 2021 as a result of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).