

= Great Britain at the 2008 Summer Olympics =

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland competed as Great Britain at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing , China . The United Kingdom was represented by the British Olympic Association (BOA) , and the team of selected athletes was officially known as Team GB . Britain is one of only five NOCs to have competed in every modern Summer Olympic Games since 1896 . The delegation of 547 people included 311 competitors ? 168 men , 143 women ? and 236 officials . The team was made up of athletes from the whole United Kingdom including Northern Ireland (whose people may elect to hold Irish citizenship and are able to be selected to represent either Great Britain or Ireland at the Olympics) . Additionally some British overseas territories compete separately from Britain in Olympic competition .

Great Britain 's medal performance at the 2008 Summer Olympics was its best in a century ; only its performance at the 1908 Summer Olympics , which Britain hosted in London , resulted in more gold medals being awarded . The total medal count , 47 , is also the third highest Great Britain has ever achieved , with only the 1908 and the 2012 Games resulting in more medals .

Great Britain finished 4th overall in the medal tables , a target previously set by UK Sport , the public body responsible for distributing funding to elite sport , for the 2012 Games . UK Sport considered whether to target 3rd place in the 2012 Games , which was hosted by the United Kingdom in London .

Because London was the host city of the 2012 Summer Olympics , a segment of their culture was performed during the closing ceremony .

= = Medallists = =

The following British competitors won medals at the Games , all dates are August 2008 . In the ' by discipline ' sections below , medallists ' names are in bold .

= = = Multiple medallists = = =

The following Team GB competitors won multiple medals at the 2008 Olympic Games .

= = Targets = =

In June 2008 , UK Sport , which distributes National Lottery funding to elite sport , published its expectations for the Games . It identified 41 potential medals to target and expected to win 35 of them , including 10 to 12 gold medals and to finish 8th in the overall medal table . Team GB exceeded the gold medal expectations on 19 August when Paul Goodison earned Britain 's 13th gold medal in the men 's Laser class . The minimum medal target , of 35 medals , was passed on 20 August when they claimed their 36th medal ? a bronze in the women 's RS : X , won by Bryony Shaw . The total medal target was equalled when canoeist Tim Brabants took gold in the men 's 1000 m K @-@ 1 claiming Britain 's 41st physical medal (three further medals were guaranteed in boxing at the time) . They later exceeded the total number of targeted medals when Heather Fell secured the silver in women 's modern pentathlon .

It should be noted that the medals claimed were not all ones that had been targeted , with Team GB falling short of targets in some disciplines whilst exceeding them in others . Nine out of seventeen disciplines met their targets . The British cyclists , for example doubled their medal target on 19 August when Victoria Pendleton won Britain 's 12th cycling medal , a gold in the women 's sprint . A further two medals were already guaranteed at this stage in the men 's individual sprint , where gold and silver were soon won by Chris Hoy and Jason Kenny respectively . In all Team GB won seven of the ten gold medals up for grabs at the velodrome . The swimmers also managed to double the targeted number of medals in their sport when David Davies won the team 's sixth swimming medal ? a silver medal in the men 's 10 km open water marathon on 21 August . Despite the men 's and women 's archery teams having come second and third respectively at the 2007

world championships , British archers were unable to win either of their targeted medals . This led to criticism of the tactics used by head coach Peter Suk from members of the team .

= = Archery = =

At the 2007 World Outdoor Target Championships , Great Britain 's men 's team placed second and its women 's team placed third . This qualified the nation to send full teams of three men and three women to the Olympics .

Men

Women

= = Athletics = =

The initial squad was selected for the British team on 14 July ; however , the final team was not confirmed until the outcome of a court case involving Dwain Chambers . Under the rules of the BOA , Chambers had been banned from future Games after testing positive for the steroid THG in 2003 . His appeal to overturn that ban , on the grounds that it was an unfair restraint of trade , failed and he was omitted from the squad . The team included former Olympic medal winners Marlon Devonish and Kelly Sotherton , as well as former Olympic individual finalists Joanne Pavey , Paula Radcliffe , Helen Clitheroe and Tasha Danvers . Women 's marathon world record holder Paula Radcliffe faced a battle to be fit for the Games due to a stress fracture in her left thigh . She eventually proved fit enough to start the race but struggled to finish in 23rd position .

A total of four medals were won , one gold , two silver and one bronze . UK Athletics performance director Dave Collins stood down after the Games . This was due in part to the team 's failure to meet the UK Sport target of winning five medals ,

Key

Note ? Ranks given for track events are within the athlete 's heat only