

## = American Samoa at the 2008 Summer Olympics =

American Samoa sent a team to the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing , China . The U.S. territory selected four athletes to compete in three sports : swimming , athletics and judo . The dependency 's participation in Beijing marked its seventh participation in any Olympic game since its debut at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul , and its sixth participation at any Summer Olympic games . Of the four American Samoan athletes who participated in Beijing , all four were first @-@ time Olympians and born outside of American Samoa and none of the four advanced past the qualification or preliminary rounds of their events . More women participated in the 2008 American Samoan Olympic delegation than in any one delegation in its Olympic history . Judoka Silulu A 'etonu was the territory 's flagbearer at the ceremonies .

## = = Background = =

American Samoa is a territory of the United States that lies in the South Pacific Ocean to the far east of Australia . The dependency 's debut at the Olympics was at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul . Between 1988 and 2008 , American Samoa sent a delegation to participate at seven Olympic games ( six Summer Olympics and one Winter Olympics ) , not missing a single Summer Olympics since its first time in the competition . In 2008 , American Samoa 's delegation was composed of four athletes , including two women , which is the greatest number of women to have competed for American Samoa at any one games .

Silulu A 'etonu , a first @-@ time Olympian and a judoka , was American Samoa 's flagbearer at the ceremonies .

## = = Athletics = =

Nineteen @-@ year @-@ old Los Angeles area @-@ born athlete Shanahan Sanitoa participated on American Samoa 's behalf at the Beijing Olympics . He was the only American Samoan Olympian involved in any track and field event . Also , his appearance in Beijing marked the first time he appeared in an Olympic games . He participated in the fifth heat during the August 14 qualification round , completing the event in 12 @.@ 60 seconds and placing last in his heat of eight athletes . Danny D 'Souza of the Seychelles ranked just ahead of Sanitoa ( 11 @.@ 00 seconds ) . The leaders of Sanitoa 's heat included the United States ' Tyson Gay ( 10 @.@ 22 seconds ) and Nigeria 's Olusoji Fasuba ( 10 @.@ 29 seconds ) . Overall , the American Samoan runner ranked last out of the 80 athletes who participated in the qualification round . He did not progress to later rounds .

Key

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