

= Afghanistan at the 2002 Asian Games =

Afghanistan participated in the 2002 Asian Games held in Busan , South Korea , from September 29 to October 14 , 2002 . This marked Afghanistan 's return to international sporting events after the fall of the Taliban regime . The Afghan delegation consisted of 12 officials ( 11 men and one woman ) and 44 competitors ( 40 men and four women ) participating in seven different sports . The Afghanistan national football team played its first international match since the 1984 AFC Asian Cup qualification phase . An English teacher from Kabul , Roia Zamani , won a bronze medal in the 72 kg middleweight class of taekwondo without winning a single match . Zamani was the only medalist from the Afghan side and the first Afghan medalist in 20 years . None of the remaining athletes advanced past the qualifying stages , and as such did not win any medals .

= = Background = =

Afghanistan is a member of the South Asian zone of the Olympic Council of Asia , and has competed in the Asian Games since the inaugural edition of the Games in 1951 in New Delhi . On September 26 , 1996 , the Taliban annexed the Kabul and established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan . Under the Taliban regime all types of sporting activities were deprecated , as according to the Taliban , most of them were against the teachings of Islam and Islamic law . Many stadiums , like Ghazi Stadium of Kabul , were either destroyed or converted into venues for public executions and punishments . Women were banned from taking part in any type of sport ; male athletes were allowed to participate in a few sports , but were forced to wear long sleeves , trousers and beards . Following such incidents and discrimination against women , the International Olympic Committee ( IOC ) banned Afghanistan National Olympic Committee and barred them from taking part in the Olympic Games .

A few months before the 2000 Summer Olympics , the IOC offered the Afghanistan National Olympic Committee the opportunity to send a contingent to the Games without the Taliban flag . The Committee declined to take part on this condition .

Afghanistan did not send any delegation to the 1998 Asian Games held in Bangkok , Thailand , due to economic difficulties . Laws implemented by the Taliban government also made it impossible for Afghan athletes to compete . For example , the International Boxing Association ( AIBA ) does not allow players to have beards and mustaches , but Afghan males were forbidden to cut their facial hair . Afghanistan returned to the Asian Games after the fall of the Taliban government in the midst of ongoing war . In June 2003 , the IOC lifted the suspension imposed on Afghanistan during the 115th IOC Session in Prague .

= = Delegation = =

The delegation of Afghanistan for the 14th edition of the Asian Games was composed of 12 officials ( 11 men and one woman ) and 44 competitors ( 40 men and four women ) participating in seven different sports ? boxing , cycling , football , karate , shooting , taekwondo and wrestling .

= = Boxing = =

Six Afghan pugilists went to the Games , competing in six out of the 12 boxing events . No Afghan competitor made it past the preliminary stages of competition . Three ? Dawood Mahmoode ( light flyweight ) , Rohullah Mustafa ( flyweight ) and Tamim Ahmed Akhtari ( lightweight ) ? out of six boxers lost after RSCO ( Referee Stopped Contest ? Outclassed Opponent ) . Abdullah Shekib retired during his bout against Kazakhstani Gennady Golovkin . Sadeq Naqshbande lost to Sergey Rychko of Kazakhstan after referee stopped the contest ( RSC ) . Sayed Haroon Sadat was the only Afghan boxer who completed his bout , losing to Kumar Adhikari of Nepal by a points difference of 11 ? 13 .

## **== Cycling ==**

Mohammad Bahrooz was the only cyclist in the delegation of Afghanistan . He represented his nation in the men 's 169 @. @ 4 km individual road race event held on October 3 at the Road Cycle Race Stadium . A total of 28 competitors participated in the event ; Bahrooz was one of six who did not finish the race . The event was won by Sergey Krushevskiy of Uzbekistan with a time of 4 : 17 : 59 .

## **== Football ==**

Afghanistan sent its men 's national team to compete in the football event of the Games . The last international match played by Afghanistan against any nation was during the qualification stage for the AFC Asian Cup in 1984 . For the 2002 Asian Games , the international governing body of football , FIFA , provided financial aid to the Afghanistan Football Federation to make their trip to Busan possible . The team did not advance beyond the preliminary round , losing all three of their matches .

### **Team roster**

The first match of the Afghan team was scheduled with Iran on September 28 at the Busan Gudeok Stadium . The Iranian team dominated the match , winning by a score of 10 to 0 . Alireza Vahedi Nikbakht scored five goals in the match . This was the largest margin of victory for Iran in the tournament . Iran would win the gold medal after defeating Japan in the final .

Afghanistan and Qatar played on October 1 at the Munsu Cup Stadium . The Qatar team registered their biggest win of the tournament , defeating Afghan team by a score of 11 to 0 . Qatari striker Sayed Ali Bechir scored four goals in the match .

The last match for the Afghan team was with Lebanon on October 5 at the Changwon Civic Stadium . The Lebanese team defeated Afghanistan by 11 ? 0 , Lebanon 's largest margin of victory in the tournament . Lebanon scored five goals in the first half and six in the second .

## **== Karate ==**

Wahid Ahmad Joya competed in the kumite ? 75 kg event of karate held in the Yangsan College Gymnasium . Joya received a bye in the preliminary round . In the next round , the quarterfinals , Joya met with Farman Ahmed of Pakistan , but Joya was officially disqualified for being overweight .

## **== Shooting ==**

Malalai Afzali was scheduled to compete in the women 's 10 m air pistol event held in the Changwon International Shooting Range on October 3 , but did not start the event .

## **== Taekwondo ==**

Afghanistan 's taekwondo squad consisted of seven athletes , four of which were men : Farhad Qraishi ( ? 58 kg ) , Ziaullah Aimal ( ? 62 kg ) , Hamed Stanekzai ( ? 72 kg ) and Parwiz Nazari ( ? 84 kg ) , and three women : Hakima Khashai ( ? 55 kg ) , Fatima Hamidi ( ? 63 kg ) and Roia Zamani ( ? 72 kg ) . Qraishi , Aimal and Stanekzai were eliminated in their respective first round matches . Nazari received a bye in his first match , and lost to Dindo Simpaio of Philippines in the second round .

Hakima Khashai and Fatima Hamidi both were defeated by Malaysian opponents after the referee stopped the contest ( RSC ) . Roia Zamani , an English teacher from Kabul , won a bronze medal in the 72 kg middleweight class without winning a single match . Only five athletes participated in the middleweight class event , making first round a quarterfinal match . She received a bye in her first round match . In the semifinal , she withdrew in the middle of match due to severe injuries , in which she was lagging behind by nil to four points . Zamani was beaten by her Korean opponent , Choi Jin

@-@ Mi , who left a cut over her right eyebrow . But the semifinal appearance of Zamani guaranteed her a bronze medal , which she shared with Sally Solis of Philippines . Zamani considered her participation in the Games as a " first step " for Afghan women .

Men

Women

= = Wrestling = =

Eight Afghan wrestlers entered the competition : six for freestyle events and two for Greco @-@ Roman events . Only two freestyle competitors ? Mirdad Mir and Iqbal Ahmad Mancher ? achieved victories . Mancher advanced to a repechage round , but lost to Wang Yuanyuan of China by a points difference of 0 ? 10 . Both the Greco @-@ Roman wrestlers ? Abdullahbik Baikzada and Mohammad Ashraf Timori ? were eliminated in the preliminary rounds without winning a single bout .

Freestyle

Greco @-@ Roman