

# Olympics, a history of the modern games

University of Illinois Press - The History Behind the Modern Olympic Games

**The Ancient Olympic Games**

- The ancient Olympics were rather different from the modern Games.
- There were fewer events, and only free men who spoke Greek could compete, instead of athletes from any country.
- Also, the games were always held at Olympia instead of moving around to different sites every time.



Philadelphia MS244  
Site & trainer watching wrestling  
Photograph by Mary Hatch, courtesy of The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

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- Olympics -- History

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## The Origins of the Olympic Games

Also gospel is it that a Frenchman, venerating Greek antiquity, cowered by German physicality, was the initiating force behind the re-creation of the Games. Third place winners did not receive a prize. These professionals were considered gentlemen athletes, just as the amateurs.

## The first modern Olympic Games

New Olympic Sports As we have seen, some sports are eternal when it comes to the Olympics. But the games in Olympia were not the only ones.

## History of the Olympics: Creating the Modern Games

This footrace over a distance of 26 miles, 385 yards 42.

## Top 6 Differences Between the Ancient and Modern Olympics

Although the history of the Games before this time is sketchy at best, several stories, or myths, suggest that the Olympic Games originated earlier.

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