



1960 Summer Olympics

The **1960 Summer Olympics** (Italian: *Giochi Olimpici estivi del 1960*), officially known as the **Games of the XVII Olympiad** (Italian: *Giochi della XVII Olimpiade*) and commonly known as **Rome 1960** (Italian: *Roma 1960*), were an international multi-sport event held from 25 August to 11 September 1960 in Rome, Italy. Rome had previously been awarded the administration of the [1908 Summer Olympics](#), but following the eruption of [Mount Vesuvius](#) in 1906, the city had no choice but to decline and pass the honour to [London](#). The Soviet Union won the most gold and overall medals at the 1960 Games.

The 1st Paralympic Games were held in Rome in conjunction with the 1960 Summer Olympics, marking the first time such events coincided.

Host city selection

On 15 June 1955, at the 50th [IOC Session](#) in [Paris](#), [France](#), Rome won the right to host the 1960 Games, having beaten Brussels, Mexico City, Tokyo, Detroit, Budapest and finally Lausanne. Tokyo and Mexico City would subsequently host the proceeding [1964](#) and [1968 Summer Olympics](#) respectively.^[2]

[Toronto](#) was initially interested in the bidding, but appears to have dropped out during the final phase of the bid process.^[3] This was the first of five unsuccessful attempts by Toronto to secure the Summer Olympics from then until the [2008 Games](#).

1960 Summer Olympics bidding results^[4]

City	Country	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Rome	 Italy	15	26	35
Lausanne	 Switzerland	14	21	24
Detroit	 United States	6	11	—
Budapest	 Hungary	8	1	—
Brussels	 Belgium	6	—	—
Mexico City	 Mexico	6	—	—
Tokyo	 Japan	4	—	—

Highlights

- Swedish sprint canoeist [Gert Fredriksson](#) won his sixth Olympic title.
- Fencer [Aladár Gerevich](#) of [Hungary](#) won his sixth consecutive gold medal in the team [sabre](#) event.
- The Japanese men's gymnastics team won the first of five successive golds (see [1976 Summer Olympics](#)).
- The United States men's national basketball team—led by promising college players [Walt Bellamy](#), [Jerry Lucas](#), [Oscar Robertson](#) and [Jerry West](#)—captured its fifth straight Olympic gold medal.
- Danish sailor [Paul Elvstrøm](#) won his fourth straight gold medal in the Finn class. Others to emulate his performance in an individual event are [Al Oerter](#), [Carl Lewis](#), [Michael Phelps](#), [Kaori Icho](#), [Mijaín López](#) and, if the [Intercalated \(Interspaced\) Games of 1906](#) are included, [Ray Ewry](#).
- German [Armin Hary](#) won the [100 metres](#) in an Olympic record time of 10.2 seconds. American [Dave Sime](#) also ran 10.2 s in the final, but was credited with silver after a controversial video review.
- [Wilma Rudolph](#), a former [polio](#) patient, won three gold medals in sprint events on the track. She was acclaimed as "the fastest woman in the world".
- [Jeff Farrell](#) won two gold medals in swimming. He underwent an emergency [appendectomy](#) six days before the Olympic Trials.^[5]
- [Abebe Bikila](#) of [Ethiopia](#) won the [marathon](#) barefooted to become the first African and Ethiopian Olympic champion.
- 18-year-old [Cassius Clay](#), later known as [Muhammad Ali](#), won boxing's light-heavyweight gold medal. Ramon "Buddy" Carr was his coach.^[6]
- [Herb Elliott](#) of [Australia](#) won the men's [1500 meters](#) in one of the most dominating performances in Olympic history.
- [Rafer Johnson](#) defeated his rival, fellow [U.C.L.A.](#) Bruin and friend [C.K. Yang](#) in one of the greatest Decathlon events in Olympic history.^[7]
- [Lance Larson](#) of the United States was controversially denied a 100 metres freestyle swimming gold, despite showing the best time.

Games of the XVII Olympiad



Emblem of the 1960 Summer Olympics

Host city	Rome, Italy
Nations	83
Athletes	5,347 (4,734 men, 613 women)
Events	150 in 17 sports (23 disciplines)
Opening	25 August 1960
Closing	11 September 1960
Opened by	President Giovanni Gronchi ^[1]
Cauldron	Giancarlo Peris ^[1]
Stadium	Stadio Olimpico
<div>Summer</div> <div>Winter</div> <div>1960 Summer Paralympics</div>	



The Olympic Torch of Rome 1960

- 16-years-old phenom Chris von Saltza won four medals in women's swimming, three of them gold.
- The future Constantine II, last King of Greece (abdicated and ended hybrid monarchy, 1973) won his country a gold in sailing: dragon class.
- The Pakistani Men's Field Hockey team broke a run of Indian team victories since 1928, defeating India in the final and winning Pakistan's first Olympic gold medal.
- Wrestlers Shelby Wilson, and Doug Blubaugh, who wrestled together growing up, won gold medals in their respective weight classes.



Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia wins the marathon barefooted

Lowlights

- Danish cyclist Knud Jensen collapsed during the 100km team race because of heat stroke and later died in the hospital. It was suspected that he had been under the influence of Roniacol, a blood circulation stimulant.^[8] The International Olympic Committee stated on its website that "drugs were implicated, although that was never proven."^[9] It was the second time (and as of 2023, the most recent) an athlete died in competition at the Olympics, after the death of Portuguese marathon runner Francisco Lázaro at the 1912 Summer Olympics.^[10]

Historical landmarks

- South Africa appeared in the Olympic arena for the last time under its apartheid regime. It would not be allowed to return until 1992, by when apartheid in sport was being abolished.
- Singapore competed for the first time under its own flag, which was to become its national flag after independence, as the British had granted it self-government a year earlier. Tan Howe Liang won silver in the Weightlifting lightweight category, which was the first time (and the only time until 2008) that an athlete from Singapore won an Olympic medal.

Non-medal winners

- Finnish Vilho Ylönen, a field shooter, shot a bullseye to a wrong target, and in doing so he dropped from second place to fourth.
- Peter Camejo, a 2004 American vice-presidential candidate for the Green Party, competed in yachting for Venezuela.
- The future Queen Sofía of Spain represented her native Greece in sailing events.

Broadcasting

- CBS paid US\$394,000 (equivalent to \$4,057,890 in 2023) for the exclusive right to broadcast the Games in the United States. This was the first Summer Olympic games to be telecast in North America. In addition to CBS in the United States, the Olympics were telecast for the first time in Canada (on CBC Television) and in Mexico (through the networks of Telesistema Mexicano). Since television broadcast satellites were still two years into the future, CBS, CBC, and TSM shot and edited videotapes in Rome, fed the tapes to Paris where they were re-recorded onto other tapes which were then loaded onto jet planes to North America. Planes carrying the tapes landed at Idlewild Airport in New York City, where mobile units fed the tapes to CBS, to Toronto for the CBC, and to Mexico City for TSM. Despite this arrangement, many daytime events were broadcast in North America, especially on CBS and CBC, the same day they took place.^[11]

Venues

- Olympic Stadium² (*Stadio Olimpico*) – opening/closing ceremonies, athletics, equestrian events
- Flaminio Stadium¹ (*Stadio Flaminio*) – football finals
- Swimming Stadium¹ – swimming, diving, water polo, modern pentathlon (swimming)
- Sports Palace¹ (*Palazzo dello sport*) – basketball, boxing
- Olympic Velodrome¹ – cycling (track), field hockey
- Small Sports Palace¹ (*Palazzetto dello Sport*) – basketball, weightlifting
- Marble Stadium² (*Stadio dei Marmi*) – field hockey preliminaries
- Baths of Caracalla – gymnastics
- Basilica of Maxentius – wrestling
- Palazzo dei Congressi – fencing
- Umberto I Shooting Range¹ – modern pentathlon (shooting), shooting (pistol/ rifle)
- Roses Swimming Pool¹ (*Piscina delle Rose*) – water polo
- Lake Albano, Castelgandolfo – rowing, canoeing
- Piazza di Siena, Villa Borghese gardens – equestrian (dressage, eventing – jumping, jumping – individual)
- Pratoni del Vivaro, Rocca di Papa – equestrian (eventing)
- Gulf of Naples, Naples – yachting
- Communal Stadium, Florence – football/soccer preliminaries
- Communal Stadium, Grosseto – football/soccer preliminaries
- Communal Stadium, L'Aquila – football/soccer preliminaries



Opening Ceremony in 1960 Summer Olympics in Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Italy

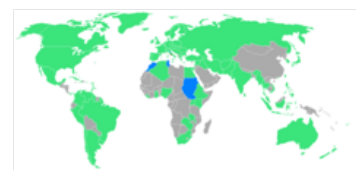
- Ardenza Stadium, Livorno – football/soccer preliminaries
- Adriatico Stadium, Pescara – football/soccer preliminaries
- Saint Paul's Stadium, Naples – football/soccer preliminaries
- Campo Tre Fontane – field hockey preliminaries
- Acqua Santa Golf Club Course – modern pentathlon (running)
- Arch of Constantine – athletics (marathon finish)
- Cesano Infantry School Range – shooting (300 m free rifle)
- Lazio Pigeon Shooting Stand – shooting (trap shotgun)
- Passo Corese – modern pentathlon (riding)
- Grande Raccordo Anulare – athletics (marathon)
- Via Appian Antica – athletics (marathon)
- Via Cassia – cycling (individual road race)
- Via Flaminia – cycling (individual road race)
- Via Cristoforo Colombo – athletics (marathon), cycling (road team time trial)
- Via di Grottarossa – cycling (individual road race)

¹ New facilities constructed in preparation for the Olympic Games. ² Existing facilities modified or refurbished in preparation for the Olympic Games.

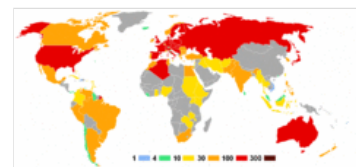
Games

Participating National Olympic Committees

A total of 83 nations participated at the Rome Games. Athletes from Morocco, San Marino, Sudan, and Tunisia competed at the Olympic Games for the first time. Athletes from Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago would represent the new (British) West Indies Federation, competing as "Antilles", but this nation would only exist for this single Olympiad. Athletes from Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia competed under the Rhodesia name while representing the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Athletes from East Germany and West Germany would compete as the United Team of Germany from 1956 to 1964. Athletes from the People's Republic of China last competed at the 1952 Summer Games but had since withdrawn from the Olympic movement due to a dispute with the Republic of China over the right to represent China.^[12] The number in parentheses indicates the number of participants that each country contributed.



Participants



Number of athletes per country















































Participating National Olympic Committees

-  [Afghanistan](#) (12)
-  [British West Indies](#) (13)
-  [Argentina](#) (92)
-  [Australia](#) (189)
-  [Austria](#) (103)
-  [Bahamas](#) (13)
-  [Belgium](#) (101)
-  [Bermuda](#) (9)
-  [Brazil](#) (71)
-  [Guyana](#) (5)
-  [Bulgaria](#) (98)
-  [Burma](#) (10)
-  [Canada](#) (85)
-  [Ceylon](#) (5)
-  [Chile](#) (9)
-  [Colombia](#) (16)
-  [Cuba](#) (12)
-  [Czechoslovakia](#) (116)
-  [Denmark](#) (100)
-  [Ethiopia](#) (10)
-  [Fiji](#) (2)
-  [Finland](#) (117)
-  [Formosa](#) (27)
-  [France](#) (238)
-  [United Team of Germany](#) (294)
-  [Ghana](#) (13)
-  [Great Britain](#) (253)
-  [Greece](#) (48)
-  [Haiti](#) (1)
-  [Hong Kong](#) (4)
-  [Hungary](#) (180)
-  [Iceland](#) (9)
-  [India](#) (45)
-  [Indonesia](#) (22)
-  [Iran](#) (23)
-  [Iraq](#) (21)
-  [Ireland](#) (49)
-  [Israel](#) (23)
-  [Italy](#) (280) **(host)**
-  [Japan](#) (162)
-  [Kenya](#) (27)
-  [South Korea](#) (35)
-  [Lebanon](#) (19)
-  [Liberia](#) (4)
-  [Liechtenstein](#) (5)
-  [Luxembourg](#) (52)
-  [Malaya](#) (9)
-  [Malta](#) (10)
-  [Mexico](#) (69)
-  [Monaco](#) (11)
-  [Morocco](#) (47)
-  [Netherlands](#) (110)
-  [Netherlands Antilles](#) (5)
-  [New Zealand](#) (37)
-  [Nigeria](#) (12)
-  [Norway](#) (40)
-  [Pakistan](#) (44)
-  [Panama](#) (6)
-  [Peru](#) (31)
-  [Philippines](#) (40)
-  [Poland](#) (185)
-  [Portugal](#) (65)
-  [Puerto Rico](#) (27)
-  [Rhodesia](#) (14)
-  [Romania](#) (98)
-  [San Marino](#) (9)
-  [Singapore](#) (5)
-  [South Africa](#) (55)
-  [Soviet Union](#) (283)
-  [Spain](#) (144)
-  [Sudan](#) (10)
-  [Sweden](#) (134)
-  [Switzerland](#) (149)
-  [Thailand](#) (20)
-  [Tunisia](#) (42)
-  [Turkey](#) (49)
-  [Uganda](#) (10)
-  [United Arab Republic](#) (74)
-  [United States](#) (292)
-  [Uruguay](#) (34)
-  [Venezuela](#) (36)
-  [Vietnam](#) (3)
-  [Yugoslavia](#) (116)

- 🇸🇷 Suriname also made its first Olympic appearance, but its lone athlete (Wim Esajas) withdrew from competition due to a

scheduling error.^[13]

Number of athletes by National Olympic Committees


IOC Letter Code	Country	Athletes
AFG	 Afghanistan	12
BWI	 British West Indies	13
ARG	 Argentina	92
AUS	 Australia	189
AUT	 Austria	103
BAH	 Bahamas	17
BEL	 Belgium	108
BER	 Bermuda	9
BRA	 Brazil	71
GUY	 Guyana	5
BUL	 Bulgaria	98
BIR	 Burma	10
CAN	 Canada	85
CEY	 Ceylon	5
CHI	 Chile	9
COL	 Colombia	16
CUB	 Cuba	12
TCH	 Czechoslovakia	116
DEN	 Denmark	100
ETH	 Ethiopia	10
FIJ	 Fiji	2
FIN	 Finland	117
ROC	 Formosa	27
FRA	 France	238
EUA	 United Team of Germany	294
GHA	 Ghana	13
GBR	 Great Britain	253
GRE	 Greece	48
HAI	 Haiti	1
HKG	 Hong Kong	4
HUN	 Hungary	180
ISL	 Iceland	9
IND	 India	45
INA	 Indonesia	22
IRI	 Iran	23
IRQ	 Iraq	21
IRL	 Ireland	49
ISR	 Israel	23
ITA	 Italy	280
JPN	 Japan	162
KEN	 Kenya	27
KOR	 South Korea	35
LIB	 Lebanon	19
LBR	 Liberia	4
LIE	 Liechtenstein	5
LUX	 Luxembourg	52

MAL	 Malaya	9
MLT	 Malta	10
MEX	 Mexico	69
MON	 Monaco	11
MAR	 Morocco	47
NED	 Netherlands	110
AHO	 Netherlands Antilles	5
NZL	 New Zealand	37
NGR	 Nigeria	12
NOR	 Norway	40
PAK	 Pakistan	44
PAN	 Panama	6
PER	 Peru	31
PHI	 Philippines	40
POL	 Poland	185
POR	 Portugal	65
PUR	 Puerto Rico	27
RHO	 Rhodesia	14
ROU	 Romania	98
SMR	 San Marino	9
SIN	 Singapore	5
RSA	 South Africa	55
URS	 Soviet Union	283
ESP	 Spain	144
SUD	 Sudan	10
SWE	 Sweden	134
SUI	 Switzerland	149
THA	 Thailand	20
TUN	 Tunisia	42
TUR	 Turkey	49
UGA	 Uganda	10
UAR	 United Arab Republic	74
USA	 United States	292
URU	 Uruguay	34
VEN	 Venezuela	36
VIE	 Vietnam	3
YUG	 Yugoslavia	116
Total		5,347

Sports





















The 1960 Summer Olympics featured 17 different sports encompassing 23 disciplines, and medals were awarded in 150 events. In the list below, the number of events in each discipline is noted in parentheses.

-  [Aquatics](#)
 -  [Diving](#) (4)
 -  [Swimming](#) (15)
 -  [Water polo](#) (1)
-  [Athletics](#) (34)
-  [Basketball](#) (1)
-  [Boxing](#) (10)
-  [Canoeing](#) (7)
-  [Cycling](#)
 - [Road](#) (2)
 - [Track](#) (4)
-  [Equestrian](#)
 - [Dressage](#) (1)
 - [Eventing](#) (2)
 - [Jumping](#) (2)
-  [Fencing](#) (8)
-  [Field hockey](#) (1)
-  [Football](#) (1)
-  [Gymnastics](#) (14)
-  [Modern pentathlon](#) (2)
-  [Rowing](#) (7)
-  [Sailing](#) (5)
-  [Shooting](#) (6)
-  [Weightlifting](#) (7)

-  Wrestling
 - Freestyle (8)
 - Greco-Roman (8)

Calendar

All dates are in *Central European Time (UTC+1)*

	OC		Opening ceremony			•	Event competitions			1	Gold medal events			CC	Closing ceremony				
August / September	25 Thu	26 Fri	27 Sat	28 Sun	29 Mon	30 Tue	31 Wed	1 Thu	2 Fri	3 Sat	4 Sun	5 Mon	6 Tue	7 Wed	8 Thu	9 Fri	10 Sat	11 Sun	Events
 Ceremonies	OC																	CC	—
 Athletics							2	4	7	3		3	4	4	6		1		34
 Basketball		•	•		•			•	•	•				•	•	•	1		1
 Boxing	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		10							10
 Canoeing		•	•		7														7
 Cycling		2	1		2	1													6
 Diving		•	1		1	1	•	•	1										4
 Equestrian												•	1	1	•	•	2	1	5
 Fencing					•	1	•	1	1	1		•	1	•	1	1	1		8
 Field hockey		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	1	•	•	1
 Football		•			•			•				•	•			•	1		1
 Gymnastics												•	•	2	2	4	6		14
 Modern pentathlon	•	•	•		•	•	2												2
 Rowing						•	•	•	•	7									7
 Sailing					•	•	•	•				•	•	5					5
 Shooting										•		1	1	•	1	2	1		6
 Swimming		•	2		1	2	2	3	2	3									15
 Water polo	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	1									1
 Weightlifting														2	2	2	1		7
 Wrestling		•	•		•	•	8	•	•	•		•	8						16
Daily medal events		2	4	0	11	5	14	8	11	15	0	14	15	14	12	10	14	1	150
Cumulative total		2	6	6	17	22	36	44	55	70	70	84	99	113	125	135	149	150	
August / September	25 Thu	26 Fri	27 Sat	28 Sun	29 Mon	30 Tue	31 Wed	1 Thu	2 Fri	3 Sat	4 Sun	5 Mon	6 Tue	7 Wed	8 Thu	9 Fri	10 Sat	11 Sun	Total events

Medal count

These are the top ten nations that won medals at the 1960 Games:^[14]

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 Soviet Union	43	29	31	103
2	 United States	34	21	16	71
3	 Italy*	13	10	13	36
4	 United Team of Germany	12	19	11	42
5	 Australia	8	8	6	22
6	 Turkey	7	2	0	9
7	 Hungary	6	8	7	21
8	 Japan	4	7	7	18
9	 Poland	4	6	11	21
10	 Czechoslovakia	3	2	3	8
Totals (10 entries)		134	112	105	351

See also



- [1960 Summer Paralympics](#)
- [1960 Winter Olympics](#)
- [Olympic Games celebrated in Italy](#)
 - [1956 Winter Olympics – Cortina D'Ampezzo](#)
 - [1960 Summer Olympics – Rome](#)
 - [2006 Winter Olympics – Turin](#)
 - [2026 Winter Olympics – Milan and Cortina D'Ampezzo](#)
- [List of IOC country codes](#)
- [Universiades celebrated in Italy](#)
 - [1959 Summer Universiade – Turin](#)
 - [1966 Winter Universiade – Sestriere](#)
 - [1970 Summer Universiade – Turin](#)
 - [1975 Winter Universiade – Livigno](#)
 - [1975 Summer Universiade – Rome](#)
 - [1985 Winter Universiade – Belluno](#)
 - [1997 Summer Universiade – Sicily](#)
 - [2003 Winter Universiade – Tarvisio](#)
 - [2007 Winter Universiade – Turin](#)
 - [2013 Winter Universiade – Trentino](#)
 - [2019 Summer Universiade – Naples](#)
 - [2025 Winter Universiade – Turin](#)
- [Deaflympics celebrated in Italy](#)
 - [1957 Summer Deaflympics – Milan](#)
 - [2001 Summer Deaflympics – Rome](#)
 - [2019 Winter Deaflympics – Province of Sondrio](#)

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