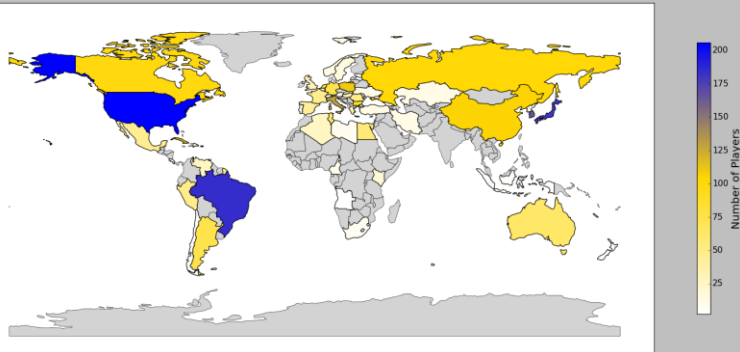


„The Game Above the Net: Insights into Olympic Volleyball”

Volleyball is a team sport in which two teams of six players are separated by a net. Each team tries to score points by grounding a ball on the other team's court under organized rules. It has been a part of the official program of the Summer Olympic Games since Tokyo 1964. Beach volleyball was introduced to the program at the Atlanta 1996 Summer Olympics^[1].

Abstract : The purpose of this poster is to analyze volleyball at the Olympics, including both indoor and beach variants, by examining athlete data, event records, and medal distributions. The aim is to showcase factors that may increase the chances of winning a medal and to highlight the unique aspects of the sport

Global Distribution of Volleyball Players by Country on Olympic Games



Is it known that there is a limit to Olympic volleyball participation ^[2]:

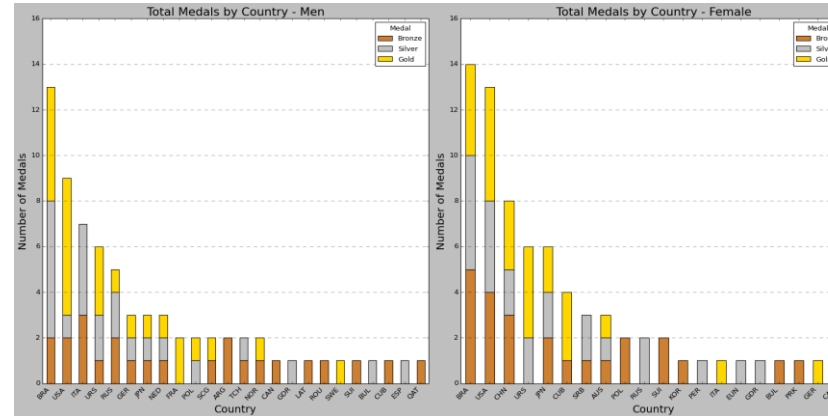
- 12 teams in indoor competition
- 24 teams in outdoor competition

Qualification is determined through FIVB tournaments, continental championships, and rankings, with the host country securing an automatic spot. Countries with strong volleyball traditions dominate due to better infrastructure, training, and consistent success, ensuring only the best compete. There also must be a representative from each continent

src :

[1] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volleyball>

[2] <https://en.volleyballworld.com/volleyball/competitions/volleyball-olympic-qualifying-tournament/competition/qualification-system>



The distribution of Olympic volleyball medals highlights the strong traditions in countries like Brazil, Italy, the United States and China. Brazil and the USA stand out as a dominant force in both men's and women's volleyball, while Japan and China have consistently excelled in women's competitions.

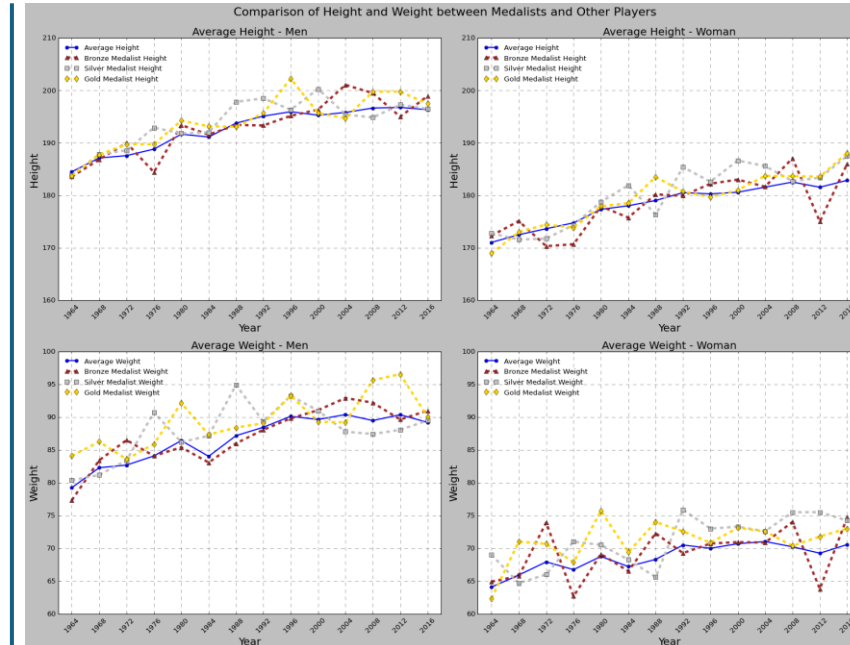
Polish Curse: Despite being a volleyball powerhouse with numerous World and European Championships and Nations League titles, Poland has struggled to break the so-called "Polish Curse" at the Olympics. This drought has persisted since the historic loss to Brazil in 2004, followed by a shocking defeat to underdogs Australia in 2008. The combination of high expectations, tough draws, and misfortune continues to haunt Poland's quest for Olympic glory.

Is home advantage real?

This table shows the number of medals won by host countries

	Volleyball	Beach Volleyball
Gold	6	3
Silver	1	3
Bronze	2	1

Out of 48 possible Olympic volleyball events, host countries have managed to secure a medal 16 times.



The data highlights that male players are typically taller, with a clear height advantage correlating with increased chances of earning a medal. In contrast, the women's game places more emphasis on technique, making height less of a decisive factor, although it still plays a role. Additionally, a player's weight and muscularity also influence performance, as being bigger and stronger can provide a competitive edge. This distinction underscores the differing physical and strategic demands of men's and women's volleyball at the Olympic level.

Key Findings :

- Brazil is the most dominant Olympic volleyball team in history, but has shown signs of decline in recent years
- The strongest teams are predominantly from Europe and the Americas, leaving African nations to compete for a single continental spot.
- Competing in your home country can offer a slight advantage against opponents, but it is not a decisive factor in achieving success.
- Height is a critical factor in volleyball, making success difficult without it, even with excellent technique.