

Mixed-gender events added to 2020 Olympics

13th June, 2017



There will be more mixed-gender events and more women at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The International Olympic Committee (IOC)

said men and women would compete together in archery, athletics, judo, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, and triathlon. There will be a 4x400m mixed relay in athletics and a 4x100m mixed relay in swimming. British Olympics swimming champion Adam Peaty told the BBC that having mixed events in Tokyo would make the Olympics "more fun". He said "It's something that would make things a little bit more fun....It's great to mix things up from what they've been for so long as it adds a little spice and [mixed events] are great to watch."

The IOC also announced that there would be more sports at the Tokyo Olympics. IOC president Thomas Bach said the Games will be "more youthful, more urban and include more women". Not everyone is happy with the introduction of the new events. Some people said it was wrong to include urban sports like skateboarding, 3-on-3 basketball, sport climbing and BMX freestyle. These are to try and get more young people to watch the Games. Having newer sports means there will be fewer athletes in more traditional events like weightlifting and wrestling. Tokyo will be the most gender-balanced Olympics ever. Women will make up 48.8 per cent of athletes who will compete at the Games.

Sources: bbc.com / huffingtonpost.ca / yahoo.com / the-japan-news.com

Writing

What are the good and bad things about mixed-gender sports? Discuss three things.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

2020 / Tokyo / Olympics / athletics / swimming / triathlon / champion / fun / spice / sports / urban / happy / skateboarding / BMX / traditional / weightlifting / wrestling

True / False

- There will be no mixed-gender events in judo. T / F
- There will be mixed-gender relays in swimming and athletics. T / F
- A swimming champion said mixed-gender events would take away the fun. T / F
- The champion said mixed-gender events add a little spice to the Games. T / F
- The IOC president said the 2020 Games would be more youthful. T / F
- Everybody liked the introduction of sport climbing to the 2020 Games. T / F
- Traditional events like wrestling will have fewer athletes in Tokyo. T / F
- Women will make up less than 48% of the athletes. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. compete | a. enjoyable |
| 2. champion | b. pleased |
| 3. fun | c. contain |
| 4. spice | d. excitement |
| 5. great | e. take part |
| 6. include | f. customary |
| 7. happy | g. not right |
| 8. wrong | h. gold medalist |
| 9. traditional | i. until now |
| 10. ever | j. wonderful |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Is the Olympics the world's best sporting event?
- Should every sport in the world be at the Olympics?
- What do you think of urban sports like skateboarding?
- How can the IOC get more young people to watch the Olympics?
- What do you think of traditional sports like wrestling?
- How will having more women athletes change the Olympics?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of the IOC?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. There will be more mixed- | a. Olympics ever |
| 2. men and women would compete | b. spice |
| 3. a 4x400m mixed relay | c. 48.8% of athletes |
| 4. swimming | d. of the new events |
| 5. it adds a little | e. together |
| 6. happy with the introduction | f. like weightlifting |
| 7. try and get more young people | g. champion |
| 8. in more traditional events | h. gender events |
| 9. the most gender-balanced | i. to watch the Games |
| 10. Women will make up | j. in athletics |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the Olympics?
- How good is your country at the Olympics?
- What's your favourite Olympics sport and why?
- What do you think of mixed-gender events?
- Are you looking forward to watching the Olympics?
- Do the Olympics need to be made more fun?
- How can the IOC 'spice' things up at the Olympics?
- Who is the greatest Olympian in history?

Spelling

- The International Olympic Cmtmteioe (IOC)
- oteepmc together in archery
- swimming, table tennis, and airlnthot
- 4x400m mixed relay in heatsictl
- Olympics swimming nphacoim
- adds a little icspe
- The IOC also unedcnoan that there would be more
- the Games will be more hutulyfo
- the cirdouotntin of the new events
- BMX teeylefrs
- taioartldn events like weightlifting
- the most gender-blcdanea Olympics ever

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. e | 2. h | 3. a | 4. d | 5. j |
| 6. c | 7. b | 8. g | 9. f | 10. i |

Role Play

Role A – The Marathon

You think the marathon is the best Olympics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): wrestling, skateboarding or swimming.

Role B – Wrestling

You think wrestling is the best Olympics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the marathon, skateboarding or swimming.

Role C – Skateboarding

You think skateboarding is the best Olympics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): wrestling, the marathon or swimming.

Role D – Swimming

You think swimming is the best Olympics event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): wrestling, skateboarding or the marathon.

Speaking – Olympics events

Rank these with your partner. Put the best Olympics events at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| • wrestling | • marathon |
| • skateboarding | • cycling |
| • triathlon | • BMX |
| • swimming | • shooting |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | T | c | F | d | F | e | T | f | F | g | T | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.