

Organizers say Tokyo Olympics will go ahead

30th January, 2021



Will they or won't they? There has been much speculation recently about whether or not the Tokyo Olympics would take place in July. On Wednesday, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president

Thomas Bach vowed that the event would go ahead. He said: "Our task is to organize the Olympic Games and not to cancel them." He added that the IOC is working "day and night" to host a safe event. IOC spokesperson Dick Pound said he was "confident" the Games would go ahead, saying: "I think unless some drastic changes occur, this is a manageable proposition and I hope that we're able to pull it off." He added: "There are no certainties in life and what might happen with the virus."

The Games are due to open on the 23rd of July. It is a logistical nightmare for authorities, who have to secure the safety of 11,000 athletes, the world's media and spectators. More than 25,000 journalists attended the Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016. Tokyo is currently under a state of emergency amid a third wave of infections. Officials are hopeful warmer weather and a vaccine rollout will see safer conditions. Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is adamant that the Games will take place. However, an anti-Olympics group in Tokyo said: "The government is obsessed with hosting the Olympics. It's becoming clear during this coronavirus disaster that the Olympics would sacrifice people's lives."

Sources: cnn.com / reuters.com / apnews.com

Writing

The Tokyo Olympics should go ahead in July as planned. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

speculation / July / Olympics / president / organize / cancel / event / confident / life / due / nightmare / safety / athletes / media / vaccine / obsessed / hosting / disaster

True / False

- There has been little speculation about the Tokyo Olympics taking place. T / F
- The IOC president promised the Tokyo Olympics would take place. T / F
- The president said the IOC is working around the clock. T / F
- An IOC spokesperson said life has no certainties. T / F
- Around 11,000 athletes are due to participate in the Tokyo Olympics. T / F
- Over 25,000 athletes participated in the 2016 Rio Olympics. T / F
- Japan's Prime Minister really want the Olympics to go ahead. T / F
- An anti-Olympics group fears the Olympics will be sacrificed. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. speculation | a. assured |
| 2. vowed | b. job |
| 3. task | c. preoccupied |
| 4. confident | d. organisational |
| 5. drastic | e. conjecture |
| 6. logistical | f. determined |
| 7. spectators | g. give up |
| 8. adamant | h. promised |
| 9. obsessed | i. extreme |
| 10. sacrifice | j. watchers |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about the Olympics?
- Why are the Games a 'logistical nightmare'?
- How has the coronavirus affected you?
- How would cancelling the Games affect Tokyo?
- Do you think the Games could 'sacrifice people's lives'?
- What will the world be like in a year from now?
- What questions would you like to ask the IOC?

Phrase Match

1. There has been much speculation
 2. Bach vowed that the event
 3. unless some drastic
 4. I hope that we're able to pull
 5. There are no certainties
 6. amid a third wave
 7. a vaccine
 8. Suga is adamant that the Games
 9. The government is obsessed
 10. the Olympics would sacrifice
- a. with hosting the Olympics
 - b. changes occur
 - c. of infections
 - d. in life
 - e. people's lives
 - f. recently
 - g. would go ahead
 - h. rollout
 - i. it off
 - j. will take place

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know about Tokyo?
- b) Should the Tokyo Olympics go ahead in July?
- c) How interested are you in the Olympics?
- d) Should the Games go ahead but without spectators?
- e) What damage would be done if the Games did not go ahead?
- f) How safe do you think the Games would be?
- g) How do you think the athletes feel?
- h) Are there any certainties in life?

Spelling

1. There has been much cpeialusotn
2. evwdo that the event would go ahead
3. IOC epoerspksso
4. unless some ardtisc changes occur
5. this is a manageable oorstippon
6. There are no areitnitces in life
7. It is a olsitcgial nightmare
8. the world's media and scattpeosr
9. amid a third wave of fteniicnos
10. a cavncie rollout
11. Suga is adaanmt that the Games will take place
12. srfiiace people's lives

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – 100 Metres

You think the 100 metres 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, judo or wrestling.

Role B – 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): the 100 metres, judo or wrestling.

Role C – Judo

You think judo 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, the 100 metres or wrestling.

Role D – 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, judo or the 100 metres.

Speaking – Olympics

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

- Judo
- Weightlifting
- Wrestling
- Sailing
- 100 metres
- Javelin
- Marathon
- Archery

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.