

Changes to the Summer Olympics Sports Program: Keeping Pace with a Changing World! What is in Store for Los Angeles 2028, Brisbane 2032 and Beyond!

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At the International Olympic Committees 141st session in Mumbai, India in October 2023, this pre-eminent sports governing body officially ratified five sports (squash, flag football, lacrosse, cricket and baseball/softball) being added to the existing 28 core sports for the 2028 Los Angeles summer games. This paper reviews and analyses the LA28 changes to the program covering what sports were added including their Olympic history, what sports were dropped indefinitely or only for 2028 and the politics and rationale for these alterations with the Olympic Agenda 2020 + 5 policy a key feature in this decision-making process. Following this is an examination of what we can expect for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and the process that will take place to finalise the sports program at the games being held for the third time in Australia. The investigation concludes with commentary on the future of changes to the summer sports program. This analysis will cover the limits on athletes and officials, the existing 16-day schedule, television friendliness, popularity and integrity, venue suitability and costs, innovation and adaptation, sustainability and legacy, diversity and gender balance, host city/country preferences, corporate support, International Sport Federation lobbying, politics within the IOC, etc. Since the inception of the Modern Olympics in 1896, sports within the summer program have been dropped, added or altered in some ways as to their composition as the Olympic Movement attempts to keep pace with a changing world.