

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

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Since the inception of the Modern Olympics in 1896, the sports programme within the Summer Olympics has expanded with sports dropped and added and in other cases not accepted into the Games as the Olympic Movement attempts to keep pace with a changing world. At the 141st session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) held in Mumbai, India in October 2023, the IOC officially ratified five sports (squash, flag football, lacrosse, cricket and baseball/softball) being added to the existing 27 core sports for the 2028 Los Angeles (LA) Summer Games. This paper reviews and analyses the LA 2028 changes to the programme by detailing the history of sports added, sports dropped indefinitely or only for 2028, and the politics and rationale for these alterations with the Olympic Agenda 2020 and Olympic Agenda 2020 + 5 key policy features in this decision-making process.

This analysis covers the various factors that come into play in the addition of sports to the Summer Games programme and how the IOC decision-making process operates. Following this is a prediction of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games programme. A final discussion outlines what changes could be made to allow the Summer Olympics to expand the number of competition sports.

Brief History of the Growth of the Summer Olympics and How New Sports Have Been Added to the Programme

At the first modern Olympics in Athens in 1896 there were 14 nations represented competing in nine sports, 43 different events and 241 athletes all of whom were men. The games proceeded to dramatically grow in scope so that the Paris 2024 Games will feature 206 National Olympic Committees and approximately 10,500 athletes (with gender parity between men and women) competing in 32 sports and 329 events.¹

This growth will continue through to the LA 2028 Games with a number of additions to the sports programme. Of the five sports added in 2028, several will be making their first-ever appearance, namely squash and flag football, while others have had a long gap between inclusion – lacrosse in 1904 and 1908, cricket in 1900 and baseball/softball returning after being in the Tokyo 2021 games and in previous games but not the 2024 Paris Olympics.²

There have been only five sports contested at every Olympic summer games, namely fencing, cycling, swimming, gymnastics and athletics. The last three – athletics, gymnastics and swimming – are considered premier sports which have a substantial number of competitors, a growing number of events (e.g. athletics has 48 events, 23 each for men and women and two mixed) and a large number of medals at stake as well as being popular with both spectators and television viewers. Over the years sports were gradually deleted and others added to the programme with the total now at 51.³

Some sports have lasted only a brief time at the Summer Games, a few have made a 'one and done' appearance and a small number were dropped and then reinstated (e.g. golf, rugby and cricket). Until 1992, the IOC also allowed sports to be added to the Olympic Games by the local organising

committee as 'demonstration events'. For example, under this arrangement, the 1956 Melbourne Games included baseball and Australian Rules football. Over the years, a large number of host cities have trialled a variety of sports with such unusual ones as tug of war, pigeon racing, dogsled racing, bicycle polo, roller hockey, kite flying, rope climbing, and pesapallo to name a few. ⁴ In total there have been 63 sports at the Summer Games classified as demonstration events and of these 20 are now on the programme. ⁵

Factors Influencing the Selection Process for Adding New Sports

The Olympic Agenda 2020 and its updated version Agenda 2020 + 5 serve as major IOC policy documents about how the Games should operate in the current setting. A recent change allows the local organising committee to recommend what sports should be added to their particular games. Faced with an IOC guideline to cap the Summer Games at approximately 10,500 athletes and to stay within a 19-day schedule, means there are limitations to adding new sports. Besides the 28 core sports guaranteed inclusion in the Summer Olympics (although these core sports can be altered by the IOC), there is a comprehensive process used by the IOC to select new sports. ⁶

When the IOC reviews new sports they are evaluated based on 35 criteria across five categories: 1. Olympic proposal (i.e. competition format, number of athletes and officials, venues); 2. Value added to the Olympic movement (i.e. legacy, interest of youth); 3. Institutional matters (i.e. compliance with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code, establishment of International Federation, number of world championships held); 4. Popularity (i.e. ticket sales and media interest at past world championships, host country population's investment); 5. Business model (i.e. potential costs, targeted additional revenue). ^{7 8}

Elaborating further on this rigorous evaluation by the IOC, here are several interesting and important considerations:

Youth Appeal and Inspiring the Next Generation: The inclusion of new sports in the Olympics is a strategy to attract younger athletes who may not be involved in traditional Olympic sports. Breakdancing, skateboarding and surfing are good examples of sports with a strong connection to youth. This criterion is of the utmost importance in making decisions on new sports in the Games, both the summer and winter editions. ⁹

Innovation and Adaptation: Many of the recently added sports represent new and innovative approaches to competition and showcase the ability of the Games to adapt to the changing times. Skateboarding at the Tokyo Games was very well received and proved extremely popular with its strong youth vibe (e.g. music being played and unique apparel), a feature which ensures its continuance in the Games. In fact, after its Tokyo debut the IOC referred to "Skateboarding at the Olympics: A Roaring Success!" ¹⁰

Cultural Diversity: The inclusion of different sports is a way of embracing cultural diversity and promoting global reach to regions that may not have traditionally been well represented at the Olympics. For example, it is expected that by adding cricket, the sub-continent with its huge population base including India, will develop an enhanced interest in the Olympics. This move has been met very positively by India which recently expressed a strong interest in submitting a bid to host the Summer Games possibly as soon as 2036. ¹¹

Popularity: How popular is the sport worldwide? Is it played in a number of countries, and does it have a significant athlete base both male and female? One source noted that "... when the criteria included in this category are considered, popularity comes down to watching rather than

taking part – and the commercial value of the sport. There is an emphasis on spectators, media interest, television rights and sponsors . . .”¹²

Integrity Issues including Governance and Doping: Is the respective world sporting federation ‘squeaky clean’ and does it have strong and effective leadership? Most importantly, is it devoid of sport integrity issues such as significant doping and governance faults? Over the years, wrestling, weightlifting and boxing have all faced controversies in this regard. At the moment boxing is in a perilous state with an uncertain Olympic future after the Paris Games unless a large number of governance issues are resolved.¹³

Television Appeal and Media Innovation: Is the sport going to be exciting to watch for television viewers? Since broadcasting rights are the major source of revenue for the games, the IOC aims to cater to the broadcasters’ and audience’s preferences. There are also a number of other innovative digital platforms as well as print media available making the Games accessible to a worldwide audience craving coverage of the world’s number one sporting event.^{14 15}

Lobbying by International Sports Federations (IF): An IF must make a strong case to get into the Games. Several sports have been lobbying repeatedly for several years (e.g. ten-pin bowling) and while some have been admitted (e.g. squash) others have been unsuccessful. There is such a crowded field of sports attempting to join the ‘Olympic Club’ that they are often frustrated by the stringent IOC criteria and politics that make it a very difficult process.¹⁶

Corporate Funding and Support: Fairly recent sports in the Olympics (e.g. golf and tennis) came with corporate interest and sponsorship from new sources. This helps to secure the financial stability of the Games and aligns with the IOC’s wish to diversify its revenue streams. If a sport proves to be an exciting brand appealing to the corporate sector, its chances of getting into the Games is greatly enhanced. A good example is skateboarding, with its well-established following, a strong youth appeal and sponsorship interest.¹⁷

Infrastructure Costs including Legacy and Sustainability: Facility and environmental legacy have become extremely important criteria, with questions about the post-event viability of newly built facilities. There is a very strong push to eliminate costly sports facilities that later become ‘white elephants’ – a strong criticism of the 2004 Athens and 2016 Rio Olympics. Notably, the ‘new norm’ set out by the IOC recommends host cities use existing facilities as much as possible and address sustainability issues.^{18 19 20}

Gender Equality: There has been a concerted effort by the IOC to ensure a 50-50 gender ratio. Although it has taken many years of sustained growth in the number of female competitors, the Paris Games in 2024 will be the first to have achieved this goal. Any new sports trying to get into the Games will have to ensure that the number of events and the male/female composition of competitors is equal.^{21 22}

Host City and Nation’s Preferences: In the new process of selecting sports, the IOC has given a lot of flexibility to the local organising committee to make recommendations. This has only been in place since the 2021 Tokyo Olympics but has proven to be a popular initiative with host cities. Both LA in 2028 and Brisbane in 2032 are covered by this new policy and they can influence what sports are added to the programme.²³

IOC Selection Process for New Sports to be Added to the Olympics

There is a fairly long and arduous process in place for a sport trying to gain approval to be on the Olympics sports programme. A sport must first of all gain recognition as a sport from the IOC and

in doing so have an international governing body. Following this acceptance, it attains International Sports Federation (IF) status which can be provisional or full recognition. At that point, the IF must enforce the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code and maintain rules set out in the Olympic Charter. Although a sport may gain IOC recognition, this does not guarantee it will be included in an Olympic Games. To move to this step, it must apply for admittance by filing a petition establishing its criteria of eligibility to the IOC.²⁴

The local organising committee of the next Games also provides its recommendations to the IOC on its preferences. The Tokyo, Paris, and Los Angeles Games were all subject to this procedural innovation and Brisbane 2032 will be in the same position. This work is handled by the IOC Programme Commission which first evaluates this information and provides a report to the IOC Executive Board. Approval can occur as a totally new sport, a discipline within a current Olympic sport or as an event within an Olympic sport. The Board in turn examines the material and makes a recommendation to the IOC membership who then vote and ratify which sports are allowed onto the Olympic programme.

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As reported by the IOC: “The framework set by Olympic Agenda 2020, Olympic Agenda 2020 +5 and Rule 45 of the Olympic Charter, gives flexibility to review the Olympic programme for each edition of the Games in order to introduce innovation and stability and promote gender equality.”²⁶ At the moment this procedure occurs about four and one half to five years out from a Games. For example, at the IOC’s 141st session in Mumbai in 2023, the new sports and the final sports programme for the LA 2028 Games was announced.²⁷

Expectations and Predictions for New Sports at the Brisbane 2032 Games

The IOC has put a lot of work and effort into ‘spicing up’ and ‘modernising’ its summer sports programme. Keeping in mind that there are 28 core sports expected to retain their status and also noting that a new sport addition is not a guaranteed inclusion after its initial appearance, it is interesting to predict what sports will be retained, added, dropped or not approved for 2032.

(A) The Favourites: Recent Olympic Sports Likely to be Retained or Added

Cricket: It is being introduced in 2028 and should remain in the Games in 2032 due to its popularity in the host nation and strong support from the sub-continent and other Commonwealth countries. As the host nation, Australia would definitely want cricket included as both its men’s and women’s teams have a high international ranking suggesting medal success.²⁸

Lacrosse: Although lacrosse appeared at the Games in 1904 and 1908, it had an extensive break and will reappear at the 1928 LA Games. This is a sport in which Australia is expected to do well so keeping it on the programme four years later will have strong support from the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (BOCOG).²⁹

Sport Climbing, Surfing and Skateboarding: All of these had their debut in Tokyo 2021 and will likely remain in the programme as they proved very popular and have been included in both Paris and LA. Surfing for the Paris Games is being held in Tahiti due to the lack of good surfing conditions in France. Surfing, in particular, will be a popular sport in beach-crazed LA, and should be a very welcomed event for sunny Queensland, Australia in 2032.^{30 31}

Baseball/Softball: These two sports are back in the 2028 games after a short hiatus no doubt strongly influenced by the fact that the USA is the home of baseball and a medal contender. They have a very good chance to be included in 2032 since Australia is normally quite competitive having previously won a total of five medals (one in baseball and four in softball) in previous Games.³²

Flag Football: As a newly added sport, it will be assessed after its LA 2028 debut. A factor going against it are its small geographic player-base being mainly focussed on North America and not popular in many other regions. The fact that the National Football League (NFL) in the USA is actively supporting this initiative, enhances its chances of remaining in the programme. Recent news that the NFL is considering playing a regular season game in Melbourne in 2025 or 2026 at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground is an indication that flag football is trying to become an established sport and will be possibly selected to take place in Brisbane.³³

Squash: This sport finally got into the 2028 LA Games after four previous attempts which was a great relief to the World Squash Federation. It is a popular sport in Australia, and this should enhance its chances for 2032 but the competition will be fierce so it is not a guaranteed outcome.³⁴

Coastal Rowing (Beach Sprints format): This new discipline has been approved for LA 2028 after lobbying by the International Rowing Federation. By reducing some of its events (e.g. light weight eights in traditional flat water rowing), this sport made space for the beach sprints format. With its close connection to a beach culture, it is expected to be popular in LA and would also be extremely well received in 2032.³⁵

(B) The “Maybe” List for the 2032 Games

Breakdancing (Breaking): This popular, youth-friendly sport is making its debut in the Paris Games but was somewhat surprisingly not selected for LA 2028. As Batuev reported: “Bizarrely, Paris 2024 may well be the only time we will see breaking in the Olympics in the foreseeable future, although the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) is determined to ensure it returns in Brisbane 2032.”³⁶ The fact that breaking will not be part of the LA Games does not preclude its addition to the 2032 Games, especially if it proves to be a hit in Paris in 2024 and the fact that it has been popular in the Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

Surf Lifesaving: This is a perfect beach activity for the 2032 Games being held in sunny Queensland and a sport in which Australia would be a medal favourite. Although an innovative sport with a youthful image, a limited worldwide profile harms its chances. Still, it was recently reported that “The International Life Saving Federation (ILS) together with Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) announced their intentions to lobby for inclusion in the Brisbane 2032 Games, the first time the Games will be featured at an Olympics.”³⁷

Boxing. This long-time Olympic sport is faced with a big question mark as to its status in the Games. The IOC took over running the sport in Tokyo and will do this again in Paris, but it has stated that it will not do so beyond Paris. Therefore, at the present time it is out of the LA Games due to a myriad of reasons related to integrity issues with the world body.³⁸

(C) Long Shots: Probably not in Brisbane but Possibly in Future Games

Netball: Although netball has been recognised as an Olympic sport since 1995, it has been knocked back on four occasions (1996, 2008, 2012 and 2020) in its quest to be on the Olympic sports programme. World Netball will be pushing hard to be included at the Brisbane Games. In its favour is that the BOCOG could recommend its inclusion due to the sport being very popular nationally and with an excellent chance for host nation medals. Two factors seem to work against it as reported by Australian Broadcasting News: “.... the main issues preventing netball’s inclusion lies in its appeal beyond the Commonwealth of Nations and the outside perception that it is mostly just a female sport.”³⁹

Pickleball: It is one of the world's fastest growing sports for both men and women especially in the United States and Canada. However, it is also becoming a popular sport in Australia, Mexico and New Zealand, as well as in several countries in Europe, Asia, and South America. As it can be played on modified tennis courts or purpose-built courts, there is not a big cost factor for the host city as it does not require expensive new facilities. Going against it are a lack of tradition and limited global participation (i.e. not played at an elite level in enough different nations). As the IOC granted provisional recognition to the International Pickleball Federation (IPF) in 2017, the sport's governing body is likely to take a few more years of expansion and lobbying to get into future Games but its exploding growth makes it a strong possibility.^{40 41 42}

Motorsports, Karate and Kickboxing: All three put in a bid for the LA Games and were not successful. Even though karate was in the 2021 Tokyo Games, it was felt that the sport lacked entertainment value and the ability to attract a younger audience.⁴³ As a result, karate and the other two are not likely to be included in the Brisbane Games, as they appear to have limited widespread support among the large IOC membership.

Muay Thai, Wushu, Sambo and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA): There have been moves to get these combat sports into the Games. Even though not on the Olympic sports programme, muay thai wushu and sambo are recognised IOC sports. With boxing having its difficulties maintaining its inclusion, there may be an opportunity – perhaps after the 2032 Brisbane Games – for these other sports to gain support. In particular, MMA has a huge following internationally so it could be a contender but must first of all gain status as a sport recognised by the IOC.^{44 45}

Indoor Bowling and Lawn Bowls: Indoor 10 Pin bowling was a demonstration sport at the 1988 Seoul Games and although it made the short list for the Tokyo 2021 Games, it was eventually not selected. Lawn bowls has made overtures to become an Olympic sport but is not on the IOC list of recognised sports. Working in its favour is the fact that it has been in the Commonwealth Games and is very popular in Australia for both men and women. However, it does not have significant global participation which hurts its chances.⁴⁶

E-sports: Competitive video gaming has experienced explosive growth worldwide in recent years. Although it offers a unique blend of skill, strategy, and technology, is it deemed worthy of an Olympic guernsey when there is a belief that it lacks athletic prowess? The IOC is monitoring this extremely popular activity very closely and at the 142 IOC Session during the 2024 Paris Games, the IOC Executive Board are proposing the creation of an Olympic E-Sports Games, with IOC Members voting on this. While it is unlikely in the immediate future of making an appearance in the mainstream Games it could prove to be successful as a stand-alone IOC-sanctioned event similar to the YOG.^{47 48}

Can the Games Expand and Admit More Sports?

The number of sports allowed into the Games has grown substantially in recent times with 26 in 2016 in Rio, 28 in 2021 in Tokyo, 32 in 2024 in Paris and at least 35 in 2028 in Los Angeles. In order to add more new sports, one possibility is that the IOC extends the traditional length of the 19-day programme by perhaps a few more days. More athletes could then compete beyond the normal 10,500 cap. Athlete number limitations within the Olympic Village could be addressed by allowing competitors to only stay for the period that their event is on. For example, Australian athletes at the Paris Games will be required by the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) to leave the village 48 hours after their event is completed due to limited bed space allocation to the Australian team. This new development could be a feature implemented at future games, allowing the current athlete quota to be lifted.⁴⁹

Another way of expanding the Games size would be to regionalise and have more events outside of the main host city, something that is a growing trend. At the Paris Games several sports are being played in locales including Bordeaux, Lyon, Marseille, Nantes, Nice, Saint-Etienne, and with surfing being held in Tahiti due to the lack of appropriate ocean conditions in Paris.⁵⁰ The Brisbane 2032 Games are also being promoted as incorporating the Southeast Queensland region with events hosted in Brisbane but also the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and a few other locales outside the South East region. Four separate Olympic Villages for athletes are being planned, with the main one being in Brisbane.⁵¹ Future Games have the opportunity to take this decentralised approach even further and potentially allow more sports to be added to the programme.

In the future the IOC could take a 'cut-throat' approach and rationalise the sports currently in the Games. Some of the less popular but traditional Olympic sports such as shooting, fencing, archery, equestrian and sailing do not appeal to a large number of spectators, are not very television-friendly (and lack overall media interest) and are not youth-oriented, thereby making them candidates for the 'chopping block'.⁵² However, working against this is tradition, with the IOC not keen on dropping long-time sports on the programme. The current IOC President, Thomas Bach, was an Olympic fencer and unlikely to support having his sport or other less prominent events disappear from the Games. Another consideration is for sports with significant integrity issues (e.g. doping and governance) to be dropped from the Games which would allow in athletes from other sports.

The reduction of events in some sports is a recent move made by the IOC as it attempts to stay within the 10,500-athlete cap. Wrestling, weight lifting and boxing are examples where several weight divisions were eliminated. This was partly done to allow for more female athlete inclusion. In some team sports, the number of nations allowed in could be reduced, again a move that would free up spots for other sports. The overall reduction of competitors in a sport could open up places for incoming sports but without the need to eliminate an existing sport altogether.⁵³

The reality is that the IOC is very reluctant to get too big, exit existing long-time Olympic sports or extend the Olympic programme timeframe. As the Paralympics follow on immediately after the mainstream games, making the Summer Olympics longer would result in a total Olympic/Paralympic schedule being extended. This is something not likely to be very appealing to the local organising committee, the host city and its citizens due to the disruption to normal routines when in major sports-event mode.

On the positive side, if the Summer Olympics expanded its programme by adding exciting and popular sports, there would be increased revenue from ticket sales, broadcasting rights, sponsorship and increased tourism in the host city would guarantee an even bigger boost to the local economy. The men's and women's Soccer FIFA World Cup has significantly increased the size of competing teams in recent times and this very successful move may have an influence on the IOC's future plans.⁵⁴

Conclusion

In 2027, the IOC will decide on what new sports will be selected for the 2032 Brisbane Games. Even if the sport meets the objective criteria, it may not be chosen, and a number of sports will be disappointed if not admitted. The IOC is aiming to be proactive since new sports have the potential to breathe fresh life into the Olympic movement, ensuring its relevance and appeal. With lobbying by many sports to capture a spot on the programme, much will happen over the next few years. As the BOCOG can have a very strong influence on the final sports programme, it must attempt to strike a balance concerning its recommendations to the IOC for final approval, while at the same time trying to put an 'Aussie slant' on their home games.⁵⁵

The IOC will face the difficult task of evaluating the sports in the Summer Games and making the final call. It is also interesting to speculate what sports will be added to the Summer Olympics after the 2032 Brisbane Games. More changes are a certainty in our ever-changing world, one in which the IOC must remain in-tune, contemporary and relevant if the Olympics are to retain their title as the pre-eminent world's sporting event.

¹ Carla Fenton. "How do sports get added to the Olympic Games?" October 13, 2023; <https://olympic.ca/2023/10/13/how-do-sports-get-added-to-the-olympic-games/#:~:text=Sports%20are%20evaluated%20based%20on%2035%20criteria%20across,host%20country%20population%E2%80%99s%20investment%205%20Business%20model%20.>

² Richard Baka. "Cricket? Lacrosse? Netball? The new sports that might make it to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games", *The Conversation*, October 25, 2023. <https://theconversation.com/cricket-lacrosse-netball-the-new-sports-that-might-make-it-to-the-2032-brisbane-olympic-games-215991>.

³ "Sports"; <https://olympics.com/en/sports/summer-olympics>. There are 51 summer sports currently listed on the IOC website. Some of these sports are considered disciplines or events within an existing sport's IF such as the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) which governs basketball and 3X3 basketball and World Aquatics which encompasses swimming, diving, water polo, artistic swimming and open water swimming.

⁴ Rachel Winterton and Rob Hess. "Sideshow alley? Demonstration sports at the Olympic Games." *The Conversation*. August 1, 2012. <https://theconversation.com/sideshow-alley-demonstration-sports-at-the-olympic-games-8298#:~:text=In%20the%202092%20years%20demonstration%20sports%20were%20included,sumo%2C%20taekwondo%2C%20tennis%2C%20water%20skiing%2C%20and%20winter%20pentathlon.>

⁵ "Demonstration Sports at the Summer Olympic Games"; <https://www.topendsports.com/events/demonstration/sports.htm>.

⁶ "Olympic Agenda 2020"; <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-agenda-2020>. Boxing has been dropped from the 2028 LA Olympics due to governance issues although it is one of the 28 core sports in every Summer Games. This means that the 27 core sports plus the five new ones added to LA 2028 will be included. If the issues surrounding boxing's expulsion can be resolved they could be back in the Games even by 2028 or in 2032.

⁷ Fenton. "How do sports get added to the Olympic Games?"

⁸ Leigh Robinson. "How sports get chosen for the Olympics." *The Conversation*, July 28, 2016. <https://theconversation.com/how-sports-get-chosen-for-the-olympics-62917>.

⁹ Richard Baka. "The Growth and Rebranding of the Olympic Winter Games". *The Journal of Olympic History*, Volume 24, Number 3, 2016, 35 – 45. Both winter and summer sports were often added to their respective Games' programmes after initially being trialed in the Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

¹⁰ "One year on: How skateboarding's Olympic debut changed the Games."; <https://olympics.com/en/news/one-year-on-skateboarding-olympic-debut-feature>.

¹¹ Associated Press News. "Prime Minister Modi says India will bid for 2036 Olympics"; <https://apnews.com/article/india-olympics-2036-modi-3ae79823cd352ddda1a0218126d5ddff>.

¹² Robinson. "How sports get chosen for the Olympics".

¹³ "IOC counterpunches IBA's prize-money initiative with pressure, ultimatums." *Inside the Games*, May 30, 2024; <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1145705/counterpunches-ibas-prize-money-init>.

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- ¹⁴ José Luis Rojas Torrijos. "Reshaping the Olympics media coverage through innovation." <https://olympicanalysis.org/section-2/reshaping-the-olympics-media-coverage-through-innovation/>.
- ¹⁵ "Paris 2024: How Can We Help You Today"; <https://help.paris2024.org/en-gb/collections/Spectators-Ho90V5QC>
- ¹⁶ Baka. "Cricket? Lacrosse? Netball? The new sports that might make it to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games".
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ "Olympic Agenda 2020 + 5"; <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-agenda-2020-plus-5>.
- ¹⁹ "Olympic 'game changer' boosts sustainability in sport." *UN News*. April 3, 2023. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135202>.
- ²⁰ "LA2028 Q&A: 'Radical Reuse' in action", October 4, 2018; <https://olympics.com/ioc/news/la2028-q-a-radical-reuse-in-action>.
- ²¹ "Gender, Equal Olympics: Celebrating full gender parity on the field of play at Paris 2024"; <https://olympics.com/ioc/news/genderequalolympics-celebrating-full-gender-parity-on-the-field-of-play-at-paris-2024>.
- ²² Baka. "Cricket? Lacrosse? Netball? The new sports that might make it to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games". The recent addition of mixed 'co-ed' events seen in many winter sports has likewise been matched in the Summer Games with 20 mixed-gender events, 157 men's events and 152 women's events scheduled for Paris in 2024. In Paris new mixed events include marathon race walking, kayak cross and men being allowed in the team's event of synchronized swimming. Another new event in Paris besides breaking is kiteboarding for both men and women.
- ²³ Ibid. Of the five new sports for LA 2028 it is expected that cricket's inclusion is sure to lead to its growth in the host country. An initial start to this growing interest is the USA hosting the 2024 Men's T20 Cricket World Cup where the USA in a major upset beat powerhouse Pakistan in a match and surprisingly qualified for the Super 8 finals. Another positive development was the inaugural season in 2023 of Major League Cricket, a professional Twenty20 cricket league in the USA. By including cricket in 2028, this move also placated other parts of the world like the sub-continent (e.g. India, Pakistan) and Commonwealth nations in this 'political trade-off'. As a result, the other sports of flag football, lacrosse, softball/baseball and squash were admitted onto the programme due in part to their favored status in the host nation.
- ²⁴ "How Are Sports Chosen for the Olympics?"; <https://www.britannica.com/story/how-are-sports-chosen-for-the-olympics>.
- ²⁵ "Frequently Asked Questions: Sports, Programme and Results"; <https://olympics.com/ioc/faq/sports-programme-and-results/how-can-a-sport-be-included-in-the-olympic-games-programme>.
- ²⁶ "Olympic Programme Commission"; <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-programme-commission>
- ²⁷ "IOC Session approves LA28's proposal for five additional sports."; <https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-session-approves-la28-s-proposal-for-five-additional-sports>. The IOC often uses the YOG or regionally sanctioned IOC multi-sports events (e.g. European Games, Pan American Games, and Asian Games) to trial new sports and then if popular it adds them to the main Games. Two good examples are 3X3 basketball and skateboarding which are both now on the Olympic Games summer sports programme. Summer and winter sports that have proven popular in the X Games have also been closely monitored by the IOC and then added to the Olympic Games programme.
- ²⁸ Greg Barclay. "Why cricket can deliver another "win-win-win" for the Olympic Movement." *Inside the Games*, May 4, 2023.

<http://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1136638/cricket-delivers-win-olympic-movement>.

²⁹ Baka. "Cricket? Lacrosse? Netball? The new sports that might make it to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games". As lacrosse will be played in a modified six-person format (similar to rugby 7s) and using a shot clock, nations traditionally not strong in the current version of this sport – with its bigger field and larger number of players – may begin to take an interest and support its inclusion. The body that will make this recommendation of sports to be included in the 2032 Games is officially named the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games but it is anticipated it's shortened version will become BOCOG in line with titles used by previous organizing committees (e.g. the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games was referred to as SOCOG). The scope of this paper did not include attention to the second key component of the 2032 Olympic Games – namely the Paralympic Games – but research on the topic of new sports for this major international sports event is encouraged.

³⁰ "Tokyo Olympics: Sport climbing - was it a success?" August 6, 2021; <https://www.bbc.com/sport/olympics/58109892>.

³¹ "One year on: How skateboarding's Olympic debut changed the Games."

³² Thomas Harrigan. "Baseball, softball will be back for 2028 Olympics in LA". October 17, 2023; <https://www.mlb.com/news/baseball-softball-returning-to-2028-olympics>.

³³ Tony Morris. "MCG in box seat to land first ever NFL game in Australia in 2025 or 2026" May 20, 2024. <https://www.nine.com.au/sport/afl/news-2024-mcg-to-play-nfl-game-in-2025-2026-mcc-talks-victorian-government-la-rams-20240520-p5jf6y.html>. US Football not flag football was a demonstration sport at the Summer Olympics in 1904 in St Louis and in 1932 in Los Angeles.

³⁴ Mike Rowbottom. "Exclusive: Squash, still celebrating Olympic inclusion at Los Angeles 2028, is already laying plans for Brisbane 2032". *Inside the Games*. October 23, 2023. <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1141965/squash-olympics-brisbane-2032-planning>.

³⁵ "Rowing Makes Olympic History with the Inclusion of 'Beach Sprints' at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games." October 13, 2023. <https://worldrowing.com/2023/10/13/rowing-makes-olympic-history-with-the-inclusion-of-beach-sprints-at-the-los-angeles-2028-olympic-games/>.

³⁶ Mikhail Batuev. "How breakdancing became the latest Olympic sport." *The Conversation*. April 24, 2024. <https://theconversation.com/how-breakdancing-became-the-latest-olympic-sport-226806>.

³⁷ "Lifesaving Sport Aims at Inclusion in the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games". April 23, 2024; <https://lifesaving.com.au/news/lifesaving-sport-aims-at-inclusion-in-the-brisbane-2032-olympic-games#:~:text=The%20International%20Life%20Saving%20Federation,be%20featured%20at%20an%20Olympic> cs. If the BOCOG ends up recommending this sport to the IOC there is a good chance of it making its first appearance although it is not guaranteed to be in future Games especially for host cities/nations without a strong beach culture.

³⁸ "IOC counterpunches IBA's prize-money initiative with pressure, ultimatums", *Inside the Games*. May 30, 2024; <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1145705/counterpunches-ibas-prize-money-init>. The International Boxing Association (IBA) has no involvement with organising boxing at the Paris Games after it was expelled from the Olympic Movement in June of 2023 over finance and governance issues. This ban followed the Tokyo 2021 Games which saw the IOC Boxing Task Force administering qualification and the tournament for both Tokyo in 2021 and Paris in 2024. The IBA has appealed this decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and its ruling is pending. The IOC has stated that it will not continue its control of boxing in future Games hence its exclusion from the LA Games. It is likely that the USA would lobby hard for the inclusion of boxing in LA 2028 as it has a strong boxing tradition and is one in which it wins a lot of medals. At this point, the jury remains out on this one as to whether the issues can be resolved in time for it to be included in either the LA or Brisbane Games.

³⁹ Brittany Carter. "Netball has always been a female-dominated sport, now it may have to adapt for a shot at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games", May 5, 2024; <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-05/netballs-female-focus-could-prevent-its-olympic-debut/102305374#>.

Similar to surf lifesaving, there is a possibility that the IOC would approve netball for Brisbane as a 'hometown favour' but without an assurance to be in future games. Although men do play the sport including mixed competitions. the reality is that male numbers are extremely low at the elite level.

⁴⁰ Stacie Townsend. "Pickleball Will Need to Look to 2032 & Beyond for Olympic Consideration" October 16, 2023; <https://thepickler.com/pickleball-blog/pickleball-olympic-hopes-delayed/>.

⁴¹ Conor Burke and Simon Wallace. "Pickleball is booming in Australia, delivering a boost to small sports clubs", September 9, 2023; <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-09/pickleball-the-saviour-for-some-sports-clubs/102828436>.

⁴² "Is Pickleball an Olympic Sport | Explained"; <https://pickleballxpert.com/is-pickleball-an-olympic-sport/#:~:text=Pickleball%20is%20not%20currently%20included%20in%20the%20Olympics,governed%20by%20international%20governing%20bodies%20and%20practiced%20worldwide>.

⁴³ Andrew Woodin. "Baseball, Softball, and Karate Are No Longer Olympic Events – Here's Why", Jan 5, 2024. <https://www.nbc.com/nbc-insider/what-sports-are-no-longer-in-the-2024-olympics-baseball-softball-karate#:~:text=According%20to%20Reuters%2C%20karate%20was,fixed%20defensive%20and%20offensive%20moves>.

⁴⁴ "The Big Debate: Will MMA Be in the Olympics"; <https://evolve-mma.com/blog/the-big-debate-will-mma-be-in-the-olympics/>.

⁴⁵ Gareth Davie. "What Martial Arts Are in the Olympics?" January 2, 2023; <https://fightersvault.com/martial-arts-in-the-olympics/>. With current Olympic sports judo, taekwondo, fencing, karate, boxing, and wrestling all in this combat or martial arts category, it is a crowded field which could see the IOC reluctant to add more of these types of sports to the programme.

⁴⁶ Neil Dalrymple. "Bowls in the Olympics and Paralympics - will it ever happen?" October 15, 2023; <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1141753/bowls-olympics-paralympics-blog>.

⁴⁷ "IOC President Thomas Bach: Exploring plans to create Olympic Esports Games." October 15, 2023; <https://olympics.com/en/news/ioc-president-thomas-bach-exploring-plans-to-create-olympic-esports-games>.

A case for being in the Olympics is that E-sports demand long hours of intense concentration and quick reflexes, necessitating a healthy body and mind. Many players follow regular workout routines, engage in cardiovascular activities, and maintain a balanced diet to optimise their performance.

⁴⁸ "IOC EB propose creation of 'Olympic Esports Games' to IOC Session." <https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-eb-proposes-creation-of-olympic-esports-games-to-ioc-session>.

⁴⁹ "A 'rip off': New Olympic rule slammed by angry Aussie stars", January 21, 2024; <https://www.foxsports.com.au/olympics/olympics-2024-furious-australian-athletes-to-be-kicked-out-of-village-at-paris-olympics/news-story/e7488328575d41ff29b21dfabfdc4673>.

Australian athletes were not impressed with the dictate by the AOC to leave the Olympic Village 48 hours after their events are over, but they can stay on for the remainder of the Games at their own expense. This directive has not been implemented by other countries such as the USA, Canada and European nations.

⁵⁰ "Venues and Villages"; <https://q2032.au/plans/venues-and-villages>.

⁵¹ Jessica Stewart. "What would a Brisbane Olympics look like and what events will be held outside the capital city?" February 26, 2021; <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-26/2032-brisbane-olympics-what-will-it-look-like/13192136>.

The three main zones for the 2032 Games are Brisbane and surrounds, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast while several other regional stadiums will be used for preliminary events primarily for soccer (e.g. Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns and Ipswich); Sydney and Melbourne are also being considered to host preliminary soccer events.

⁵² Robert Craddock. "Game Changers: Since Paris Hosted the Olympics, Many Traditional Sports are Fighting to Stay Relevant as Bold New Sports Stage a Revolution", *Sunday Herald Sun: Olympic Supplement*, April 28, 2022, 8. If new sports are added to the sports programme an important consideration is the cost of new facilities which could be a limiting factor. But if the time length of the Summer Games is extended this could allow some venues to be used for more than one sport. Also, if some sports are dropped this would free up facilities to be used for incoming sports.

⁵³ Michael Pavitt. "IOC confirms decision on Paris 2024 events and quotas to remain in December" *Inside the Games*, June 10, 2020; <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1095177/paris-2024-events-quotas-december#:~:text=This%20includes%20reducing%20the%20overall,to%20compete%20at%20Tokyo%202020>.

⁵⁴ Md Imtiaz. "The FIFA World Cup v/s Olympics — Which is the biggest sporting event in the world?". <https://thebridge.in/tokyo-2020/fifa-world-cup-olympics-biggest-sports-world-21997><https://thebridge.in/tokyo-2020/fifa-world-cup-olympics-biggest-sports-world-21997>. The men's World Cup of Soccer has expanded from 13 national teams in 1930 to 48 at the next event in 2026. The women's World Cup of Soccer has likewise grown dramatically from 12 teams in 1991 to 32 in 2023. This growth and expansion are something that the IOC might closely monitor and assess to see if it goes down the same path. It is interesting that the World Cup of Soccer has also had the event shared by more than one nation, the most recent example being Canada, Mexico and the USA all hosting the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup. Conceivably the Olympics could adopt this concept in the future.

⁵⁵ Baka. "Cricket? Lacrosse? Netball? The new sports that might make it to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games."