

WATCH TEAM CANADA GO FOR GOLD

Salute to the Summer Games TOKYO 2020



GETTING TO KNOW TOKYO 2020

The Tokyo 2020 Olympics are underway in 2021 after a one-year delay due to the challenges of a global pandemic. While the competitions will go ahead as usual, there won't be any spectators to cheer them on. Supporters will be witnessing the athletes' performances virtually. Here are some facts about Canada's Olympic team and the summer games.

- Canada has sent its largest delegation to an Olympic Games in 37 years. According to the Canadian Olympic Committee, 371 athletes will wear Canadian colours at the Tokyo Olympics, the most since 1984 in Los Angeles.
- Ontario has the greatest representation at Tokyo 2020 with 171 athletes. British Columbia has 95 and Quebec 58.
- The youngest team Canada member is 14-year-old Toronto swimmer Summer McIntosh.



- Surfing has been introduced to the Tokyo 2020 games but there won't be any Canadians challenging the waves as our athletes failed to qualify. Sights are set on the Paris games in 2024.
- The 2020 contingent includes 40 athletes who have previously won Olympic medals.
- Canada did not qualify in men's baseball but the women's softball team will represent and has a chance at a medal. Both sports have not been included in the games since the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.
- Skateboarding will debut as an Olympic sport at Tokyo 2020. There are two versions of the sport. Canadians will compete in the men's park and men's street event.
- Among the changes that COVID-19 restrictions bring to the games is the athlete's experience at the Olympic village. They can't check in until five days before their competition begins and have to leave 48 hours after they are done. They will be tested daily with regular temperature checks, and masks must be worn off the field of play.

Runners are finished a race when their trunk reaches the finish line. Head, hands and feet don't count, only the area of the body between the neck and groin.

Canada's gold medalist swimmers Alex Baumann and Victor Davis were among the Canadian swimmers with a red maple leaf tattoo on their chest. At the 1984 games in Los Angeles, the pair were the first Canadian swimmers to win Olympic gold since 1912.

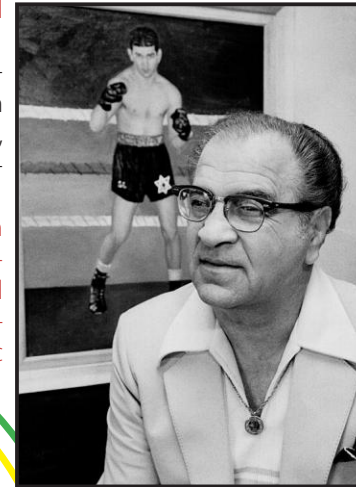
The steeplechase is a 3,000-metre obstacle race based on an 18th century equine event, with 28 fixed barriers, or hurdles, and seven water pits.

Rower Silken Laumann came back from a training accident that resulted in a horrific

leg injury to win bronze in 1992 and silver in 1996. The win brought her lifetime Olympic medal total to three.

At the age of 38, Lori-Ann Muenzer became the first Canadian cyclist to win a gold medal at the 2004 games in Athens. She won on wheels borrowed from the French and Australian teams after both of her tires had blown.

Sammy Luftspring, a Jewish Canadian boxer didn't compete in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin in protest of the Nazi regime's treatment of Jews. Luftspring, whose boxing shorts featured the Star of David, turned professional in 1936 and won the Canadian Welterweight Championship in 1938, a title he held for two years. He was blinded in one eye during a fight, ending his career and moving him into refereeing.



Boxer Sammy Luftspring - Torstar file photo



Best Wishes Tessa!



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