

7 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

THESE FACTS MAY SURPRISE YOU

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The Tokyo Summer Paralympic Games will take place from Aug. 24 to Sept. 5 and athletes from around the world will be competing in 22 sporting events, from wheelchair rugby to equestrian.

While they officially made their debut in 1960, the Paralympic Games were around in different iterations prior to that inaugural year. A number of the sports played today were introduced to the Games in unconventional ways.

Here are seven things you probably didn't know about the Paralympics.

SPORTING EVENTS FOR ATHLETES WITH AN IMPAIRMENT ACTUALLY BEGAN IN THE 1800S

In 1888, Berlin became

home to the first sports facilities for those with hearing impairments. However, Paralympic sports did not become as widely known until after the Second World War.

THE PARALYMPIC GAMES WERE FIRST KNOWN AS THE STOKE MANDEVILLE GAMES

The Stoke Mandeville Games first appeared at the 1948 Olympics in London. Introduced by Dr. Ludwig Guttmann, a doctor who helped rehabilitate war veterans at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in England, the first competitors were injured individuals who served in the Second World War.

There were 16 competitors in total and they participated in what is now known as Paralympic archery.

TOKYO WILL BE THE FIRST COUNTRY TO HOST THE PARALYMPIC GAMES TWICE

Tokyo first hosted the Paralympic Games in 1964. This year will mark the

country's second time, making it the first-ever nation in history to host the Games more than once.

THE WORD PARALYMPIC MEANS "ALONGSIDE THE OLYMPICS"

"Para" is a Greek preposition meaning "alongside." According to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), this means that "Paralympics are the parallel Games to the Olympics and illustrates how the two movements exist side-by-side."

THE SYMBOL FOR THE PARALYMPICS REPRESENTS THE COMING TOGETHER OF ATHLETES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Paralympic symbol is of three "agitos" that are red, blue and green, respectively. The word "agitos" means "I move" in Latin and the colours represent the colours most prominent in the flags of countries around the world.

THE PARALYMPIC SPORT



Dave Holland/Canadian Paralympic

Eric Furtado-Rodrigues, 41, of Mississauga will be competing in wheelchair rugby at the Tokyo Paralympics.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY USED TO BE KNOWN AS "MURDERBALL"

Wheelchair rugby was initially called "murderball," due to the fact that it is a rough, full-contact sport that involves the clashing of wheelchairs. The sport was created by Canadian Dun-

can Campbell in 1976. Campbell, who has quadriplegia, invented the game with his friends while waiting to work out at a rehabilitation centre.

THERE ARE FOUR PARALYMPIC VALUES

The four Paralympic val-

ues, outlined by the IPC, are: courage, determination, inspiration and equality.

This article was informed by the International Paralympic Committee, Paralympic.ca and B.C. Sports Hall of Fame.

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