

History of the Paralympic Games



Stoke Mandeville, Great Britain
On 28 July, the day of the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in London, the Stoke Mandeville Games took place for the first time on the hospital grounds in Stoke Mandeville. Two teams with 14 former servicemen and two former servicewomen in wheelchairs competed in Archery.



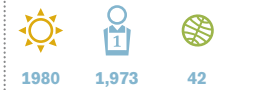
Tokyo, Japan
With the success of the 1960 Games in Rome, Paralympic Games founder Sir Ludwig Guttmann was keen to stage the Games again at the same venue as the Olympic Games in 1964, in Tokyo. The Opening Ceremony was held in front of some 5,000 spectators. The patrons of the Games, His Imperial Highness Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko, were in attendance.



Heidelberg, Germany
Since the Olympic village in Munich was to be closed and converted into private apartments, Heidelberg stepped in and invited the organizers to stage the Games in their city. In the seven days of competition, several new records were set, mostly in Swimming.



Arnhem, Netherlands
The 1980 Paralympic Games were expected to be held in the same city as the Olympic Games. As there was no positive reply from Moscow, the Games were hosted in Arnhem. A crowd of 12,000 attended the Opening Ceremony on 21 June at the Papendal Stadium. Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands officially opened the Games.



Seoul, Korea
The Seoul 1988 Paralympic Games were, at that time, the largest and best-facilitated in Games history. They gave a new generation of Paralympic athletes the opportunity to compete in many of the well-designed and well-constructed facilities used previously for the Olympic Games. For the first time a free technical service for all athletes was provided by Ottobock.



Lillehammer, Norway
The Lillehammer 1994 Paralympic Winter Games were the first Games held under IPC management. It was here that Ice Sledge Hockey was introduced to the Paralympic Winter Sports Programme.



Nagano, Japan
The 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan, were the first Paralympic Winter Games to be held outside Europe. His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan officiated at the Opening Ceremony. A total of 1,468 media covered the Games. The official Games website recorded a total of 7.7 million hits during the course of the Games.



Salt Lake City, USA
It was a high priority of the organisers to provide a higher level of television coverage for the Paralympic Winter Games 2002 in Salt Lake City. After long negotiations, a live, worldwide television signal of all sports was secured for the Salt Lake City Paralympic Winter Games. There was such a high demand from spectators that the total number of tickets available had to be increased.



Torino, Italy
Wheelchair Curling made its Paralympic debut at the Torino Paralympic Winter Games in front of packed crowds. Torino also welcomed Mexico and Mongolia to their first Winter Paralympic Games. The medal tally was topped by Russia with 13 gold medals, followed by Germany with eight golds and Ukraine, France and USA all tied with seven gold medals each.



Vancouver, Canada
With a theme of „One Inspires Many“, the Opening Ceremony in Vancouver featured over 5,000 local performers. 15-year old snowboarder Zach Beaumont, an amputee, was the final torch bearer who lit the Games Cauldron. It was the first time Canada hosted the Winter Paralympic Games.



Rome, Italy
The first Paralympic Games were held directly following the Olympic Games in Rome, Italy. The event used the same venues and format as the Olympic event and included 400 athletes from 23 countries. The Paralympic Games were to continue in this manner every four years following the Olympic cycle.



Tel Aviv, Israel
In Tel Aviv, new events such as Lawn Bowls, women's Basketball and the men's 100m Wheelchair Race were introduced. After having won two gold medals in field events at the 1964 Games in Tokyo, Italy's Roberto Marson had worked diligently to broaden his athletic participation to Swimming and Fencing. He won 10 gold medals this time – three in field events, three in Swimming and four in Fencing.



Toronto, Canada



Örnsköldsvik, Sweden
The first Paralympic Winter Games were held in Sweden. Many innovations were seen in ski equipment design, such as "three-track skiing" using crutches.



Innsbruck, Austria



Stoke Mandeville, UK & New York, USA
The 1984 Paralympic Games were held in both Europe and North America. Amputees, les autres, cerebral palsy and visually impaired athletes competed in New York, while athletes with spinal cord disabilities competed in Stoke Mandeville. Although the Games were a success, the organizers agreed that the Games should in future be held at the same venue.



Tignes-Albertville, France



Barcelona, Spain
The Paralympic Games in Barcelona were a benchmark in organizational excellence. Athletes experienced vibrant venues filled with spectators for the first time. Paralympic Games for athletes with an intellectual disability were held in Madrid shortly after.



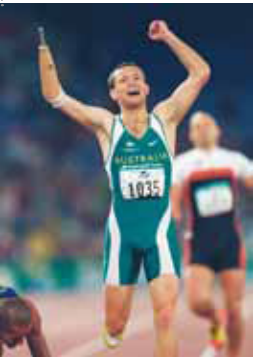
Atlanta, USA

In Atlanta, athletes with an intellectual disability took part in the Games for the first time, along with athletes with spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, amputations, les autres and visual impairments. In all, about 4,500 people attended, including athletes and delegation members. 12,000 volunteers were recruited to help with the massive operations.



Sydney, Australia

On the occasion of the Sydney Paralympic Games, the IPC and IOC outlined the principles of an agreement to strengthen future relations. It was the first time that the Paralympic Games had comprehensive international TV coverage. More than 340,000 school children were brought to the venues to experience Paralympic Sport first hand.



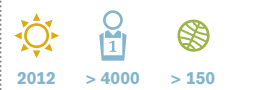
Athens, Greece

More than 3,000 journalists, including more than 68 broadcasters from around the world, covered the Games in Athens. High-level politicians were on hand to cheer for their respective countries. An elevator for wheelchair users was installed at the Acropolis – accessibility became a social issue.



Beijing, China

The Beijing Paralympic Games were "Games of Equal Splendour", raising the standard of Paralympic Sport to a new level. IPC President Sir Philip Craven called them the "Best Games Ever," leaving a legacy for millions of people with a disability in China. The Games saw a total of 279 new World Records. Around the world 3.8 billion viewers followed the Games on TV, and more than 3.4 million spectators filled the venues.



London, Great Britain

With already one million tickets sold one year in advance, the London Paralympic Games are expected to set many new records. London 2012 aims to deliver accessible and inclusive designs for all facilities, maximize media coverage and strengthen the Paralympic Movement. The Games will strive to provide conditions that enable the athletes to compete in an environment of excellence, friendship and enjoyment.





Summer Games



Winter Games



Number of Athletes



Number of Countries