

Newspapers in Education



The London line-up



COMPETITION CATEGORY

Athletics – marathon

ONE of the 47 events on the Olympic track, field and road events program is the marathon – a long distance race originally included in the Games in commemoration of the fabled Greek soldier who ran barefoot from Marathon to Athens to deliver an important message. The race's length was extended from 40 kilometres to 42.195 kilometres at the 1908 Games in London so it would finish in front of the Royal Box, giving the royal family a better view. At London 2012 the women's marathon will be run on August 5 and the men's on August 12 through the streets of London.

Aussies competing: Benita Willis (above), Lisa Weightman, Jessica Trengove, Jeffrey Hunt, Martin Dent and Michael Shelley.

Table tennis

THIS sport was first included as an Olympic sport in 1988. There are four competitions – men's singles and teams and women's singles and teams. The singles is a knockout event. The teams contest is made up of three players representing their country and is held in two stages: group round-robin and knockout. The table tennis is scheduled to take place from Saturday, July 28 to Wednesday, August 8 at ExCel.

Aussies competing: Robert Frank (below), William Henzell, Justin Han, Miao Miao, Jian Fang Lay and Vivian Tan.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



Britain's capital first to host the world's top athletes for top-level multi-sport competition three times

SINCE the modern Summer Olympic Games began in 1896, there have been 27 Games held in 22 different cities.

Because of the First and Second World Wars, there were no Olympic Games in 1916, 1940 or 1944. Even though these Games were cancelled they still count as Olympiads.

The Games of 1896 (Athens), 1900 (Paris) and 1904 (St Louis) were loosely organised. From then on the Games enjoyed strong growth featuring more national teams and events. Politics began to have an effect on the Games in a serious way at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, where Palestinian terrorists attacked Israeli athletes in the Olympic Village. Sixty nations boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, while the Soviets and some of their allies retaliated by declining to take part in the 1984 Games in Los Angeles. Most Olympic controversies in recent years have centred on accusations of bribery, corruption and the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

The International Olympic Committee headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland, sets and enforces Olympic policy. The site of the Games is chosen at least six years in advance.

Live from London

In the upcoming weeks the world's attention will be on London as the city plays host to the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. Hosted every four years, they represent the pinnacle of international sporting events. Cities around the world, support-

FACT FILE

► Women were first allowed to participate at the modern Olympic Games in 1900.

► Greece is the only nation to have participated under its own flag in all modern summer Olympic Games.

► Montreal hosted the Games back in 1976, but the city's taxpayers were still paying for the event up to 2006.

► The cost to host the 2012 Games is estimated to be \$15 billion. (Source: Forbes)

► Ethiopia's Abebe Biikila won the 1960 Rome marathon barefoot because no pair of running shoes from official manufacturers could be found to comfortably fit his feet.

ed by their national governments, enter the bidding process in the hope of being host city.

The City of London began the bidding process in July 2003.

Some advantages of hosting the Games are: it attracts trade and tourism, new facilities are built, national pride is boosted, there's an increase in sporting involvement, and transport and communication systems are improved.

Some disadvantages are: the enormous expense and costs involved, the difficulty to make a profit and not end up with a large debt, the added security needed to prevent disruptions and guarantee safety, the added pressure on infrastructure like roads to cope with the influx of visitors. It will be interesting to see how successful these Games are.

WHAT'S NEWS

Check out what's happening at London 2012 in the two-page spread in the Sports Pages of today's paper.

TOMORROW PART THREE

TASK TIME ONLINE

Go online by visiting your newspaper's website. You'll find the address on the front page. Look for the NiE logo at the top of the page and click. This will link you to APN's NiE webpage.

The London Line-Up Online will provide you with activities to do, videos to watch and direct you to interesting links associated with the Olympic Games.



Aussie athletes

Who do you think is Australia's greatest Olympian? It's a question that is very difficult to answer.

In terms of medals won, Ian Thorpe (pictured) has won five Olympic gold while Tim Sullivan is a ten-time Paralympic gold medallist. However, the achievements of others to claim the title cannot be underestimated.

► Dawn Fraser – a swimmer who dominated the 100m freestyle, winning the event at three Games (1956, 1960, 1964).

► Herb Elliot – a middle-distance runner who was never beaten over 1500m or a mile in 42 races from 1957–1961.

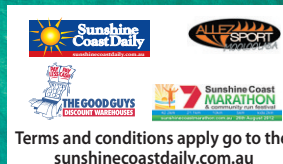
► Louise Savage – a paralympian who dominated the world of wheelchair track and road racing for well over a decade. She won nine Paralympic gold medals.

At the 2012 games keep an eye on Sally Pearson (hurdles); James Magnussen (swimming); Men's hockey team (The Kookaburras); 470 sailing team (Malcolm Page, Mathew Belcher); Mitchell Watt (long jump); Women's 4 x 200m freestyle relay team; Sam Willoughby (BMX); Laser sailor – Tom Slingsby; Men's double scull – rowing: Scott Brennan, David Crawshaw.

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