

The London line-up



COMPETITION CATEGORY

A VARIETY of sports is played at the Olympic Games providing us with an opportunity to learn about different sports and the rules, strategies, physical skills and etiquette associated with those games. At London 2012, 38 sports will be contested.

Archery

The object of this sport is to shoot arrows as close to the centre of a target. At the Olympics the targets are 122cm in diameter with a gold circle in the middle measuring 12.2cm, worth 10 points. Archers shoot at the target from 70m trying to eliminate their opponents by scoring the most points. In London 128 athletes will contest four medal events: men's individual, women's individual, men's team and women's team. This event also will feature in the Paralympics.

AUSSIES COMPETING: Taylor Worth, Elisa Barnard (pictured above).

Weightlifting

In London, 260 athletes will be showcasing their physical strength in the dramatic sport of weightlifting. There are 15 gold medals in eight men's and seven women's events. Competitors are divided into weight categories. Lifters are allowed three attempts at the two types of lifts: the snatch – where the bar is lifted from the floor to above the head in one movement – and the clean and jerk – a two-stage action where the bar is brought up to the shoulder before being jerked above the head.

AUSSIES COMPETING : Seen Lee, Damon Kelly (pictured below).

PHOTOS: GETTY



Ancient Greece started a sporting tradition that has carried on into the modern era with athletes from around the world competing in a variety of events for men and women

The Ancient Games

ONCE every four years, men from all over Greece came to compete in a great athletic festival in a place called Olympia. The Olympic Games was an event celebrating the Greek ideals of fitness and discipline, as well as a way to honour Zeus, the king of the gods. The first record of the Olympics was in 776 BC. When it was time for the games, the rulers sent out messengers all over Greece. They declared a truce throughout the Greek world for a month. All wars had to stop and athletes and performers were to pass through all city states safely to get to the Olympic Games. The Roman Emperor Theodosius banned the games in 393 AD.

The Modern Games

Baron Pierre de Coubertin led the effort to bring back the spirit of the ancient Olympic Games at the end of the 19th century. Fittingly, the first modern Olympic Games were in Athens, Greece, in 1896. Fourteen countries sent athletes to the event. After the 1896 games, the leaders of several nations decided that the games should be every four years in a different country each time.

Live in London

In July 2005, it was announced that the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games would be held in London, the capital of England and the United Kingdom. It is the first city to host the modern Olympic Games three times, having previously held them in 1908 and 1948. After the success of its bid, the London organising

FAST FACTS

- ▶ An Olympiad is an Ancient Greek measure of time, being the number of years between Olympic Games celebrations.
- ▶ The London 2012 Summer Olympics is the XXX Olympiad of the modern era.
- ▶ The Summer and Winter Olympics are held every four years in different parts of the world, but alternating so that every two years either a Summer or Winter Games is held.
- ▶ There are 410 athletes representing Australia at this year's Olympics and 161 competing at the Paralympics.

committee has been busy preparing in the countdown to this world event.

Where in the world is London?

London is in southeast England – a country in Europe. It is made up of two cities that are joined to make up a region known as Greater London. There is the City of London which was the original Roman settlement (ancient Londinium) and the City of Westminster where Parliament and most of the government offices are located along with Buckingham Palace, the official residence of the Queen. London occupies 1577sq km.

London is built on the banks of the River Thames which has been an important trade and transport route for centuries. London was the first city in the world to have an underground railway known as the Tube.

WHAT'S NEWS

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



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

ALL Australian athletes at an Olympic Games must sign the A.S.P.I.R.E values statement which states:

Attitude – My positive attitude is essential in overcoming obstacles to help me improve and give of my best. My positive attitude is a key ingredient to success and leadership.

Sportsmanship – I recognise that sport is greater than the individual; that cheating reduces the stature of sport and all who love it; that class, race and creed are never factors in the attitude of true sportspeople and those who respect the virtues and values of sport.

Pride – Pride drives me when the temptation is to settle for something less. I am proud to have been chosen to represent our country.

Individual responsibility – I alone am responsible for my performance but I will be generous in acknowledging the support of others.

Respect – I respect sport, the efforts of my competitors, my teammates and officials. I respect Australia, our Olympic past and the spirit of Olympism.

Express – I have an opinion and will express my view with thought and consideration to others. In showing my emotions I do so with individuality and, where possible, good humour.

Source: Australian Olympic Committee media guidelines

TOMORROW:
PART TWO

