



# OLYMPIC GAMES



MELBOURNE

November 22 - December 8, 1956



## Olympics Down Under

The 1956 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XVI Olympiad, were held in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, in November–December 1956, apart from the equestrian events, which were held five months earlier in Stockholm, Sweden. The 1956 Games were the first to be staged in the Southern Hemisphere and Oceania, as well as the first to be held outside Europe and North America. Melbourne is the southernmost city to host the games. Equestrian events could not be held in Australia due to quarantine regulations. This was the second Olympics not to be held entirely in one country, the first being the 1920 Summer Olympics, which Antwerp, Belgium, co-hosted with Amsterdam and Ostend.

Melbourne was selected as the host city over bids from Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Montreal and six American cities (Los Angeles, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Philadelphia and San Francisco) on 28 April 1949, at the 43rd IOC Session in Rome, Italy.

Many members of the IOC were sceptical about Melbourne as an appropriate site. Its location in the Southern Hemisphere was a major concern, since the reversal of seasons would mean the Games must be held during the northern winter. The November–December schedule was thought likely to inconvenience athletes from the Northern Hemisphere, who were accustomed to resting during their winter.

The above problems of the Melbourne Games were compounded by bickering over financing among Australian politicians. Faced with a housing shortage, the Premier of Victoria refused to allocate money for the Olympic Village (eventually sited in Heidelberg West), and the

country's Prime Minister barred the use of federal funds. At one point, IOC President Avery Brundage suggested that Rome, which was to host the 1960 Games, was so far ahead of Melbourne in preparations that it might be ready as a replacement site in 1956.

Egypt, Iraq, and Lebanon announced that they would not participate in the Olympics in response to the Suez Crisis when Egypt was invaded by Israel, the United Kingdom, and France after Egypt nationalised the Suez canal. Meanwhile, in 1956 the Soviet Union crushed the Hungarian Revolution, and the Soviet presence at the Games led to the withdrawal of the Netherlands, Cambodia, Spain, and Switzerland.

Less than two weeks before the 22 November opening ceremony, the People's Republic of China chose to boycott the event because the Republic of China had been allowed to compete.

Although the number of countries participating (67) was almost the same as in 1952 (69), the number of athletes competing dropped sharply, from 4,925 to 3,342. (This figure does not include the 158 athletes from 29 countries who took part in the Stockholm equestrian competition.)



Based on [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)



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**The 1956 Summer Olympic programme featured 151 events (145 events in Melbourne and 6 equestrian events in Stockholm) in 17 sports:**

**\*Aquatics:**

- Diving (4 events)
- Swimming (13 events)
- Water polo (1 event)

**\*Athletics (33 events)**

**\*Basketball (1 event)**

**\*Boxing (10 event)**

**\*Canoeing (9 event)**

**\*Cycling:**

- Road (2 events)
- Track (4 events)

**\*Equestrian:**

- Dressage (2 events)
- Eventing (2 events)
- Show jumping (2 events)

**\*Fencing (7 events)**

**\*Field hockey (1 event)**

**\*Football (1 event)**

**\*Gymnastics (15 events)**

**\*Modern pentathlon (2 events)**

**\*Rowing (7 events)**

**\*Sailing (5 events)**

**\*Shooting (7 events)**

**\*Weightlifting (7 events)**

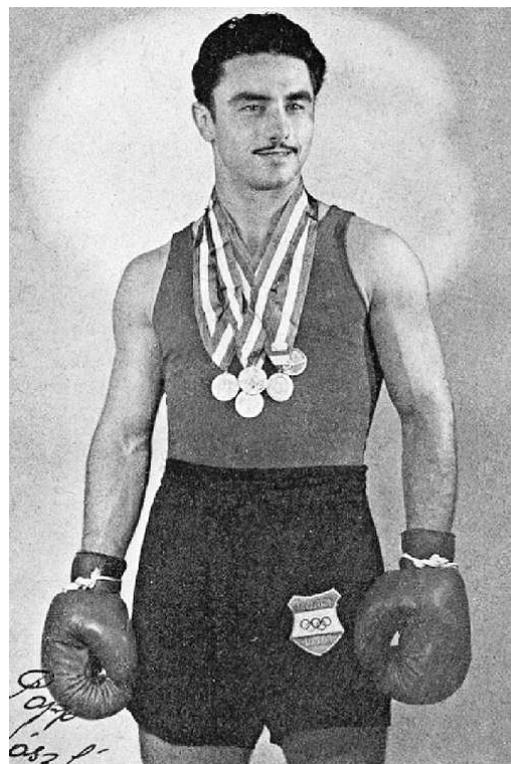
**\*Wrestling:**

- Freestyle (8 events)
- Greco-Roman (8 events)

***Demonstration sports:***

***\*Australian football (1 event)***

***\*Baseball (1 event)***



Laszlo Papp

# Venues

VENUE	SPORTS
Broadmeadows	Road cycling
Lake Wendouree, Ballarat	Canoeing / Rowing
Hockey Field	Field hockey
Melbourne Cricket Ground	Athletics / Field hockey / Football
Oaklands Hunt Club	Modern pentathlon
Olympic Park Stadium	Football
Port Phillip	Sailing
Royal Australian Air Force Laverton Air Base	Shooting
Royal Exhibition Building	Basketball / Modern pentathlon / Weightlifting / Wrestling
St. Kilda Town Hall	Fencing
Swimming/Diving Stadium	Diving / Modern pentathlon / Swimming / Water polo
Velodrome	Track cycling
West Melbourne Stadium	Basketball / Boxing / Gymnastics
Williamstown	Modern pentathlon / Shooting
<b>Stockholm (Sweden)</b>	
Lill-Jannskogen	Equestrian (eventing)
Olympic Stadium	Equestrian (dressage, eventing, jumping)
Ulriksdal	Equestrian (eventing)

## HIGHLIGHTS

- These were the first Summer Olympic Games under the IOC presidency of Avery Brundage.
- Hungary and the Soviet Union (engaged in an armed conflict at the time) were both present at the Games which, among other things, led to a hotly contested and violent water polo encounter between the nations.
- Athletes from both East and West Germany competed in a combined team. This remarkable combination disappeared at the 1968 Summer Olympics.
- Australian athlete Betty Cuthbert became the "Golden Girl" by winning three track gold medals. Her performance was equalled by sprinter Bobby Morrow.
- Another Australian, Murray Rose, won three gold medals in swimming.
- Bobby Morrow of the United States won gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay.
- Soviet runner Vladimir Kuts won both the 5000m and 10000m.
- Inspired by Australian teenager John Wing, an Olympic tradition began when athletes of different nations are allowed to parade together at the closing ceremony, instead of with their national teams, as a symbol of world unity.
- Laszlo Papp defended his light-middleweight boxing title, gaining a record third gold.
- Ronnie Delany won gold for Ireland in the 1500m final. It is the last gold medal Ireland has won in a track event.
- The India national field hockey team won its sixth consecutive gold.
- When the Olympic Flame was being carried to Sydney, an Australian veterinary student named Barry Larkin carried a fake Olympic Flame and fooled the mayor of Sydney

A total of 67 nations competed in Melbourne. Cambodia (that competed only in the equestrian events in Stockholm), Ethiopia, Fiji, Kenya, Liberia, Federation of Malaya, North Borneo (modern-day Sabah of Malaysia), and Uganda made their Olympic debut. Athletes from East Germany and West Germany competed together as the United Team of Germany, an arrangement that would last until 1968.

For the first time the team of Republic of China effectively represented only Taiwan.

Egypt did not compete in Melbourne due to the Suez Crisis, whilst Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland all boycotted the Australian event in protest at the Soviet invasion of Hungary

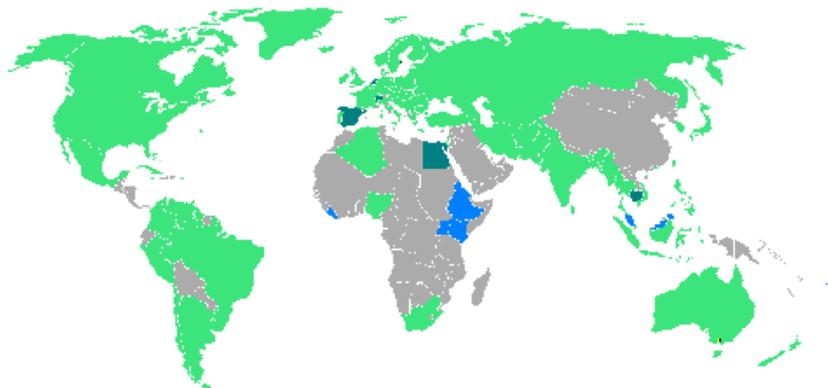
The Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland (Soviet invasion of Hungary), Egypt, Iraq, and Lebanon (Suez Crisis) and the People's Republic of China (participation of Taiwan) boycotted the games, but some of them took part in the equestrian events in Stockholm.

NATION	NATION	NATION
AFGHANISTAN (12) 	GREECE (13) 	PERU (8) 
ARGENTINA (28) 	GUYANA (4) 	PHILIPPINES (39) 
AUSTRALIA (294) 	HONG KONG (2) 	POLAND (64) 
AUSTRIA (29) 	HUNGARY (108) 	PORTUGAL (11) 
BAHAMAS (4) 	ICELAND (2) 	PUERTO RICO (10) 
BELGIUM (51) 	INDIA (59) 	ROMANIA (44) 
BERMUDA (3) 	INDONESIA (22) 	SINGAPORE (52) 
BRAZIL (44) 	IRAN (17) 	SOUTH AFRICA (50) 
BULGARIA (43) 	IRELAND (18) 	SOUTH KOREA (35) 
BURMA (11) 	ISRAEL (3) 	SOVIET UNION (272) 
CANADA (92) 	ITALY (129) 	SWEDEN (88) 
CEYLON (3) 	JAMAICA (6) 	TAIWAN (13) 
CHILE (33) 	JAPAN (110) 	THAILAND (38) 
COLOMBIA (26) 	KENYA (25) 	TRINIDAD TOBAGO (6) 
CUBA (16) 	LIBERIA (4) 	TURKEY (19) 
CZECHOSLOVAKIA (63) 	LUXEMBOURG (11) 	UGANDA (3) 
DENMARK (31) 	MALAYA (32) 	UNITED STATES (297) 
ETHIOPIA (12) 	MEXICO (24) 	URUGUAY (21) 
FIJI (5) 	NEW ZEALAND (53) 	VENEZUELA (19) 
FINLAND (71) 	NIGERIA (10) 	VIETNAM (6) 
FRANCE (137) 	NORTH BORNEO (2) 	YUGOSLAVIA (35) 
*GERMANY (158) 	NORWAY (22) 	
GREAT BRITAIN (189) 	PAKISTAN (55) 	

\*United Team of Germany

Five nations competed only in equestrian events in Stockholm.

NATION	NATION	NATION
CAMBODIA (2) 	NETHERLANDS (1) 	SWITZERLAND (9) 
EGYPT (3) 	SPAIN (6) 	



## Medal count

RANK	NATION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1.	SOVIET UNION	37	29	32	98
2.	UNITED STATES	32	25	17	74
3.	AUSTRALIA	13	8	14	35
4.	HUNGARY	9	10	7	26
5.	ITALY	8	8	9	25
6.	SWEDEN	8	5	6	19
7.	UNITED TEAM OF GERMANY	6	13	7	26
8.	GREAT BRITAIN	6	7	11	24
9.	ROMANIA	5	3	5	13
10.	JAPAN	4	10	5	19
11.	FRANCE	4	4	6	14
12.	TURKEY	3	2	2	7
13.	FINLAND	3	1	11	15
14.	IRAN	2	2	1	5
15.	CANADA	2	1	3	6
16.	NEW ZEALAND	2	0	0	2
17.	POLAND	1	4	4	9
18.	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	1	4	1	6
19.	BULGARIA	1	3	1	5
20.	DENMARK	1	2	1	4
21.	IRELAND	1	1	3	5
22.	NORWAY	1	0	2	3
23.	MEXICO	1	0	1	2
24.	BRAZIL	1	0	0	1
	INDIA	1	0	0	1
26.	YUGOSLAVIA	0	3	0	3
27.	CHILE	0	2	2	4
28.	BELGIUM	0	2	0	2
29.	ARGENTINA	0	1	1	2
	SOUTH KOREA	0	1	1	2
31.	ICELAND	0	1	0	1
	PAKISTAN	0	1	0	1
33.	SOUTH AFRICA	0	0	4	4
34.	AUSTRIA	0	0	2	2
35.	BAHAMAS	0	0	1	1
	GREECE	0	0	1	1
	SWITZERLAND	0	0	1	1
	URUGUAY	0	0	1	1
		153	153	163	469



## MAJOR STARS

**Pat McCormick (USA)** – two gold medals in diving (added to two golds won in 1952)

**Murray Rose (Australia)** – three golds in swimming

**Dawn Fraser (Australia)** – two golds and one silver in swimming

**Bobby Morrow (USA)** – three golds in athletics (100m, 200m, 4x100m)

**Charles Jenkins (USA)** – two golds in athletics (400m, 4x400m)

**Vladimir Kuts (Soviet Union)** – two golds in athletics (5000m, 10000m)

**Al Oerter (USA)** – won his first gold in discus throw

**Betty Cuthbert (Australia)** – three golds in athletics (100m, 200m, 4x100m) - in the photo

**Shirley Strickland de la Hunty (Australia)** – two golds in athletics (her overall achievements from 3 Olympic Games was then: 3 golds, 1 silver, 3 bronzes)

**Laszlo Papp (Hungary)** – he won his third consecutive gold in boxing

**Leon Rotman (Romania)** – two golds in canoeing (C-1)

**Gert Fredriksson (Sweden)** – two golds in canoeing (K-1); his overall number of medals was then 5 golds and 1 silver

**Leandro Faggin (Italy)** – two golds in track cycling

**Henri Saint Cyr and Juli (Sweden)** – two golds in equestrian/dressage (altogether: 4 gold medals)

**Hans Günter Winkler and Halla (Germany)** – two golds in equestrian/jumping

**Carlo Pavese (Italy)** – two golds in fencing (altogether: 3 Olympic golds)

**Edoardo Mangiarotti (Italy)** – two golds and one bronze in fencing (altogether: 5 golds, 4 silvers and 2 bronzes)

**Pal Kovacs (Hungary)** – one gold in fencing (in Olympics: 5 golds and 1 bronze)

**Aladar Gerevich (Hungary)** - one gold in fencing (altogether in Olympics: 6 golds, 1 silver and 2 bronzes)

**Lew Yashin (Soviet Union)** – gold medal in football (he was one of the best goalkeepers in football history)

**Viktor Chukarin (Soviet Union)** – 3 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze (then altogether: 7 golds, 3 silvers and 1 bronze)

**Albert Azaryan (Soviet Union)** – two golds in gymnastics

**Valentin Muratov (Soviet Union)** – three golds and 1 silver (altogether in Olympics: 4 golds and 1 silver)

**Boris Shakhlin (Soviet Union)** – two golds in gymnastics

**Larisa Latynina (Soviet Union)** – four golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze

**Agnes Keleti (Hungary)** – four golds, 2 silvers (overall Olympic achievement: 5 golds, 3 silvers and 2 bronzes)

**Indian field hockey team** – sixth consecutive gold medal



## POLISH PARTICIPATION

.64 competitors, 49 men and 15 women, took part in 48 events in 9 sports.

### GOLD MEDAL:

Elżbieta Duńska-Krzysińska – athletics (long jump) - *in the photo below*

### SILVER MEDALS:

Janusz Sidło – athletics (javelin throw)

Adam Smelczyński – shooting (trap)

Jerzy Pawłowski – fencing (individual sabre)

Andrzej Piątkowski, Zygmunt Pawlas, Wojciech Zabłocki, Jerzy Pawłowski, Ryszard Zub, Marian Kuszewski – fencing (team sabre)

### BRONZE MEDALS:

Henryk Niedźwiedzki – boxing (featherweight)

Zbigniew Pietrzykowski – boxing (middleweight)

Dorota Horzonek-Jokiel, Natalia Kot, Danuta Nowak-Stachow, Helena Rakoczy, Lidia Szczerbińska, Barbara Wilk-Ślizowska – gymnastics (team portable apparatus)

Marian Zieliński – weightlifting (60kg)

### OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

4th – Stefan Kapłaniak – canoeing (K-1 1000m)

4th – Teodor Kocerka – rowing (single sculls)

4th – Zbigniew Schwarzer, Henryk Jagodziński, Bertold Mainka – rowing (coxed pair)

4th – Jan Bochenek – weightlifting (75kg)

5th – Jan Kopyto – javelin throw

5th – Helena Rakoczy – gymnastics

5-8th – Zygmunt Milewski – boxing (lightweight)

5-8th – Andrzej Wojciechowski – boxing (light heavyweight)

6th – Zenon Baranowski, Marian Foik, Janusz Jarzebowski, Edward Szmidt – 4x100m relay

6th – Zenon Ważny – pole vault

6th – Urszula Figwer – javelin throw

6th – Daniela Walkowiak – canoeing (K-1 500m)

6th – Wojciech Zabłocki – fencing (sabre)

6th – Jan Czepełkowski – weightlifting (67,5kg)

6th – Krzysztof Beck – weightlifting (75kg)

6th – Kazimierz Kropidłowski – long jump



Erasmus+

EXERT