

THE WORLD GAMES



theworldgames.org

Looking forward to The World Games 2021
in Birmingham, USA



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” We are
The World Games.



Foreword

The World Games are coming home. 40 years after the premiere in Santa Clara, California, in 1981, the USA will once again host our multi-sport event. We are looking forward to the southern hospitality in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 2021 we are not celebrating an anniversary alone. We are also setting an example for the future. For the first time we will have para sports in our programme. Wheelchair Rugby is represented as invitational sports. What is important to us is that they are an integrated part of the ten days of competition.

The World Games thus represent the diversity of sport in every respect and once again our quality will be raised to the next level. In the decades since the premiere we have achieved a lot. 15 sports were on the programme in Santa Clara. There will be

30 in Birmingham. In 1981, only the local TV stations reported on the competitions. In 2021, as in 2017, the competitions can be seen worldwide. My thanks go to our member federations, the host cities and many other partners such as the IOC. Together we have been able to make this progress possible. I would like to refer to our new claim: “We are The World Games.” Above all, however, my thanks go to the athletes. Their outstanding achievements and enthusiasm characterise this multi-sport event. The World Games are the athletes’ games. We are proud of this attitude. Right now we are on our way to prepare the centre-stage for the athletes once again.

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FROM 15 TO 25 JULY 2021
WHEN WE CELEBRATE THE ELEVENTH EDITION OF THE
WORLD GAMES IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.**

José Perurena
IWGA President

WeAre TheWorldGames

Principles

The World Games take place every four years in the year following the Olympic Summer Games. Within ten competition days, they showcase 30+ sports. About 3,600 athletes from more than 100 countries strive for gold in around 200 medal events. The organizer is the International World Games Association (IWGA), founded in 1980.

Four principles characterise The World Games:

EXCELLENCE

1. Simply the best

Only the top athletes or teams in every sport or discipline qualify for participation and may compete in their sport. In general, the eight best athletes or the eight respectively best teams in a sport are allowed to “go for gold” in The World Games. This ensures top-level competitions right from the start.

AUTONOMY

3. The IFs run the show

The International World Games Association in cooperation with the Host City set the stage for the multi-sport event. The competitions themselves are organized by the International Federations. In contrast to other sports events, the national sports authorities do not nominate the participating athletes. The qualification is also done by the International Federations.

SPORTING SPIRIT

2. The Athletes’ Games

The athletes take center stage. The World Games are their games, giving them the opportunity to perform at the highest level in their sports and disciplines. For many athletes there is no higher goal to achieve in their career than to be The World Games Champion.

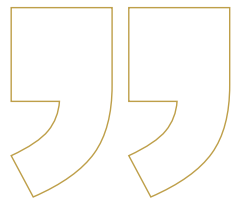
SUSTAINABILITY

4. Using existing venues

The Host City is encouraged to use existing sport infrastructure for the event. This means that the investment required to renovate or adjust the venues to the needs of the specific sports is manageable. It avoids creating white elephants, venues which are no longer in use after the event. On the contrary, this practice makes it more feasible to use infrastructure in a sustainable way.

Where the world
will be **won.**

Where the world will be **one**.



In 2021, The World Games will return to where it all began.



THE WORLD GAMES ARE HELD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE IOC.

History

The origins of The World Games go back to the founding meeting on 21 May 1980. Some international Sports Federations decided to pursue the idea of a multi-sport event—not in competition with the Olympic Games, but as a complement to them.

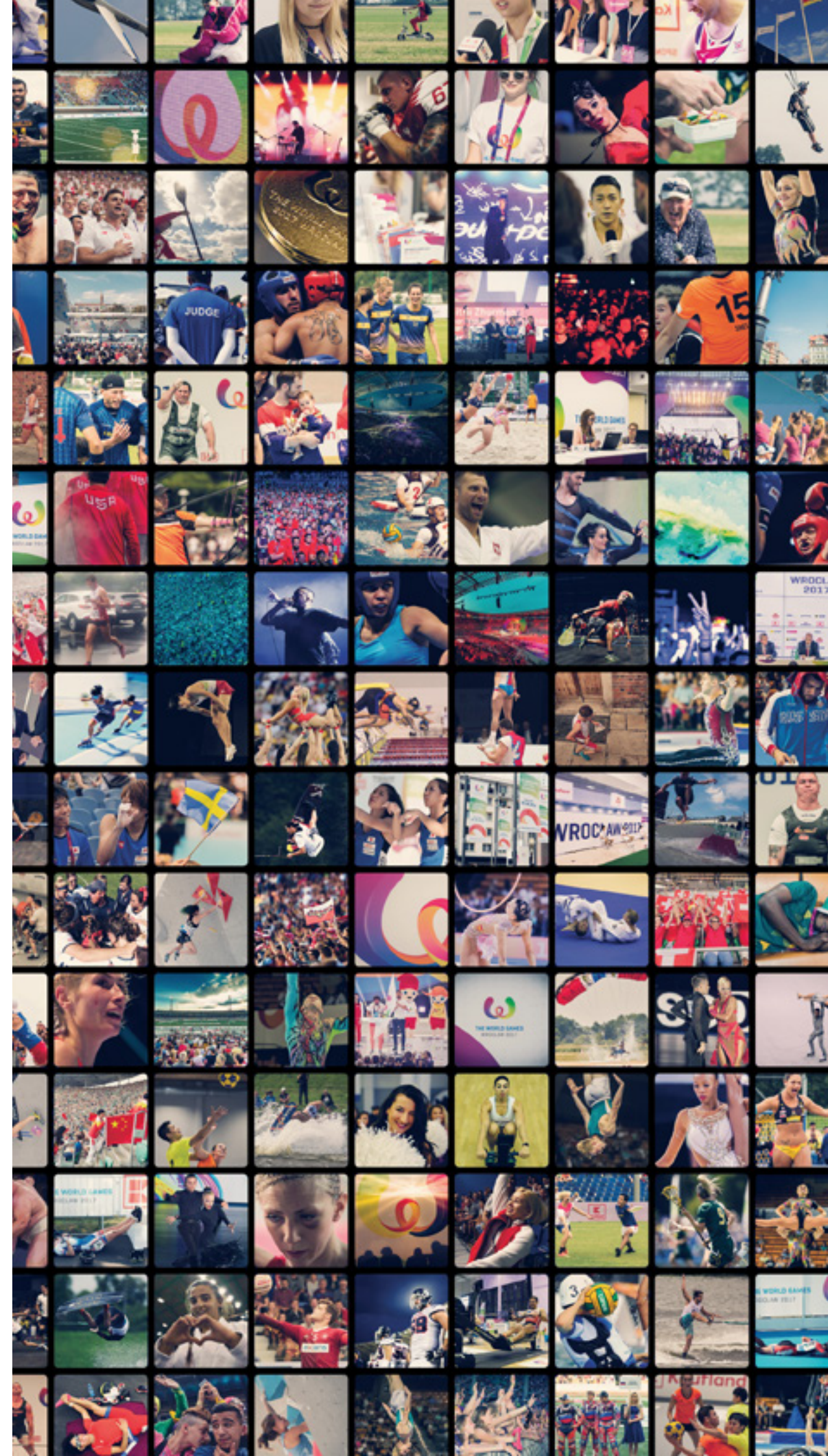
The games in Lahti, Finland marked an important milestone on the way to a top-class international multi-sport event. After that 5th edition the cooperation with the IOC was established. Since then The World Games have been held under the patronage of the IOC. The IWGA itself is recognized by the IOC. Another benchmark was reached in **2005**. In Duisburg the athletes’ parade was by nations for the first time, as they entered

the stadium for the Opening Ceremony, preceded by their national flags. After taking place in Asia for the first time in **2001**, The World Games 2013 in Cali made their debut on the South American continent.

In **2016**, the IOC and the IWGA agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding on closer cooperation for the future. In **2017**, the broadcasts by the Olympic Channel made it possible to follow the competitions on screen worldwide and took a new level with regards to awareness for the sports fans. In **2021**, The World Games will return where it all began: to the USA. After exactly 40 years, Birmingham Alabama is the host city of the eleventh edition of The World Games.

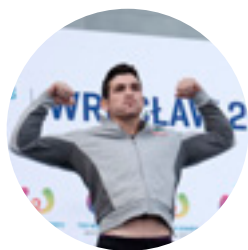
1981 Santa Clara, USA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15 sports• 1,893 participants• 58 nations	1985 London, GBR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 sports• 1,723 participants• 51 nations	1989 Karlsruhe, GER <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17 sports• 1,644 participants• 50 nations	1993 The Hague, NED <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22 sports• 2,444 participants• 67 nations	1997 Lahti, FIN <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22 sports• 2,446 participants• 70 nations	2001 Akita, JPN <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22 sports• 2,881 participants• 80 nations	2005 Duisburg, GER <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26 sports• 3,787 participants• 85 nations	2009 Kaohsiung, TPE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 sports• 3,676 participants• 83 nations	2013 Cali, COL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26 sports• 3,785 participants• 89 nations	2017 Wroclaw, POL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27 sports• 3,245 participants• 112 nations	2021 Birmingham, AL, USA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 sports• 3,600 participants• 100+ countries	2025 Chengdu, CHN <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30+ sports• 5,000 participants• 100+ countries

THE WORLD GAMES FAMILY



Our Members

- International Aikido Federation ([IAF](#))
- World Air Sports Federation ([FAI](#))
- World Archery ([WA](#))
- World Baseball Softball Confederation ([WBSC](#))
- World Confederation of Billiards Sports ([WCBS](#))
- International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness ([IFBB](#))
- World Confederation of Boules Sports ([CMSB](#))
- World Bowling ([WB](#))
- International Canoe Federation ([ICF](#))
- International Casting Sport Federation ([ICSF](#))
- World DanceSport Federation ([WDSF](#))
- International Fistball Association ([IFA](#))
- International Floorball Federation ([IFF](#))
- World Flying Disc Federation ([WFDF](#))
- International Gymnastics Federation ([FIG](#))
- International Handball Federation ([IHF](#))
- International Hockey Federation ([FIH](#))
- Ju-Jitsu International Federation ([JJIF](#))
- World Karate Federation ([WKF](#))
- World Association of Kickboxing Organizations ([WAKO](#))
- International Korfball Federation ([IKF](#))
- World Lacrosse
- International Life Saving Federation ([ILS](#))
- International Federation of Muaythai Associations ([IFMA](#))
- International Netball Federation ([INF](#))
- International Orienteering Federation ([IOF](#))
- International Powerlifting Federation ([IPF](#))
- International Racquetball Federation ([IRF](#))
- World Skate
- World Rugby ([WR](#))
- International Federation of Sport Climbing ([IFSC](#))
- World Squash Federation ([WSF](#))
- International Sumo Federation ([IFS](#))
- International Surfing Association ([ISA](#))
- Tug of War International Federation ([TWIF](#))
- World Underwater Federation ([CMAS](#))
- International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation ([IWWF](#))



The World Games were a wonderful experience. It's different to the World Championships. It's a multi-sport event and you represent your country. Winning the Gold Medal made a dream come true.

Reza Alipourshenazandifar (IRI)

“The World Games
celebrate the diversity of sports.”

That's how IOC President Thomas Bach praised the 10th edition of the multi-sport event in 2017 in Wroclaw.

This also and especially applies to the sports and disciplines in the programme, which are normally less in the limelight. The fascination of a multi-sport event also puts them in the spotlight. The World Games 2021 programme includes 30 sports. In addition, there are four invitational sports, selected by the Organizing Committee in Birmingham.

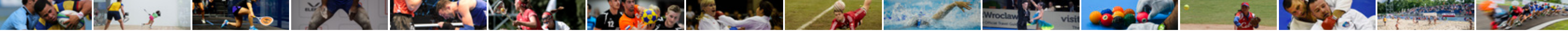
Under the umbrella of The World Games, tra-

ditional sports such as Boules Sports, Tug of War or Sumo find their place, as do newer sports such as Roller Sports, Sport Climbing or Wakeboarding. It is crucial to present the diversity of sport together and at the same outstanding level.

There is one rule that must be observed: Disciplines that are held at The World Games must not be on the programme of the Olympic Games. A series of disciplines, performed at The World Games in the past, are now in the Olympics. The World Games can be described as a springboard to the Olympics.

Sports & Disciplines of TWG 2021

Artistic & Dance Sports	Ball Sports	Martial Arts	Precision Sports	Strength Sports	Trend Sports
Artistic Roller Skating	Beach Handball	Ju-Jitsu	Archery	Powerlifting	DanceSport Breaking
DanceSport Latin	Canoe Polo	Karate	Billiards	Tug of War	Drone Racing
DanceSport Standard	Fistball	Kickboxing	Boules Sports		Parachuting Canopy Piloting
Acrobatic Gymnastics	Floorball	Muaythai	Bowling		Canoe Marathon
Aerobic Gymnastics	Inline Hockey	Sumo			Finswimming
Parkour	Korfball				Flying Disc
Rhythmic Gymnastics	Lacrosse				Life Saving
Trampoline	Racquetball				Orienteering
Tumbling	Softball				Speed Skating
	Squash				Sport Climbing
					Waterski & Wakeboard
Invitational Sports of TWG 2021					
Duathlon					
Men's Lacrosse					
Wheelchair Rugby					
Wushu					



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

3,600

Athletes

will take part in The World Games 2021. The guidelines provide for an almost balanced distribution of female and male athletes.

100+

Nations

will send their representatives to the 11th edition of The World Games in 2021.

2M

Spectators

Since the beginning of the new millennium two million spectators have watched the competitions of The World Games live and on site.

1,300

Media representatives

covered The World Games 2017 in Wrocław, Poland.





Media coverage

In 2017 sport fans all over the world could watch the competitions of the event.



26 TV broadcasters aired nearly 2,000 hours of content.

Since 1981 the media coverage of the multi-sport event has increased. There were 300 media representatives covering the premiere. In 2017 in Wrocław 1,357 accredited media personnel spread the news about the event all over the world. 26 TV broadcasters aired nearly 2,000 hours of content.

Moreover: The Olympic Channel showed live coverage of TWG 2017. The coverage generated 273,000 plays of 158 videos. It was the first time that sport fans all over the world could watch the competitions of the event. Part of the media strategy is the development of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to raise the interest of sport fans.



Broadcast time by region

hh:mm:ss

1,919
Hours of broadcasting
1,236 hours of them LIVE



94.2
Million viewers
Cumulative Audience
of TWG 2017

5
Billion Impressions
4,900 million contacts
generated across 15 days of
monitoring





You can't raise the bar all by yourself

IOC/NOC

A Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2016, establishes the partnership between the International World Games Association and the International Olympic Committee.

It underlines the closer cooperation which was set out in the Olympic Agenda 2020. The IOC agrees to grant patronage to Organising Committees of The World Games and to provide technical assistance. As part of this agreement the IOC encourages the National Olympic Committees to support The World Games.

FICS

The International Federation of Sports Chiropractic (FICS) provides care off the field, preparing athletes in order that they can perform at their best.

The chiropractors provide support to the IWGA, the Birmingham Organising Committee and the volunteers involved in the event as well. They have worked with The World Games since 2005, when Duisburg in Germany hosted the Games. At TWG 2017 there were 40 sports chiropractors from 13 different nations. They took care of any athlete who asked for their service. And they did it free of charge, as volunteers.

Swiss Timing/Tissot

Swiss Timing has been the official timing and result service provider of The World Games.

The Swiss company, experienced in serving the Olympics and The Commonwealth Games, provides TV Graphics for live broadcasting and highlight shows. Swiss Timing also takes care of the accreditation system and services for The World Games. The cooperation with Swiss Timing began with the 7th edition of The World Games in Duisburg, Germany.

Olympic Channel

The good cooperation between the Olympic Channel and The World Games is an important part of the legacy of The World Games 2017 in Wroclaw, Poland.

During his opening speech at SportAccord 2018 in Bangkok, IOC President Thomas Bach explicitly mentioned this success for the Olympic Channel and described the cooperation as a best-practice example. In this spirit, the two partners are now working on successfully presenting the eleventh edition of TWG in 2021 – to a huge world-wide audience.

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[#twg2021](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/#twg2021)

[#RoadtoBHM](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/#RoadtoBHM)



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