

Famous Olympians

Otto Peltzer - German athlete, first known LGBTQ+ Olympian (Amsterdam 1928)

Stanisława Walasiewicz - Polish athlete, Olympic champion in the 100 m in Los Angeles 1932, runner-up in Berlin 1936, intergender person, first LGBTQ+ person to win an Olympic medal

John Curry - British figure skater, Olympic champion (Innsbruck 1976), excoriated by the press during the Games

Greg Louganis - American water jumper, 4-time Olympic champion (Los Angeles 1984, Seoul 1988), the only athlete in history to win both individual competitions (trampoline 3 m, tower 10) at two consecutive Games

Caster Semenya - South African athlete, 2-time Olympic champion in the 800 m run (London 2012, Rio 2016)

Ireen Wüst - Dutch women's pan-skater, the most successful LGBTQ+ person at the OGs - 6 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals (Turin 2006, Vancouver 2010, Sochi 2014, Pyongyang 2018, Beijing 2022)

What will the future bring?

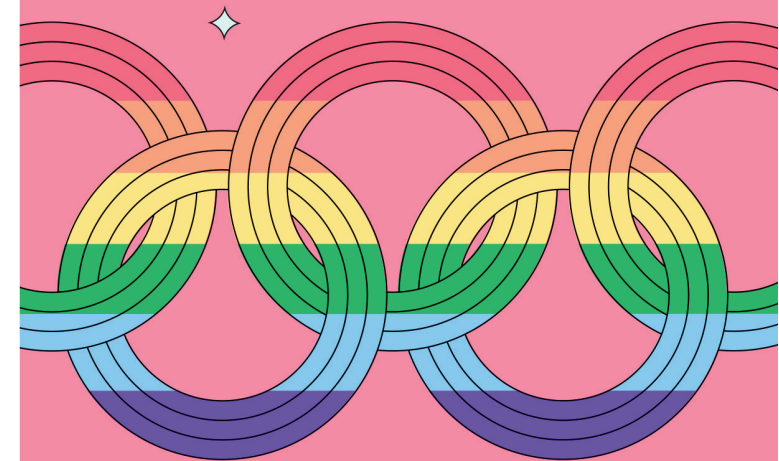
For many years, the participation of LGBTQ+ people in OG has been increasing. Nevertheless, it is still lower than in the general population. The Olympic movement faces further challenges to the rights of LGBTQ+ people. Queerphobia is still at an all-time high in the world of sports, while cities located in countries with unfriendly attitudes toward LGBTQ+ rights are fighting for the right to host the next OG. Another challenge is the participation of non-binary people, which, with the division between men's and women's competitions, could lead to further legal battles. Looking at past history, the IOC will make the appropriate changes, but the road ahead will be long and bumpy.

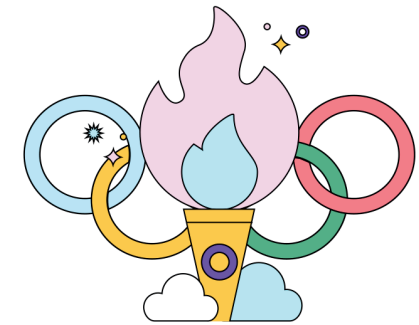
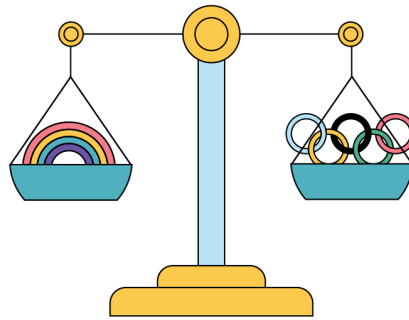


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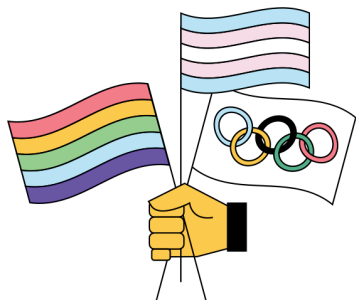
LGBTQ+ PERSONS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES





Modern Olympic Games

At the end of the 19th century, the idea of orchestrating sports competitions for athletes of all disciplines from around the world was born in Europe. The idea was based on the Olympic Games held in antiquity, which were held every four years in various cities of the Greek world. This new sporting event was intended not only to promote physical culture, but first and foremost to serve the unification of the world and the development of a peaceful existence between nations. The Olympic movement thus born crystallized in 1894 when the International Olympic Committee was formed, which 2 years later organized the First Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.



Legal situation over the years

The Olympic movement was born at a time when same-sex sexual relations were forbidden in most countries of the world. This was the case, among others, in Athens in 1896. The first Games in a place where homosexuality was not punished happened back in 1900 in Paris. Unfortunately, as late as the 21st century, the Games still had a venue where you could be imprisoned for your sexual orientation. This was in Salt Lake City in 2002. In total, of the 53 Winter and Summer Olympic Games that have taken place, as many as 20 of them were held in places that punish same-sex sexual contact.

In addition to the criminalization of homosexuality itself, there have been and continue to be laws restricting the rights of LGBTQ+ people in other ways. For example, Russia has had a law in effect since 2013 prohibiting the "propagation of nontraditional sexual behavior among young people." In view of this, prior to the start of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi the IOC deemed the use of the rainbow flag motif by athletes an unacceptable political display.



Transgender and intersex vs. right to start

Until 1924, women did not participate in the Olympic Games. The participation of female athletes in the competitions led to concerns about the participation of male athletes in female competitions. Therefore, a regular gender survey was conducted as early as the 1930s. Initially, this was done in the form of a visual inspection by a doctor. It was not until the development of technology that from 1968 the IOC introduced genetic testing and, since the 1996 Atlanta Games, hormonal testing.

Gender checking has led to the exclusion of many intersex people from the professions. Mention should be made of Heinrich Ratjen, Ewa Kłobukowska, Erik Schienegger or Caster Semenya.

Disqualification decisions and testing methods have generated great controversy. Eventually, since 2004 the IOC allowed transgender people to participate in the competitions. Currently, the only requirement for those wishing to compete in female athletes is to test their blood testosterone levels, which must not exceed 10 nanomoles per liter in the 12 months prior to the competition. Thanks to such regulations, the first transgender athlete, Laurel Hubbard, took part in the 2021 Tokyo OG.