

1 **Methods Used for Adding Entertaining and Relevant** 2 **Sports to the Ancient and Modern Olympics Through** 3 **Los Angeles 2028 and for Creating an Esports Olympics**

4
5 *Focusing on the military skills of the day, beginning in 776 BC, athletics in*
6 *the Ancient Olympics involved 49% of all events, combat sports like boxing*
7 *and wrestling (32%) began in 708 BC, chariot racing (11%) began in 680 BC*
8 *and equestrian events (4%) began in 648 BC. Artistic events (4%) like*
9 *trumpeter competition and herald competition began in 396 BC. Women*
10 *competed in their own Heraea Games, but also cleverly won 8 Olympic*
11 *equestrian and chariot events, by owning the winning horses. The 1896*
12 *marathon linked ancient with modern. Women began competing in 1900.*
13 *From 1896-1936, host nations, with IOC approval, selected sports that*
14 *maintained relevance and entertainment. After WW2, locally interesting non-*
15 *medal demonstration sports were contested from 1948-1992, with six*
16 *becoming continuing core sports: badminton, baseball, handball, judo for*
17 *women, taekwondo, and tennis. Under Olympic Agenda 2020, Tokyo 2020*
18 *added skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing, karate, baseball, and softball.*
19 *Paris 2024 was allowed to include skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing,*
20 *which then became continuing core sports. Eclectic breakdancing was also*
21 *included. The Los Angeles 2028 Olympics will add baseball, softball,*
22 *lacrosse, cricket, squash, and flag football. To facilitate popular Esports*
23 *competition, a separate Olympic Esports Games begins in 2027.*

24
25 **Keywords:** *Ancient Olympics, Modern Olympics, Olympic Agenda 2020,*
26 *selecting sports, women's sports, Esports*

27 28 29 **Introduction**

30
31 I have had a personal interest in the Olympic Games and Olympic sports
32 selection since the 1950s and have followed and sometimes taken part in
33 developmental activities. I qualified for the US Olympic trials in swimming in
34 1960 and in the modern pentathlon in 1968. I have been to Olympia twice to visit
35 the Ancient Olympic stadium and to visit the museums there to learn first-hand
36 about the origin of the Olympics. I visited the 1896 stadium and museums in
37 Athens where the Olympic Games were renewed. I lived for one year in
38 Lausanne, Switzerland where the headquarters of the International; Olympic
39 Committee (IOC) is located. I made use of libraries and museums to further my
40 understanding of the management and history of the Olympic Games. I have
41 published more than 100 papers on Olympic history, sports and on the physics
42 and kinesiology of those sports. This paper is intended to share that knowledge.

43 Every four years from 776 BC to 1000 years later, and from 1896 to the
44 present (except for wartime), the world's sports enthusiasts have turned their
45 attention to the Olympic Games because of the well-deserved reputation for
46 adjusting the plethora of offered sports to keep them relevant and entertaining for
47 all to see. We examine the sports offered in Ancient Greece to reveal trends in

1 sports selection. For the modern Olympic Games, we identify four eras with
2 differing methods for sports selection, the most recent of which, Olympic
3 Agenda 2020, has been very successful at adding popular new sports to the
4 Olympic program. We will examine difficulties in adding Esports to the regular
5 Olympics program, however, a separate Olympics is to begin in 2027 for
6 Esports.

9 **Ancient Olympics**

11 Thanks to the Perseus Project of Tufts University, Perseus Project (2024),
12 as sponsored by The Mellon Foundation, The Annenberg Project and many
13 others, ancient texts were scoured to create a list of contested events from 776
14 BC through 277 AD. These are summarized in Wikipedia List of Ancient Greek
15 Victors (2024). The other Wikipedia references used in this paper were similarly
16 structured, in that many references were drawn from as cited and then Wikipedia
17 researchers combined the diversely selected data into a unified and useful format
18 for the reader and researcher to employ. In Wikipedia List of Ancient Greek
19 Victors (2024), each dated event contains the winner and winner's city. No
20 winners were recorded after 277 AD. We placed that data base into an Excel
21 spread sheet and deleted events that had ambiguous or no event definitions. The
22 remaining 861 events contested from 776 BC to 269 AD were sorted into the
23 five sports and their 30 events as shown in Table 1.

24 The Ancient Olympics began with just one athletics running event, the
25 Stadion, which is the origin of the word stadium, Romano (1993). The Stadion
26 was a straight 600-foot sprint, which was very popular in Greece. The athletics
27 events of Table 1 involved 49% of all the 861 events contested over the 1000
28 years of the Ancient Olympics. The Games expanded scope to include the hand-
29 to-hand combat events of Table 1, starting in 708 BC. Combat sports comprised
30 32% of all events contested.

31 A hippodrome was completed near the stadium in Olympia to accommodate
32 chariot racing in 680 BC. The chariot was an important part of warfare, so
33 peacetime competition was very popular. The chariot racing events in Table 1
34 comprised 11% of all the 861 events analyzed.

35 The collective 92% for those three sports indicates the honor and respect
36 paid by the organizers to the well-known physicality of warfare, considering the
37 many sculptures honoring running, physical combat, and chariot driving.

38 Equestrian-racing was first added for entertainment purposes in 648 BC. The
39 three equestrian events of Table 1 added another dimension to the Games, totaling
40 4% of all events contested. The remaining 4% of all events contested were
41 artistic performance events, beginning in 396 BC. Lacking loudspeakers,
42 trumpeters and herald yellers provided crowd information and control, as well
43 as wartime information transmission. Competition in those areas became
44 popular.

45 The accumulated relevance and entertainment provided by the Olympic
46 Games that had started with one athletics event in 776 BC and then was

1 significantly augmented by Olympic Games organizers who added three
 2 additional sports by 648 BC, incentivized the building of three more stadia and
 3 the beginning of three more Games in Ancient Greece. The Pythian (at Delphi)
 4 Games began in 582 BC, the Isthmian Games began in 581 BC, and the Nemean
 5 Games began in 573 BC. The Nemean and Isthmian Games were held every two
 6 years while the Olympic and Pythian Games were held every four years.
 7 Collectively there were six competitions over every four-year period, owing their
 8 origin to a lone running event in 776 BC at Olympia. For information about those
 9 other Games see Wikipedia Heraean Games (2024), Wikipedia Isthmian Games
 10 (2024), and Wikipedia Pythian Games (2024).

11 The odd prominence of 65 AD stands out, in that four events were contested
 12 only in 65 AD, (the chariot-foals race, the 10-horse chariot race, lyre playing,
 13 and tragedy competition), one event was held only twice, once in 65 AD, and
 14 once after (simply called chariot race), and one event was restored in 65 AD after
 15 a 420-year absence (herald competition). At a time when Rome dominated
 16 Greece, all six of those 65 AD events were won by Nero. It was probably a bad
 17 life-choice to try to defeat Nero. Thus, competition was also influenced by a
 18 strong individual and a country's dominance, much as the modern world
 19 experienced during the Cold War.
 20

21 **Table 1.** *The 5 Sports and 30 Events Contested at the Ancient Olympics from*
 22 *776 BC though 269 AD*

Event	Comments/Distance	First Year	Last Year	Times Held (861)
7 Athletics Events (419 times held, 49% of all)				
Stadion	X1, 600 feet, 192 m	776 BC	269 AD	254
Stadion-Boys	X1, 192 m	632 BC	133 AD	31
Diaulos	X2, 384 m	724 BC	153 AD	43
Diaulos in Armor	X2, 384 m	520 BC	185 AD	28
Dolichos	X7-24, 1344-4608 m	720 BC	221 AD	30
Pentathlon	Stadion, Discus, Javelin, Long Jump, Wrestling	708 BC	241 AD	32
Pentathlon-Boys		628 BC	628 BC	1
6 Combat Events (279 times held, 32% of all)				
Boxing		688 BC	25 AD	61
Boxing-Boys		540 BC	89 AD	40
Pankration	No holds barred.	648 BC	221 AD	70
Pankration-Boys	No holds barred.	200 BC	117 AD	7
Wrestling		708 BC	213 AD	68
Wrestling-Boys		632 BC	97 AD	33
10 Chariot Events (94 times held, 11% of all)				
Chariot Race		65 AD	129 AD	2
Chariot-Foals		65 AD	65 AD	1
10 Horse Char.		65 AD	65 AD	1
Apene	2 mules, x6, 7.2 km	500 BC	456 BC	4
Synoris	2 horses, x6, 7.2 km	408 BC	60 BC	14
Synoris-Foals	2 foals, x6, 7.2 km	96 BC	1 AD	3
Synoris-Colts	2 colts, x6, 7.2 km	264 BC	264 BC	1
Tethrippon	4 horses, x12, 14.4 km	680 BC	241 AD	60

Tethrippon-Foals	4 foals, x12, 14.4 km	372 BC	153 AD	7
Tethrippon-Colts	4 colts, x12, 14.4 km	384 BC	384 BC	1
3 Equestrian Events (36 times held, 4% of all)				
Foals' Race	X6, 7.2 KM	256 BC	72 BC	7
Horse Race	X6, 7.2 KM	648 BC	197 AD	28
Mares' Race	X6, 7.2 KM	496 BC	496 BC	1
4 Artistic Performance Events (33 times held, 4% of all)				
Herald Competition	Gap of 420 years until 65 AD	396 BC	261 AD	12
Lyre Playing		65 AD	65 AD	1
Tragedy Competition		65 AD	65 AD	1
Trumpeter Competition		396 BC	217 AD	19

1
2 The Olympic Games were dedicated to Zeus, a male god, and thus only men
3 could compete, Miller (2004). Unmarried women could and did attend, Were
4 Women Allowed at the Olympics? (2015, December). Married women were not
5 to attend, Miller (2004). However, at least six women beat the system at the
6 Olympic Games, owning and training the horses that won eight chariot and
7 equestrian events, as per the above references. They realized that the person who
8 owned the horses, regardless of gender, was deemed official champion and not
9 the jockey or chariot driver who was paid by the owner and thus not eligible to
10 be an official winner. Also in ancient Greece, Games dedicated to Zeus' mythical
11 wife Hera, the Heraean Games, were contested only by women. The Ancient
12 Greek historian and geographer, Pausanias (Miller, 2004), published information
13 about the Heraean Games, but most publicity dealt with the men's Olympic
14 Games. Women ran multiples of 500 feet on the same track at Olympia, but at a
15 different time than when the men ran multiples of 600 feet. Thus, women were
16 considered about 5/6 or 83% as proficient as men, on a crude scale with only 100-
17 foot increments. In today's Olympics, the Olympic champion women in running,
18 speed skating, swimming, and rowing are 90% as fast as their male counterparts,
19 Stefani (2014).

20

21 **The Modern Olympics Begin: 1896-1936 (Dominance by the Host Nations)**

22

23 The Modern Olympics began in 1896, appropriately in Athens, Greece.
24 Table 2 summarizes the first 10 Games, five before World War 1, followed by
25 five more before World War 2. The information in Table 2 was taken from
26 editions of Wallechinsky and Loucky (2012 and earlier editions). Before the 1896
27 games began, much was publicized about the marathon run which linked ancient
28 with modern. The run by an ancient Greek warrior telling people about the battle of
29 Marathon, and the Ancient Olympics were important parts of Greek history. Those events
30 were melded with the modern Games by having the marathon race at the 1896 Olympics.
31 That popular theme was made even more pronounced when a Greek, Spyridon
32 Louis, won, successfully launching the new edition of the Olympic Games. That
33 win was so noteworthy that 40 years later, Hitler awarded Spyridon Louis the same tree
34 sapling as was awarded to all gold medal winners at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The host

1 nation won the most medals in seven of those first 10 Games, including the first
 2 five. The fraction of medals won by the 10 top nations in Table 2 averages 34%,
 3 compared to 10% won by the USA, the highest national medal winner, at Tokyo
 4 2020. Competition has tightened significantly since the first 10 Games.

5
 6 **Table 2.** *The First 10 Modern Olympic Games (The host nation results are in*
 7 *bold type, having the most medals in 7 of the 10 Games)*

Olympics	Gold Medals	Medals Awarded	Most Medals			Second Most		
			Nation	Medals	% Won	Nation	Medals	% Won
1896 Athens	44	122	GRE	47	39%	USA	19	16%
1900 Paris	96	276	FRA	102	37%	USA	53	19%
1904 St. Louis	110	284	USA	238	84%	GBR	15	5%
1908 London	110	323	GBR	145	45%	USA	47	15%
1912 Stockholm	101	309	SWE	65	21%	USA	61	20%
1920 Antwerp	156	435	USA	96	22%	SWE	63	14%
1924 Paris	124	366	USA	99	27%	FRA	38	10%
1928 Amsterdam	110	327	USA	56	17%	GER	31	9%
1932 Los Angeles	115	346	USA	104	30%	ITA	36	10%
1936 Berlin	130	388	GER	89	23%	USA	56	14%

8
 9 Since a controlling infrastructure was lacking, the host nations were given
 10 the task of picking sports that they thought fit the interests of their country and
 11 likely visitors. The number of events, equal to the number of gold medals,
 12 assuming no ties, increased from 44 in 1896 to 101 in 1912, prior to WW1. The
 13 number of events then jumped to 156 at Antwerp in 1920, just after WW1, and
 14 ended at 130 in 1936, prior to WW2, nearly three times the number of events in
 15 1896.

16 Women were not allowed to compete in 1896, but began their Olympic
 17 journey in 1900. Swimming began for women in 1912 and athletics followed in
 18 1928. In today's Olympics, the number of male and female athletes has equalized.
 19 In both the Ancient and Modern Olympics, women successfully fought
 20 conscientiously and effectively for respect and inclusion.

21 22 23 **Demonstration Sports: 1948-2000**

24
 25 With the world of sports enthusiasts wanting to renew sports interest and
 26 with television available to greatly enhance coverage, after WW2, the IOC
 27 allowed host nations to select non-medal demonstration sports that were of
 28 special importance and interest to that country, like Finnish Baseball and
 29 Australian Rules Football. If a demonstration sport proved popular enough, it
 30 could then become a continuing medal-offering core sport. The information in
 31 Table 3 was taken from Wikipedia Olympic Demonstration Sports (2015,
 32 October 20). The right column of Table 3 shows the 15 demonstration sports

1 offered by hosts from 1948-1992. The six sports in bold type became
 2 continuing core sports, as seen in the sports-added column: handball, tennis,
 3 badminton, baseball, judo for women and taekwondo. Six sports were added
 4 directly to continuing status in the sports-added column: judo for men,
 5 volleyball, archery, table tennis, softball, and triathlon. Polo, handball, and judo
 6 for men were dropped in the middle column, then judo for men and handball
 7 were both reinstated. Allowing demonstration sports was a very successful way
 8 of getting important new sports into the Olympics, due to exemplary action by
 9 the host nations.

10 The Olympic Games became too large to include demonstration sports
 11 after 1992, but the influence of demonstration sports remained through 2000,
 12 when a previous demonstration sport moved to continuing status. The size of
 13 the Olympic Games then led the IOC to seek a way to limit the number of sports
 14 federations, covered next.

15
 16 **Table 3. Sports Added, Sports Dropped and Demonstration Sports 1948-2016**
 17 *Demonstration sports that became continuing sports are in bold type*

Year	City	IOC	Organizing Committee
		Sports Added	Sports Dropped Demonstration Sports
Demonstration Sports Could Become Continuing Sports			
1948	London		Polo, Handball Lacrosse, Swedish Gymnastics
1952	Helsinki		Finnish Baseball, Handball
1956	Melbourne		Australian Rules Football, Baseball
1960	Rome		
1964	Tokyo	Judo, Volleyball	Baseball , Budo
1968	Mexico City		Jai Alai, Tennis
1972	Munich	Archery, Handball , Judo	Badminton , Water Skiing
1976	Montreal		
1980	Moscow		
1984	Los Angeles		Baseball , Tennis
1988	Seoul	Table Tennis, Tennis	Badminton , Baseball , Bowling, Judo(W) , Taekwondo
1992	Barcelona	Badminton , Baseball , Judo (W)	Jai Alai, Roller Hockey, Taekwondo
1996	Atlanta	Softball,	
2000	Sydney	Taekwondo , Triathlon	
Sports Added and Dropped by IOC Action			
2004	Athens		
2008	Beijing		
2012	London		Baseball, Softball
2016	Rio	Golf, Rugby 7s	

1 **Limiting Sports Federations to 28: 2004-2016**

2
3 While the use of demonstration sports operated quite well, the IOC created
4 a very cumbersome system in 2004 to limit the number of sports federations that
5 organize Olympic sports to 28. Any federation can ask the IOC to recognize it
6 or the IOC can act when it notices a federation with noteworthy operations.
7 When a federation reaches Olympic recognition, the sport or sports organized by
8 that federation become eligible for Olympic inclusion. While most federations
9 organize one sport, the water sports federation, FINA, organizes four sports:
10 swimming, diving, synchronized swimming and water polo. Every four years the
11 IOC had to either continue or discontinue each of the 28 sports federations that
12 produce Olympic sports. The only way to add a new sport or sports was to drop
13 an existing federation and its organized sport or sports and then add a new
14 federation and its organized sport or sports. The IOC decided to drop baseball
15 and softball, effective in 2012 and then to add golf and rugby 7s effective in 2016.

16 In 2013, the IOC wanted to add a new sport, effective 2020. They voted to
17 drop the modern pentathlon which was the only sport created specifically for the
18 Modern Olympics. It was invented by Baron de Coubertin, the creator of the
19 Modern Olympics, His descendants convinced the IOC not to drop that sport.
20 Hurriedly, the IOC voted to drop wrestling, a sport from the Ancient Olympics.
21 Later, under huge pressure to fix that mistake, the IOC voted to reinstate
22 wrestling. The IOC then abandoned that system for limiting sports federations.

23 **Olympic Agenda 2020: 2020 and Beyond**

24
25
26 To replace the cumbersome system of trying to limit the number of sports
27 federations, the IOC created Olympic Agenda 2020, which cleverly combines the
28 best attributes of previous methods, Olympic Agenda 2020 (2014). Instead of
29 having the host offer non-medal demonstration sports, it was decided that medal-
30 earning sports could be added temporarily for sports whose federations are
31 recognized by the IOC, with a possibility of becoming continuing core sports. The
32 IOC recognizes about as many sports not currently in the Olympics (66) as the
33 number of sports that are currently in the Olympics (62), as shown in Table 4, based
34 on information in Wikipedia List of International Sports Federations (2024).

35
36 **Table 4. IOC Recognized Sports Federations Having Sports in the Olympics**
37 *Continuously and IOC Recognized Sports Federations Organizing Sports that*
38 *are Eligible for Inclusion*

Recognition	Sports Federations	Sports (Disciplines)	e-Sport	Mind Sports	Physical Sports		
					Combat	Independent	Object
IOC Summer	35	47	0	0	7	26	14
IOC Winter	7	15	0	0	0	13	2
Olympic Total	42	62	0	0	7	39	16
IOC Recognized Not in Olympics	37	66	0	2	6	29	29

1 A partial list of eligible sports that have not yet earned continuous status
2 displays a wide range of interesting possibilities.

3
4 Mind Sports (Chess, Bridge)
5 Aeronautical Sports (Hang Gliding and Sky Diving)
6 Land and Sea Powered Sports (Formula 1, Power Boating, Motorcycle Racing)
7 Roller Sports (Roller Derby, Inline Roller Hockey)
8 Frisbee Sports (Frisbee Golf, Guts Frisbee)
9 Climbing Sports, Billiards, and Pool
10 Outdoor Bowls Sports (Bocci, Lawn Bowls)
11 Recreational Court Sports (Racquetball, Squash)
12 Fun Recreational Sports (Bowling, Dance Sport)
13 Water Recreational Sports (Water Skiing)
14 International Sports (Cricket, Lacrosse, Jai Alai)
15 Breath Holding Sports (Underwater Hockey, Underwater Rugby)
16 Cheer Sports (Cheerleading)
17

18 Under Olympic Agenda 2020, the size of the Olympic Games was to be held
19 constant in terms of an IOC- generated athlete total to be implemented by each
20 host nation, rather than by a fixed number of sport federations implemented by
21 the IOC. Once fully implemented, the host's requested use of Olympic Agenda
22 2020 must be approved by the IOC five years prior to that Olympic Games.

23 Under Olympic Agenda 2020, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (which took place
24 in 2021 due to the COVID epidemic) could add temporary new IOC recognized
25 sports whose combined athlete total was limited to 500, while separately limiting
26 core sports athletes to 10,500. However, starting with Paris 2024, the IOC planned
27 to require later organizers to include any temporary new sports athletes as part of
28 the 10,500-athlete limit: that is, for every athlete involved in a new temporary
29 sport, one athlete would have to be dropped from a core sport.
30

31 **Table 5.** *Sports Added Due to Olympic Agenda 2020 for the 2020, 2024 and*
32 *planned for the 2028 Olympics*

Tokyo 2020 11,000 Athletes	Paris 2024 10,500 Athletes	Los Angeles 2028 About 11,200 Athletes	
New Temporary Sports	New Temporary Sports	New Core Sports	New Temporary Sports
Skateboarding	Skateboarding	Skateboarding	Baseball and Softball
Sport Climbing	Sport climbing	Sport climbing	Lacrosse
Surfing	Surfing	Surfing	Flag Football
Karate	Breakdancing		Cricket
Baseball and Softball			Squash

33
34 The left column of Table 5 shows how Tokyo 2020 organizers followed
35 Olympic Agenda 2020 rules. Total athlete count was just over 11,000. The
36 Tokyo 2020 organizers selected three youth-oriented sports which proved to be
37 very entertaining and popular; skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing. Also

1 added were karate, baseball, and softball. We observed that the skateboarders
2 were particularly entertaining to watch on TV, since they were so supportive of
3 each other. Olympic Agenda 2020 was a success at enhancing the vitality and
4 inclusiveness of Olympic sports in 2020.

5 The second column from the left of Table 5 contains results from the Paris
6 2024 organizers having to maintain a 10,500 limit overall. The great success of
7 skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing led Paris 2024 to include all three. The
8 fact that the youth-oriented and very entertaining sports of skateboarding, sport
9 climbing and surfing would be offered again, led the IOC to move those three
10 sports to core continuing status beginning with Los Angeles 2028. It is likely that
11 the Paris 2024 organizers decided that the additional athletes needed to schedule
12 karate, baseball and softball would have made it too difficult to drop so many
13 athletes from core sports. Instead, breakdancing was added, a very entertaining
14 and creative choice. The 10,500-athlete schedule of Table 5 was approved by the
15 IOC for Paris 2024.

16 When the organizers of Los Angeles 2028 had to decide how to implement
17 Olympic Agenda 2020, they were under the rule to include in the 10,500-athlete
18 limit the new core sports of surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing as well as
19 three core sports the IOC had temporarily decided to exclude, the modern
20 pentathlon (due to animal cruelty), boxing (due to judging irregularities) and
21 weightlifting (due to performance enhancing drug use), all of which were
22 reinstated after the issues had been resolved, as well as including new temporary
23 sports. The IOC decided to only apply the 10,500-athlete limit to the core sports
24 and to allow the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic organizers to add as many as 700
25 more athletes in proposed temporary new sports. The LA 2028 Olympic
26 organizers then requested and was approved to include baseball and softball (two
27 popular sports in the USA); lacrosse (which is gaining in popularity and was
28 created by the Iroquois indigenous people, partially from in the what is now the
29 USA and partially from in what is now Canada); flag football (a rapidly growing
30 and safety-minded youth sport); and cricket and squash (two widely played
31 international sports). The Los Angeles 2028 choices appear in the right columns
32 of Table 5. The result will be about 11,200 athletes, the greatest world-wide
33 athlete inclusion in Olympic history, while offering a well-chosen cross-section
34 of sports that should appeal to a wide swath of the international audience, the US
35 audience, and the young, all a result of the insightful creation by the IOC of
36 Olympic Agenda 2020.

37 Future Olympics, starting with Brisbane 2032, will continue to benefit from
38 the many options afforded them by Olympic Agenda 2020 to offer relevant
39 sports for all to enjoy.

42 **Creation of an Olympic Esports Games to Start in 2027**

44 The computer-based version of sports competition, Esports, has been very
45 popular, and international competition has been successful. It was logical to
46 pursue the addition of Esports for Olympic competition. To be included, the

1 International Esports Federation would have had to be recognized by the IOC.
2 IOC President Thomas Bach made his opinions clear in 2018, Japan Times
3 (December 3, 2018), regarding Esports in the Olympics. Bach was pessimistic
4 when he said he was not confident in being able to find an organizer (which
5 would be recognized as a sports federation) for future Olympic Esports
6 competition, because the various potential organizers are deeply involved with
7 games marketing and sales, but not competition. His opinion was supported by
8 Cruno and Santache (2019). Bach also said that there was no place in the
9 Olympics for games that promote violence.

10 He was much more optimistic in Reuters (January 10, 2010), when he said
11 that simulation games for existing recognized Olympic sports could very well
12 find their way into the Olympics. Bach then invited existing sports federations
13 recognized to organize Olympic competition to request adding an Esport event
14 at the Olympics. None stepped forward, probably because of the disincentive
15 created by an athlete limit established by Olympic Agenda 2020. For every
16 competitor an existing Olympic sport would want to add for an Esport version
17 of that sport, an athlete would have to be eliminated from the physical version
18 of that sport.

19 The IOC then sponsored an Olympic Virtual Series in 2021, as discussed in
20 Olympic Esports Series (2025), including 5 sports totaling 9 events. One event
21 each was held for cycling, motor-sport, and rowing, two were held for baseball
22 and 4 were held for sailing. There followed an IOC sponsored Olympic Esports
23 Series in 2023, as discussed in Olympic Esports Series (2025), for 10 sports
24 totaling 11 events. One event each was held for archery, baseball, chess, cycling,
25 dance-sport, motor-sport, shooting, taekwondo, and tennis. Two events were
26 held for sailing.

27 The success of the 2021 and 2023 Esports competitions led the IOC to
28 announce creation of an Olympic Esports Games to be held starting in 2025, later
29 changed to 2027, in Saudi Arabia, which was given a 12-year contract for
30 organizing Esports open to all IOC recognized sports federations that wish to be
31 included in future Olympic Esports Games, as discussed in Olympic Esports
32 Games (2025).

33 It will be interesting to follow that new version of Olympic competition, as
34 it takes its place next to the Paralympics and Special Olympics.
35
36

37 **Conclusions**

38

39 By reviewing more than 1000 years of success in the planning and offering
40 of the Ancient Olympics and a similar 130 years for the Modern Olympics,
41 we can identify the factors creating that success. The hosts at Olympia began
42 with one athletics running event of 600 feet in 776 BC. Over the next 200 years,
43 they creatively added combat, chariot racing and equestrian racing sports which
44 made the Games successful, relevant, and entertaining. That reputation led
45 potential hosts at three other locations to create their own stadia and start their
46 own Games from 582 BC to 573 BC: the Isthmian Games, the Nemean Games,

1 and the Pythian Games at Delphi. From that one running event emerged three
 2 more Games, due to clever and intuitive additions to the Games at Olympia. Very
 3 entertaining and popular artistic performance competitions were added later. At
 4 Olympia in Ancient Greece, women took part in their own Games, the Heraean
 5 Games, and were official winners of 8 events at the Olympic Games because
 6 they owned the winning horses in chariot and equestrian racing events. Women
 7 skillfully pursued their place in sport at Olympia and the other Games sites.

8 For the first 10 Games of the Modern Olympic era, beginning in 1896, the
 9 host nations were clever and forward thinking under the emerging International
 10 Olympic Committee (IOC). The number of events rose from 44 events
 11 (including the hugely successful and world-recognized marathon) tripling just
 12 before WW2. When the Games resumed, the IOC implemented a forward-
 13 looking scheme, allowing host cities to offer non-medal demonstration sports
 14 which might become continuing sports if successful. That led to the movement
 15 of handball, baseball, tennis, badminton, judo for women and taekwondo to
 16 continuing status. Also directly added were judo for men, volleyball, archery,
 17 table tennis, softball, and triathlon, showing the value of clever hosts under
 18 flexible IOC rules.

19 The cumbersome and inflexible concept of freezing the number of sports
 20 federations was short-lived, but followed by Olympic Agenda 2020, which
 21 restored innovation to the hosts under reasonable limiting of the number of
 22 athletes. Three youth-oriented and popular sports moved to continuing status:
 23 skateboarding, sports climbing and surfing. Also, the following popular sports
 24 have been approved to be offered temporarily at Los Angeles 2028, under this
 25 flexible and innovative policy: baseball, softball, lacrosse, flag football, cricket,
 26 and squash.

27 In the modern Olympics, women were not included in 1896, but began
 28 Olympic competition in 1900, followed by inclusion in swimming in 1912 and
 29 in athletics in 1928. Women now have equal athlete count compared to men. As
 30 in the Ancient Olympics, women have not settled for mediocrity but have
 31 skillfully and deservedly moved toward equality.

32 The success of the IOC-sponsored 2021 and 2023 Esports competitions led
 33 the IOC to create a separate Olympic Esports Games to be held starting in 2027,
 34 in Saudi Arabia. The IOC found a creative way to offer Esports competitions
 35 while maintaining standards and organizing methods, by creating a new type of
 36 Games taking its place next to the Paralympics and Special Olympics

37 In summary, the key ingredients for Olympic success have been the clever
 38 and far-thinking expansion of relevant and entertaining sports by the hosts, and
 39 in the Modern Olympics, we have the effective and flexible IOC control.

40 41 42 **References**

43
 44 Bruno, S. and Santache,P (2019) No Pixel Podiums: Lack of governance in esports
 45 excludes them from the Olympic Games, *McCarthy and Tetrault Opinion Article*,
 46 *October 24, 2019*. [https://www.mccarthy.ca/en/insights/articles/no-pixel-podiums-
 47 lack-governance-esports-excludes-them-olympic-games](https://www.mccarthy.ca/en/insights/articles/no-pixel-podiums-lack-governance-esports-excludes-them-olympic-games).

- 1 Japan Times (December 3, 2018), <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/sports/2018/12/03/olympics/ioc-continues-review-esports/>
- 2 [olympics/ioc-continues-review-esports/](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/sports/2018/12/03/olympics/ioc-continues-review-esports/)
- 3 Miller, S.G. (2004). *Ancient Greek Athletics*, New Haven, CT: New Haven.
- 4 Olympic Agenda 2020 (2014), Retrieved from <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/olympic-agenda-2020>.
- 5 [pic-agenda-2020](https://www.olympics.com/ioc/olympic-agenda-2020).
- 6 Olympic Esports Games, <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/news/inaugural-olympic-esports-games-to-be-held-in-riyadh-in-2027-road-to-the-games-to-start-this-year>.
- 7 [esports-games-to-be-held-in-riyadh-in-2027-road-to-the-games-to-start-this-year](https://www.olympics.com/ioc/news/inaugural-olympic-esports-games-to-be-held-in-riyadh-in-2027-road-to-the-games-to-start-this-year).
- 8 Olympic Esports Series (2025), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Esports_Series.
- 9 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Esports_Series.
- 10 Perseus Project (2024) Ancient Olympics Information, Retrieved from <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/index.html>
- 11 <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/index.html>
- 12 Reuters (January 10, 2020), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-olympics-ioc/olympics-games-must-connect-with-gamers-to-keep-olympics-relevant-bach-idUSKBN1Z91M2>.
- 13 [1Z91M2](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-olympics-ioc/olympics-games-must-connect-with-gamers-to-keep-olympics-relevant-bach-idUSKBN1Z91M2).
- 14 Romano, D.G. (1993). Athletics and Mathematics in Archaic Corinth: The Origins of the Greek Stadion. *Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society*, v. 206.
- 15 *Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society*, v. 206.
- 16 Stefani, R.T. (2014). Understanding the Velocity Ratio of Male and Female Olympic Champions in Running, Speed Skating, Rowing and Swimming, *Proceedings of the 12th Australasian Conference on Mathematics and Computers in Sport, Darwin Australia, 25-27 June, 2014*. pp 106-111.
- 17 *Proceedings of the 12th Australasian Conference on Mathematics and Computers in Sport, Darwin Australia, 25-27 June, 2014*. pp 106-111.
- 18 *Australia, 25-27 June, 2014*. pp 106-111.
- 19 Walleshinsky, D. and Loucky, L. (2012 and earlier editions). *The Complete Book of the Olympics*, Aurum Press Ltd, London, ISBN 978 1 84513 695 6.
- 20 *The Complete Book of the Olympics*, Aurum Press Ltd, London, ISBN 978 1 84513 695 6.
- 21 *Olympics*, Aurum Press Ltd, London, ISBN 978 1 84513 695 6.
- 22 Were Women Allowed at the Olympics? (2015, December). Retrieved from <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/faq5>.
- 23 <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/faq5>.
- 24 Wikipedia Heraean Games. (2024). Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraean_Games.
- 25 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraean_Games.
- 26 Wikipedia Isthmian Games. (2024). Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isthmian_Games.
- 27 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isthmian_Games.
- 28 Wikipedia List of Ancient Greek Victors. (2024). Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ancient_Olympic_victors.
- 29 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ancient_Olympic_victors.
- 30 Wikipedia List of International Sports Federations (2024). Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_international_sports_federations.
- 31 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_international_sports_federations.
- 32 Wikipedia Olympic Demonstration Sports (2015, October 20), Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonstration_sport.
- 33 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonstration_sport.
- 34 Wikipedia Pythian Games. (2024). Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pythian_Games.
- 35 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pythian_Games
- 36 [wiki/Pythian Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pythian_Games)
- 37