

The Summer

Youth Olympic Games

Held for the first time in 2010 in Singapore, the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) are much more than a junior version of the Olympic Games.

Even though the competitions are still very much at the heart of the YOG, every effort is made to ensure that this celebration of sport is an unforgettable experience for the young athletes, aged between 15 and 18.

A comprehensive culture and education programme is offered to the young athletes to help them learn about the specific features of the host country, test new sports, attend workshops to acquire useful skills for their future careers, and so on. Many other activities are also organised for them.

And it's not just in the Olympic Village that they get to meet athletes from different cultures! To increase the sense of camaraderie between different nations, the YOG brought in mixed team competitions. This new format has not only helped to forge strong relationships between athletes and break down cultural barriers; it has also completely changed the competition dynamics and strategies!

Introducing gender parity has been one of the key challenges at the Youth Olympic Games. This objective was successfully achieved at the YOG 2018 in Buenos Aires!

But these are not, by any means, the only innovations; the Youth Olympic Games also serve as a "laboratory" for the senior Games. At each edition, new sports or events – fun competitions designed to appeal to young people – are introduced onto the programme, such as combining skiing and snowboarding in a mixed event.

«Participating in the Youth Olympic Games is not only for involvement in sports competitions and achieving good results, but also enables you to meet with people from different cultures and backgrounds, learn important skills for your sports career and experience the Olympic values.»

IOC President Thomas Bach, Nanjing 2014

SINGAPORE 2010



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	PARTICIPATING NATIONS	EVENTS
14 to 26 August	Singapore	3,524	204	201

Slogan

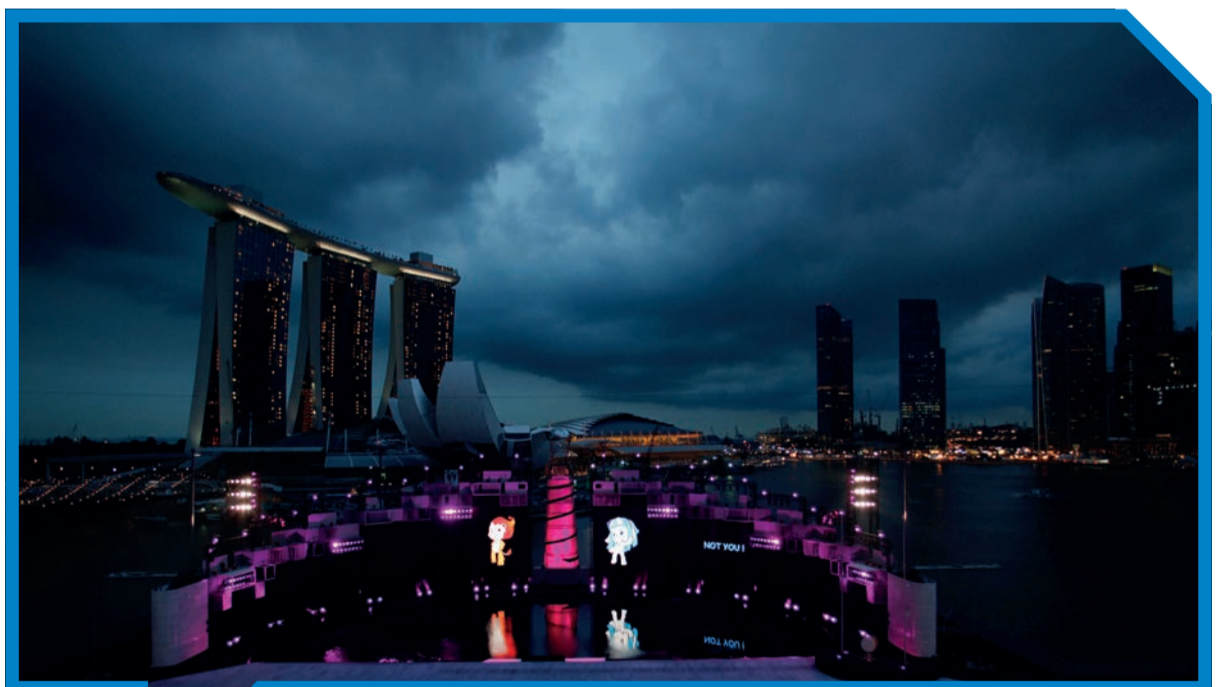
Blazing the Trail! Singapore was chosen as the host country for the first ever Youth Olympic Games. The entire nation set about turning the Games into a sporting and cultural celebration.



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Torch Relay

The first flame of the Youth Olympic Games was lit in Olympia. This event marked the start of the journey of the Youth Olympic flame. It crossed five cities on the five continents before heading to Singapore. Thus began a national six-day relay, leading up to the Opening Ceremony.



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Opening Ceremony

A magnificent Opening Ceremony at the Float at Marina Bay got the first ever Youth Olympic Games underway.

Featuring more than 7,000 performers and a floating stage against the backdrop of Singapore's spectacular city skyline, the Ceremony was memorable.

New events – New technologies

Introducing fun formats that reflected the interests of young people, the YOG saw a number of innovations:



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3x3 basketball, an event involving faster, more dynamic gameplay, much closer in style to the street basketball played by young people in urban areas.

One of the unique features of the YOG is the inclusion of events with mixed teams of athletes from different National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

The continental team events in the equestrian and fencing competitions saw a full mix of nationalities, heights and genders.



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The European equestrian continental team.



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For the first time, the diving competition was held in the open air at night! Special atmosphere guaranteed.

Another first at the Games in Singapore was the introduction of a laser pistol in the modern pentathlon shooting event.



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A pairs mixed team event (gender and nationality) was included on the archery programme.



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The North American fencing continental team.

Culture and Education Programme

The Village plaza was a hive of activity for the athletes, who could attend shows and concerts, take part in workshops and participate in «Chat with Champions» sessions.



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In the centre of the plaza, the World Culture Village presented the history and culture of all the participating National Olympic Committees.



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Over 50 activities were organised, broken down into five themes: Olympism, skills development, well-being/healthy lifestyle, social responsibility, and expression through digital media. A packed programme!



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Mascots

Lyo is short for “Lion of the Youth Olympics”.

He is fun-loving and hopes to inspire young people to keep fit and enjoy sport for life.



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Merly’s name comes from the word “mer” (meaning the sea) and the letters “ly”, which stand for liveliness and youthfulness. A passionate advocate of environmental protection, she firmly believes that everyone has a role to play in building a sustainable future.

NANJING 2014



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	PARTICIPATING NATIONS	EVENTS
16 to 28 August	People's Republic of China	3,579	203	222

Slogan

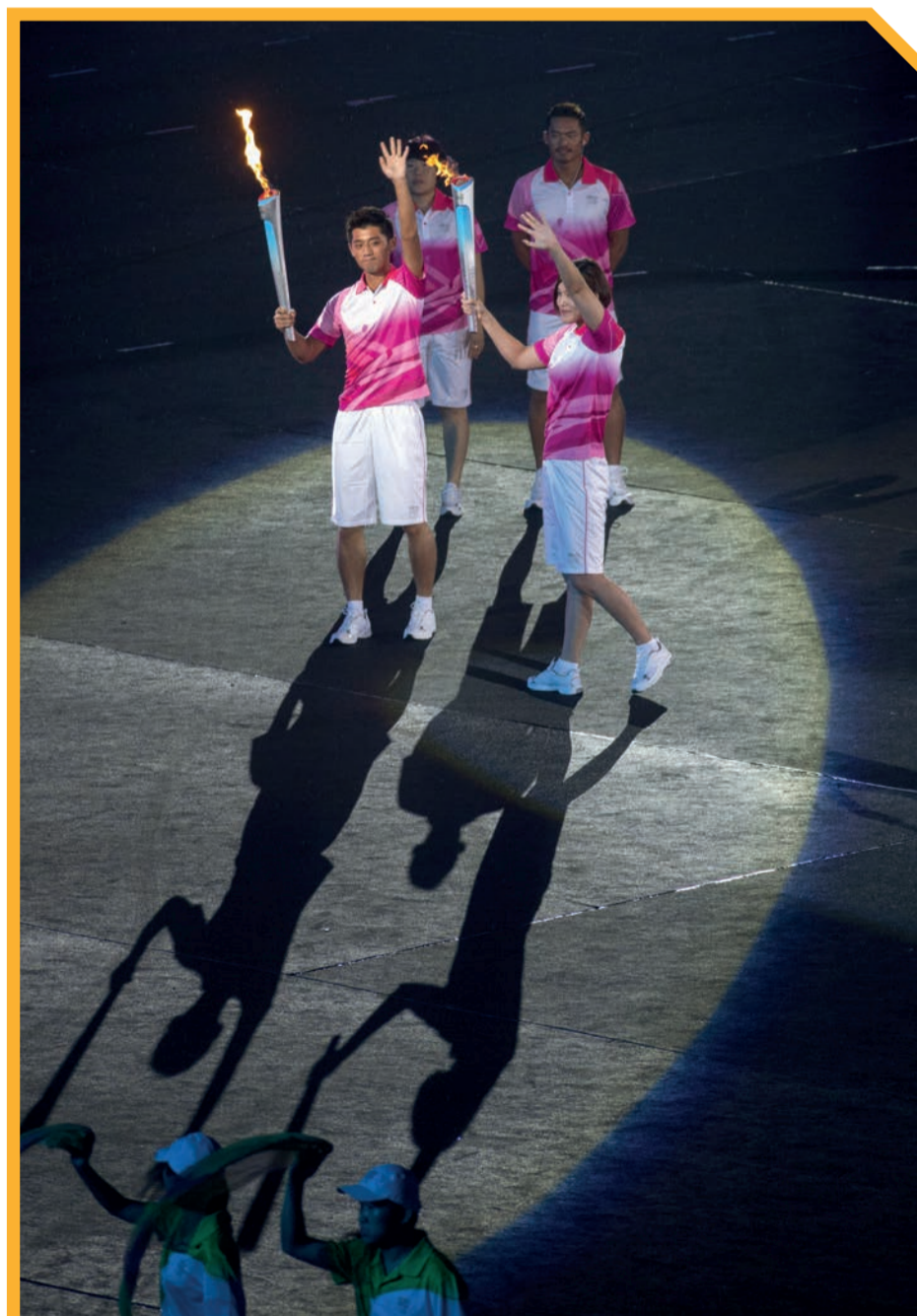
Share the Games, Share our Dreams! The slogan for this edition of the Youth Olympic Games gave a taster of what was to come. It promoted the idea of sharing the Games experience so that as many people as possible could benefit from the power of the Olympic values.



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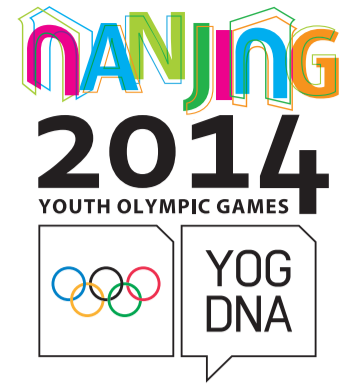
A virtual torch relay!

The flame of the 2nd Summer Youth Olympic Games was lit at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, Greece. This ceremony marked the start of a virtual relay, which gave fans across the world the chance to take part in the YOG interactively, via an app, before the flame's arrival in China for the actual relay, which was held in the lead-up to the Games.



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Opening Ceremony



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A new-look format for the parade of athletes! To allow the athletes to save their energy for the competitions to come, only the flagbearers from the 203 nations paraded into the stadium.



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IOC President Thomas Bach encouraged athletes and spectators alike to take out their smartphones, but not to take a selfie; instead they were asked to take a picture of the person next to them and, in a gesture of friendship and in the Olympic spirit, to share it with the world using the hashtag #Nanjing2014.

New sports and events



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After a long period of absence at the Olympic Games – 110 and 94 years respectively – golf and rugby returned to the Olympic programme at the YOG.



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Instead of the traditional 11-a-side version, a new discipline was introduced in field hockey – 5-a-side. This made the game quicker and more dynamic, and proved to be a huge hit with the crowd.



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With beach volleyball, the action became even more spectacular. The athletes had no hesitation about diving across the sand to shoot or to prevent the other team scoring.



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In track and field, 680 athletes took part in the new 8x100m mixed relay, in which the teams were made up of athletes from different nations.



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Basketball was given a youthful makeover with the introduction of a dunk competition for the male athletes and a shoot-out competition for the female athletes. The aim: not just to put the ball in the hoop, but to do it with style.



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Culture and Education

The Culture and Education Programme included a youth festival, educational workshops, a Sports Lab and, of course, the World Culture Village.



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In the Sports Lab, the athletes could try their hand at disciplines that did not feature on the programme in Nanjing, such as roller sports, skateboarding, sport climbing and wushu.



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During the Games, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and other institutions such as the International Fair Play Committee and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) held workshops to raise awareness and to inform and educate the athletes on topics that addressed their concerns both as sportspeople and young adults.

Mascot



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The mascot, NanjingLELE, was truly bursting with colour! The pink stood for enthusiasm, while the blue signified kindness and generosity. The yellow symbolised motivation and initiative, while the green reflected the mascot's vitality and peace-loving spirit.

Always game, NangingLELE was more than happy to get involved in the medals ceremonies and put on a show for the crowd.



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BUENOS AIRES 2018

BUENOS
AIRES
2018



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	PARTICIPATING NATIONS	EVENTS
6 to 18 October	Argentina	4,000	206	241

Slogan

Feel the future. The slogan highlighted the hope that the athletes competing in the YOG, which would have strict gender parity, would become examples of coexistence and unity in diversity, as well as a source of inspiration to create a better world through sport.

New sports

Four new sports were added to the YOG programme in Buenos Aires:



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Karate, a popular sport with young people, made its debut in an Olympic competition, with a kumite (conventional combat) event. Karate will also feature on the Olympic programme at the Games in Tokyo in 2020, not only with kumite, but also with a kata event, a demonstration of technical moves and steps scored by five judges.



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The inclusion of breaking (breakdancing) in Buenos Aires proved that the commitment to introducing sports that appealed to the interests of young generations had not been an empty promise! The b-boys and b-girls showcased their skills with steps, footwork and spectacular acrobatic moves, to the applause of the crowd.



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Roller speed made its first appearance at the Games with a combined event. The skaters faced off in three races of different lengths (500m sprint, 1,000m sprint and 5,000m elimination) on a 200m track. The final ranking was established based on the number of points accumulated across each of the distances.



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Another hotly anticipated moment of these Games was the sport climbing competition, a sport that will also feature at the Tokyo 2020 Games. The climbers faced off against each other in a hybrid competition, with three walls for three different disciplines: speed, bouldering and lead. The athlete with the lowest combined points total across the three categories won the event.

New events – New disciplines

Acrobatic gymnastics was added to the Olympic programme as one of the gymnastics events. The pairs, made up of an acrobat and a base partner, performed a series of stunning routines.



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Playing handball on sand added an extra dimension, and a certain tension, to an already dynamic sport. The players had no hesitation about hurling themselves across the sand to catch the ball and try to score!



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Sailing featured a brand new discipline in the form of kiteboarding. In the fun, dynamic “IKA twin tip racing” event, the riders had to zigzag their way past and jump over obstacles.



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Sailing also saw the introduction of a mixed pairs event on a multihull catamaran, the Nacra 15.



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Mascot



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#Pandi was the YOG mascot. Its name combines the scientific name for the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) with the word “digital”, and the use of the hashtag reinforces the connection with the digital world. #Pandi symbolises the desire to be part of Buenos Aires 2018 not just physically, but also through the web. Reflecting the fact that Buenos Aires 2018 was the first Olympic event to have strict gender parity, #Pandi is neither male nor female.

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