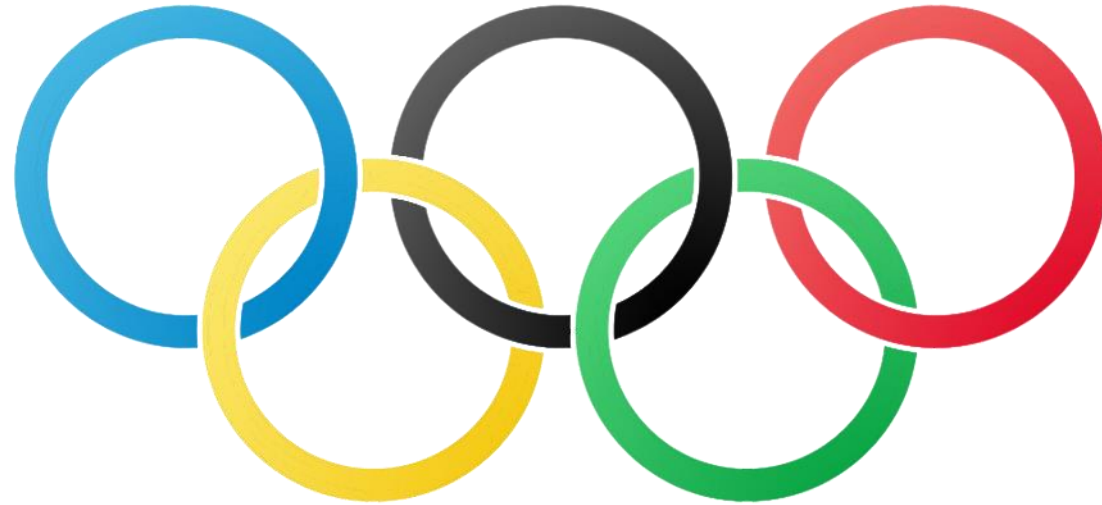


100 Years of Ireland



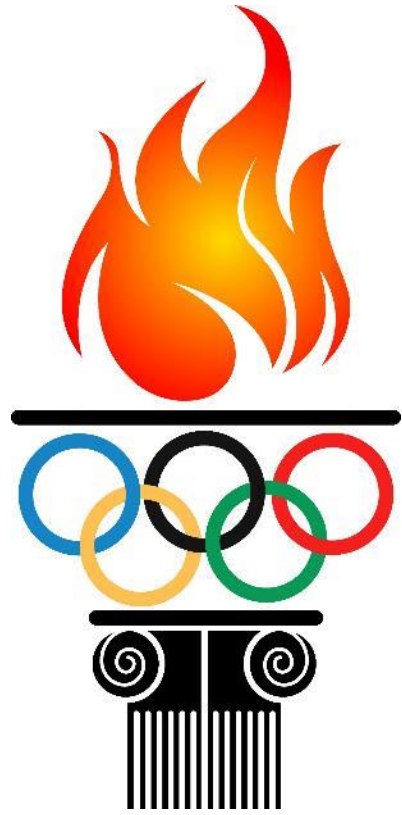
at the Olympic Games

1924 - 2024



History

2

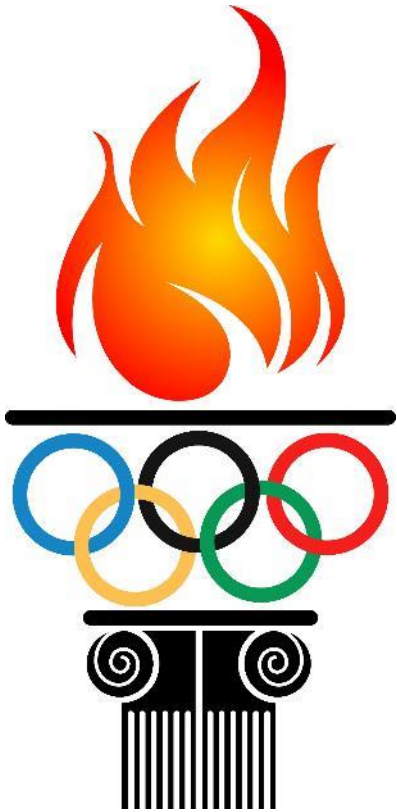


As Ireland was under British rule at the time of the first Olympics in 1896, Ireland competed as part of a Great Britain and Ireland team from the 1896 games in Athens, Greece to the 1920 games in Antwerp, Belgium.



Background

3



An Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI) was first established in 1922 around the time of Irish independence. The OFI affiliated with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in time for the Paris games in 1924. This allowed Ireland to compete as an independent nation for the first time at the 1924 games.



Northern Ireland

4

Ireland competes at the Olympic Games representing the “island of Ireland”. This is because some sports are organised on a 32-county basis. However, as Northern Ireland remains part of Great Britain, athletes from the six counties may compete at the Olympics for either Ireland or Great Britain.





Arts

5

Arts competitions were held at the Olympic games from 1912 to 1948. Ireland won two medals at its first Olympic Games in 1924 in Paris - Jack B. Yeats (brother of famous poet W.B. Yeats) won silver for his painting "The Liffey Swim" (mixed paintings) and Oliver St. John Gogarty won bronze for his poem "Ode to the Tailteann Games" (mixed literature). Letitia Marion Hamilton won a bronze medal in 1948 for her painting "Meath Hunt Point-to-Point Races" (painting).



Medals

6

Up to the 2020 Olympics, Ireland has won a total of 35 sports medals, ranking it 51st in the overall medals table.



10

11

14



Sports

7

Boxing is Ireland's most successful sport at the Olympics, where 18 medals in total have been won. Athletics has produced the most gold medals with four golds.



Boxing

18



Athletics

7



Swimming

4



Rowing

3



Sailing

2



Equestrian Jumping

1

Ireland has also won three Olympic medals for Arts.



First Medal

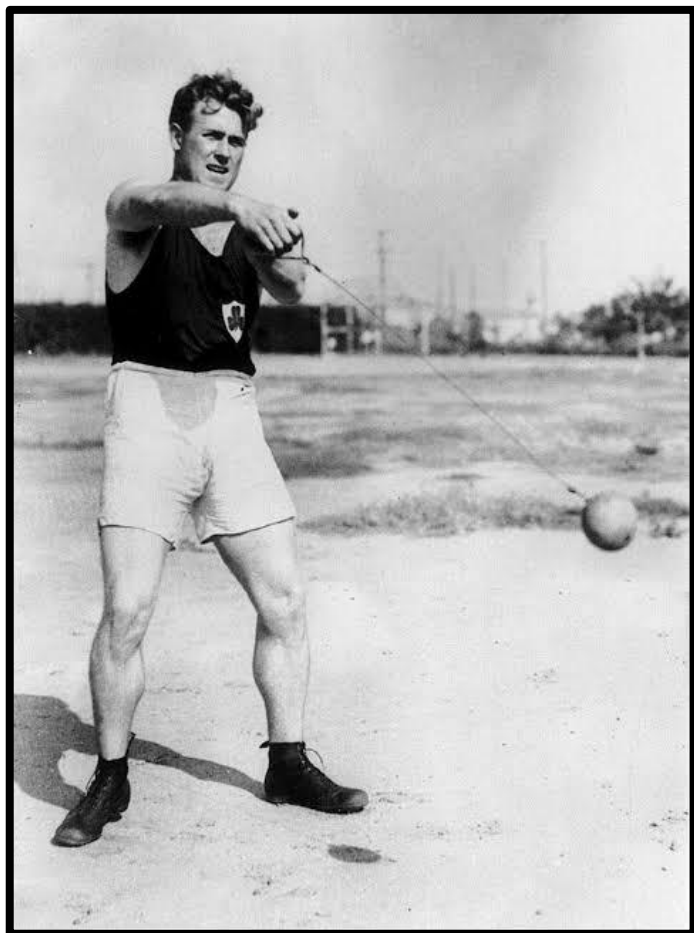


Jack B. Yeats has the distinction of being the first person representing Ireland to win an Olympic medal when he won Silver for his painting "The Liffey Swim" at the Paris games in 1924.



First Gold

9



Ireland won its first Gold medal in the 1928 Amsterdam games when Pat O' Callaghan won Gold in the Hammer Throw field event. He won with a throw of 51.39m. Interestingly, he and his two brothers, who were also competing in the games, paid their own fares to get there.



Medal Upgrade

10

Robert Heffernan came 4th in the men's 50km walk at the 2012 London games. However, four years later, the winner of the race was disqualified and Robert was upgraded to third place and presented with a Bronze Olympic medal.





Medal Stripped

11



Cian O' Connor won a Gold medal at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece for showjumping. However, he was formally stripped of the medal the following year after his horse failed a post-event drug test.



Banned

12



Michelle Smith won three Gold medals and a Bronze medal at the 1996 Olympic games in Atlanta, USA for swimming. After the games, she was banned from competitive swimming for four years for tampering with a post-race urine sample. However, she was not stripped of her medals as she had not tested positive for any banned substances.



Boycotts

13

66 countries boycotted the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, Russia. 14 countries boycotted the 1984 games in Los Angeles, USA. Ireland did not participate in boycotts of either games and sent 47 athletes to the Moscow games and 42 athletes to the Los Angeles games. However, Ireland did choose not to participate in the 1936 Berlin games in Nazi Germany. Games were not held in 1940 and 1944 due to World War II.



Winners



Katie Taylor won a Gold medal for boxing at the 2012 London games.



Sonia O' Sullivan won a Silver medal at the 2000 Sydney games for the 5000m race.



Kellie Harrington won a Gold medal for boxing at the 2020 Tokyo games.



Winners



Brothers Gary and Paul O' Donovan won a Silver medal for rowing at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro games.



John Treacy won Silver at the 1984 Los Angeles games for the men's marathon.



Ronnie Delany won a gold medal for the 1500m race at the 1956 Melbourne games.



Winter Games

16

Ireland's best result competing in Winter Olympic Games has been a fourth place by Clifton Wrottesley in the men's skeleton at the 2002 games in Salt Lake City, USA. This is a race where the competitor lies face down and head first on a flat sled and races down an ice track.





Best Games

17

Ireland's most successful Olympic Games was the 2012 games in London, England where a total of six medals were won. Katie Taylor won Gold in boxing; John Joe Nevin won Silver in boxing; Paddy Barnes and Michael Conlon won Bronze in boxing; Cian O' Connor won Bronze in showjumping; Rob Heffernan won Bronze in the 50km walk.





Paralympics

18

Paralympic Games for athletes with a physical disability are held every four years following the main Olympic Games. The first Paralympic Summer Games were held in Rome, Italy in 1960. Ireland has competed at every Paralympic Summer Games since then (except in 1964), winning a total of 229 medals. The most successful Paralympic Games was the 1984 games held in New York and Stoke Mandeville where Ireland won a total of 65 medals, 20 of them gold.



Paralympic Winners

19



Ellen Keane, competing as a swimming amputee, won a Gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.



Jason Smith, a visually impaired sprinter, has won 6 Gold medals in four different Paralympics.



Katie-George Dunlevy, a visually impaired cyclist, has won Gold medals for tandem cycling at the 2016 and 2020 Paralympics.



Paris 2024

20



PARIS 2024



The 33rd Olympiad will be held in Paris, France from July 26th to August 11th, 2024. So far, 103 athletes have qualified to represent Ireland in a range of different sports including athletics, boxing, badminton, swimming, taekwondo, gymnastics, sailing and cycling.

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