

Olympic Trivia

Cricket was only an Olympic sport once, in 1900 at the Paris Olympics.

At the 1908 London Olympics, the finalists of the 'Tug of War' (no longer an Olympic sport) were two 8-man teams of British policemen. The London team won Gold and the Liverpool team won Silver. A third team of British policemen won the Bronze by default because the Swedish opponents didn't bother showing up for the match.

At the 1900 Olympic Games, the 'Live Pigeon Shooting' event had 52 competitors and more than 300 birds came to grief!! It was the only time animals were killed for sport during an Olympic event.

Australian Rugby player Daniel Carroll won gold representing Australia in 1908, then repeated this feat competing for USA in 1920.

'Eric the Eel' from Equatorial New Guinea was a wildcard at the Sydney Games in 2000. He had trained for only eight months and had never swum in an Olympic pool before. His heat time for the first race was over a minute slower than the world record but he won it because his two competitors were disqualified for false starts. He came last in the final event but was cheered wildly by the audience.

Twelve-year-old Inge Sorensen from Denmark was the youngest athlete ever to win a medal in an individual event. She won the bronze medal in the 200m breaststroke in 1936.

Olympic medalist Johnny Weissmuller played Tarzan in several films.

Stella Walsh from Poland won the 1932 women's 100m race at the Los Angeles Olympics. When she died in 1980 the post-mortem revealed one big surprise - She was a man!

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The ancient Greek athletes competed nude!!

The first man to win medals with a prosthetic leg was George Eyser in 1904. He lost his leg as a young boy when he was run over by a train. He won 6 medals including three gold.

Due to Australia's strict quarantine rules, the equestrian events for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics were held in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Olympic 'gold' medals aren't gold. They are however plated with six grams of gold.

The Rio 2016 Olympics is the first to Olympic Games to be hosted by a South American country. The city won the bid in 2009 beating Chicago, Madrid and Tokyo.

Around 10,500 athletes from 206 countries are expected to take part in the 17 days Olympiad in Rio, 2016.
