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STORY HEADLINE: International Olympic Committee Executive Board confirms sports programme for Olympic Games Paris 2024 with gender equality and youth at its heart.

LOCATION: Olympic House, Switzerland
DATE: 7 December 2020
LANGUAGE: English / French

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

STORY SCRIPT: The Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) today approved the event programme and athlete quotas of the Olympic Games Paris 2024, centred on gender equality and youth.

Skateboarding, Sport Climbing, Surfing and Breaking were confirmed as additional sports proposed by the Paris 2024 Organising Committee (OCOG). This new flexibility is part of the reforms of Olympic Agenda 2020. The decision will help to make the Olympic Games Paris 2024 fit for a post-corona world.

Following the recommendations of the Olympic Programme Commission, the main features of Paris 2024’s Olympic Programme include:

- Skateboarding, Sport Climbing, Surfing and Breaking confirmed as additional sports based on a proposal by Paris 2024. Breaking will make its Olympic debut.
- Exactly 50 per cent male and female participation following the gender equality which has been achieved already for Tokyo 2020 with 48.8 female participation.
- Growth of mixed gender events, compared to Tokyo 2020, from 18 to 22.
- Reduction of the overall athlete quota (including all new sports) to exactly 10,500.
- Reduction of the overall number of events, with a final programme of 329 events.

IOC President Thomas Bach said: “With this programme we are making the Olympic Games Paris 2024 fit for the post-corona world. We further reduce the cost and complexity of hosting the Games. While we will achieve gender equality already at the upcoming Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, we will see for the first time in Olympic history the participation of the exact same number of female athletes as male athletes. There is also a strong focus on youth.”

The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 next year will be the first gender equal Olympic Games, with an overall 48.8 percent female participation, which will be further increased at Paris 2024, reaching the exact same number of male and female athletes for the first time in Olympic history.
Athletics, boxing and cycling will reach full gender equality for the first time ever at Paris 2024, meaning 28 out of 32 sports in the Paris 2024 programme will be fully gender balanced.

Paris 2024 will mark a growth of mixed events in the programme, compared to Tokyo 2020, from 18 to 22.

The 10,500-athlete quota set for Paris 2024, including new sports, will lead to an overall reduction of 592 athletes compared to Tokyo 2020 (11,092). It will also lead to a reduction of officials and therefore to a reduction of the overall size and complexity of the Games.

The reduction across the 28 sports has been proportioned and focused on those sports that can best absorb the reduction, whilst maintaining the universality of the Games.

Weightlifting and Boxing are the two sports that see the greatest reduction in participants. Weightlifting will see 120 competitors in five events per gender, down from 196 in Tokyo 2020 and 260 in Rio 2016.

In its decisions about Weightlifting, the IOC EB considered its strong concerns with regard to the governance of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) and the doping history of the sport. It also reiterated that the place of Weightlifting in the programme of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 continues to be subject to ongoing review by the IOC.

Boxing will reach full gender equality in athlete participation for the first time at Paris 2024, fostering a gender balanced programme with seven men's and six women's events with the specific weight classes to be finalised by the IOC EB in the fourth quarter of 2021.

When deciding about boxing, the IOC EB took the ongoing concerns about the International Boxing Association (AIBA) into account. The recognition of the federation has been suspended by the IOC. At the same time, the IOC reflected its commitment to protect the athletes of the boxing community.

In the post-COVID-19 world, limiting the overall number of events is a key element in avoiding the growth of the Olympic Sports Programme as well as additional costs. While IFs had requested a total of 41 additional events, the IOC EB decided to not increase the number of events across any of the 28 sports in the initial programme, ensuring a fair and objective approach in the application of this principle in its review of the event programme.

In addition, the IOC EB strived to provide further reassurance to the athletes during this difficult time, consistent with the ‘Athletes first’ approach of the IOC and the Paris 2024 Organising Committee. Therefore, it retained the vast majority of the current events, in particular given the short three-year period between the Olympic Games Tokyo and Paris 2024.

As a result of these considerations the overall number of events will be reduced from 339 to 329 compared to Tokyo 2020.

Four sports proposed by Paris 2024 Organising Committee have been confirmed: Skateboarding, Sport Climbing, Surfing and also Breaking, which will make its Olympic debut, building on the success of the sport at the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018.

Additionally, the urban sport concept has been expanded, showcasing youth-focused events, which are inclusive, engaging and can be practiced outside conventional arenas.
The following eight events have been included on the programme, replacing existing events, in each case to ensure no increases in event numbers:

- 1 new mixed-gender event in athletics to replace the men’s 50km race walk
- 1 new women’s weight class in boxing to replace 1 men’s weight class
- 1 new skeet mixed team event in shooting to replace the trap mixed team event.
- 2 extreme canoe slalom events to replace 2 canoe sprint events
- 3 new mixed events in sailing (including mixed kiteboarding and mixed 470 - two-person dinghy), to replace 1 men’s and 1 women’s 470 - two-person dinghy events and the men’s Finn - one-person dinghy.

The Olympic Programme is developed in thorough consultation with the Paris 2024 Organising Committee, International Federations (IFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and athletes and finalised by the IOC Executive Board upon recommendations of the Olympic Programme Commission.

As a consequence of the exceptional situation caused by COVID-19 pandemic, the IOC and Paris 2024 have committed to reduce the cost and complexity of the Olympic Games.

SHOTLIST:
00:02 Shot the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee including IOC President Thomas Bach.
00:08 Pan of virtual meeting members to IOC President Thomas Bach.

00:19 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
Statement at Executive Board meeting
“We will see exactly 50% male and female participation. Following on from the gender equality already achieved for Tokyo 2020, which will have about 49% female participation. With Paris we are doing the last step to full gender equality with 50% male and 50% female athletes participating. This is, for the first time in Olympic history, that we will reach this full gender equality.”

01:09 Pan of the Executive Board meeting both in-person and virtual.

01:12 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (French Language)
Q. What are your impressions of the new Paris 2024 programme?
(English Translation)
“I am more than content, I am happy with this new programme for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 because it reflects Olympic Agenda 2020 and it prepares the Olympic Games for the post-corona world. Firstly, we have to say, we will have four sports that speak to young people - surfing, skateboarding, sport climbing and breaking - which are fascinating to young people. There will also be full gender equality for the first time in Olympic history - with exactly 50% male and female athletes. In addition, we have managed to reduce the number of athletes and officials by 1,000 people, which greatly facilitates the work of the Organising Committee and reduces costs for the Organising Committee.”

02:39 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
Q. How do you see Paris 2024 building on the gender equality achievements at Tokyo 2020?
“There are three highlights on the Paris sports programme. There is first of all a reduction in the number of events in comparison to Tokyo 2020. There is secondly a reduction in the number of
athletes and officials by about 1000 compared to Tokyo, and there is a third a very important, full gender equality for Paris 2024. We will see in the Olympic Games Paris 2024, 50% of male athletes and 50% of female athletes coming from the 49% of female athletes in Tokyo."

03:25 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)

Q. What is the vision of the Paris 2024 programme with the new sports and what does it mean for these sports and athletes?

"The programme for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 is addressing the younger generation in particular with four sports. There is skateboarding, surfing, sport climbing and a brand new addition to the games programme - breaking. Which are all very popular in the younger generation and they will show youth trends during this Olympic Games."

03:59 Wide shot of the Eiffel Tower
04:05 Aerial view of Paris
04:12 Various shots of confirmed Paris 2024 Olympic sport breaking at the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018
04:43 Various shots of confirmed Paris 2024 Olympic Men’s sport surfing at ISA World Surfing Games 2019 in Miyazaki
04:53 Various shots of confirmed Paris 2024 Olympic Women’s sport surfing at Urban Research ISA World Surfing Games 2018 in Tahara
05:06 Various shots of confirmed Paris 2024 Olympic sport skateboarding at Urban Park Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018
05:35 Various shots of confirmed Paris 2024 Olympic sport, sport climbing from the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018
06:04 Action from the Nacra 15 Multihull, Mixed Sailing event at the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018.

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