

# World Games

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The **World Games**, first held in 1981, are an international multi-sport event, meant for sports, or disciplines or events within a sport, that are not contested in the Olympic Games. The World Games are organised and governed by the International World Games Association (IWGA), recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The World Games are held every four years, one year after the Summer Olympic Games. The next World Games will be held Wrocław, Poland, in July 2017.

A number of the sports that were on the programme of the World Games have been discontinued because they are now included in the programme of the Olympic Games, for example badminton, beach volleyball, trampolining, rugby sevens, taekwondo, triathlon and women's weightlifting. Other sports have been Olympic sports in the past (like tug of war).

Some of the sports that are held at the World Games are acrobatic gymnastics, ultimate, orienteering, body building, powerlifting, finswimming, squash, billiards, water skiing, and dance sport. The sports that are included in the World Games are limited by the facilities available in the host city; no new facilities may be constructed for the games. Between 25 and 30 sports have been included in the official programme of the World Games. In addition, the IWGA, in coordination with the host city, can invite some sport to participate in the "invitational" programme. No World Games medals are awarded to invitational sports.

To become part of the World Games programme, the sport must be widely spread in the world and the specific international sports federation must be a member of the IWGA. In each sport, only the best athletes or teams may participate, as determined by the international sports federations. In most classes, it is necessary to qualify by a top ranking at the world championships or a qualification tournament to be able to participate.

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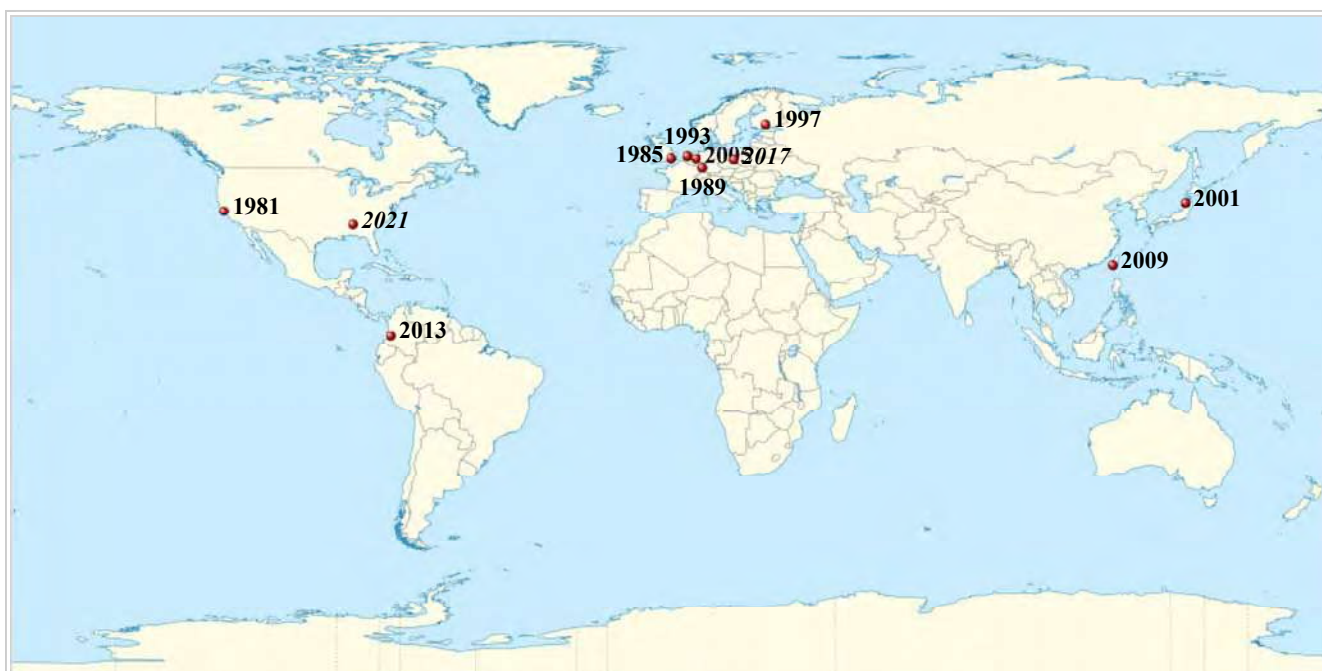
## Editions

### International World Games Association (IWGA)



IWGA logo

<b>First event</b>	1981 – Santa Clara, California, United States
<b>Occur every</b>	4 years
<b>Last event</b>	2013 – Cali, Colombia
<b>Purpose</b>	Multi-sport event for sports and disciplines that are not contested in the Olympic Games
<b>President</b>	José Perurena López
<b>Website</b>	TheWorldGames.org ( <a href="http://www.theworldgames.org/">http://www.theworldgames.org/</a> )



Host cities of the World Games

Year	Edition	Location	Hosts	Athletes	Countries	Official Sports	Invitational Sports
1981	I	Santa Clara <sup>[1]</sup>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States	1745	58	15	1
1985	II	London	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United Kingdom	1227	57	20	1
1989	III	Karlsruhe	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> West Germany	1206	50	17	2
1993	IV	The Hague	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Netherlands	2264	72	22	4
1997	V	Lahti	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Finland	1379	73	22	6
2001	VI	Akita	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Japan	1968	93	22	5
2005	VII	Duisburg	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Germany	2464	93	27	6
2009	VIII	Kaohsiung	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Republic of China <sup>1</sup>	2536	84	26	5
2013	IX	Cali	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Colombia	2982	103	26	5
2017	X	Wrocław	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Poland				
2021	XI	Birmingham <sup>[2]</sup>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States				

<sup>1</sup> Republic of China, commonly known as Taiwan, due to complicated relations with People's Republic of China, is recognized by the name Chinese Taipei by the IWGA and the majority of international organizations.

## Sports/Disciplines

These are the official sports/disciplines of the World Games programme.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Artistic & Dance Sports

- Acrobatic gymnastics
- Aerobic gymnastics
- Artistic roller skating

- Dancesport (Latin, Salsa, Standard)
- Rhythmic gymnastics
- Trampoline (Synchronized, Double mini-trampoline)
- Tumbling

## Ball Sports

- Beach Handball<sup>[4]</sup>
- Canoe Polo
- Fistball
- Korfball
- Floorball
- Lacrosse
- Racquetball
- Squash

## Martial Arts

- Ju-Jitsu (Duo, Fighting, Ne-Waza)
- Karate (Kata, Kumite)
- Sumo
- Muay Thai

## Precision Sports

- Archery (Field, Target)
- Billiards (Carom, Pool, Snooker)
- Boules Sports (Boule lyonnaise, Pétanque, Raffa)
- Bowling (Ten-pin bowling)

## Strength Sports

- Powerlifting
- Tug of War (Men Outdoor, Women Indoor)

## Trend Sports

- Air Sports (Parachuting, Glider Acrobatics, Paramotoring)
- Finswimming
- Flying Disc (Ultimate)
- Inline Hockey
- Lifesaving (Pool)
- Orienteering
- Roller Speed Skating (Track)
- Sport Climbing
- Water Ski & Wakeboard

## Invitational Sports

- American Football
- Indoor Rowing
- Kickboxing
- Speedway

## All-time medal table

Ranked by total medals:

**Top ten total medal counts**<sup>[5][6][7]</sup>

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Italy	137	130	127	394
2	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States	135	120	104	359
3	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Germany	119	101	124	344
4	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> France	87	88	90	265
5	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Russia <sup>[a]</sup>	108	90	58	256
6	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United Kingdom	57 <sup>[b]</sup>	57	85	199
7	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> China	60	48	22	130
8	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Netherlands	38	40	48	126
9	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Japan	46	32	46	124
10	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Sweden	37 <sup>[b]</sup>	35	46	118

- The Soviet Union, which amassed 36 total medals in 1989, is counted separately from its successor states, including Russia. This is consistent with the separate counting of medals for other states that sub-divided into their constituent successor states following their *initial participation* in the World Games. These include Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic and Slovakia) and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).
- The 1981 mixed badminton title was won by a pair of players from Sweden and Great Britain. Both nations are counted as having won a gold medal.

## See also

- Olympic Games
- Commonwealth Games
- Universiade
- African Games
- Asian Games
- European Games
- Pacific Games
- Pan American Games

## References

- "Santa Clara, USA 1981 Programme Sports". International World Games Association. Retrieved 2015-11-05.
- Bryant, Joseph D. (January 22, 2015). "Birmingham wins! City chosen as site for 2021 World Games". *www.al.com*. Retrieved January 22, 2015.
- "TWG2017 Documents". theworldgames.org. Retrieved 16 September 2014.

4. First time official sport.
5. "Results of the World Games". International World Games Association. Retrieved 2015-10-26.
6. "The World Games 2013 Cali Medal Tally". sportresult.com. Retrieved 2015-10-26.
7. "International Sumo Federation – World Games". Retrieved 2015-11-01.

## External links

- IWGA official website (<http://www.theworldgames.org/>)
- World Games all results (<http://www.hickoksports.com/history/worldgames.shtml>) at Hickoksports.com
- The World Games 2017 Wrocław (<http://theworldgames2017.com/>)
- The World Games 2013 Cali (<http://www.worldgames2013.com.co/>)
- The World Games 2009 Kaohsiung (<http://www.worldgames2009.tw/wg2009/eng/index.php>)
- The World Games 2005 Duisburg ([http://www.duisburg.de/worldgames\\_archiv/en/default.htm](http://www.duisburg.de/worldgames_archiv/en/default.htm))
- Results of TWG2009 ([http://results.worldgames2009.tw/WG\\_Info/en/Root.mvc/](http://results.worldgames2009.tw/WG_Info/en/Root.mvc/))
- All-time World Games medal table (<http://www.theworldgames.org/the-world-games/medal-history/>)

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Categories: World Games | Multi-sport events | Recurring sporting events established in 1981

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