



## The Modern Olympic Games

*The Olympic Games*, shortened to *The Olympics*, is one of the most popular global sporting **events** that takes place every two years alternating between the summer and winter sports. Years in advance, a **host city** is selected and preparations get underway. Normally, a big olympic **stadium** is required as well as specialised buildings or areas for events such as swimming (which requires a pool), rowing and canoeing (which require open water) and karate, judo and taekwondo (which require matted floor and a ring).

**Athletes** prepare for the Olympics for years, training their bodies and timing their career so they are in peak condition during the event. In many countries, there is a rigorous build up to the Olympics with **coaches** selecting only the best athletes to represent their country and win their **competitions**. There is always an excitement across social media when the final athletes are selected and presented in the brand new **team kit**. Despite each sport being very different, athletes try to win **medals** for their country, placing them higher on the medal table. **Winners** earn a **gold** medal, **runners-up** earn a **silver** medal and third-place receives a **bronze** medal.

The Olympics are full of traditions. The most important is the Olympic **flame**, which represents the continuation from the ancient to the modern olympic games. A few months before each Olympic games, there is a ceremony to light the flame at Olympia in Greece. This is then passed on to the olympic **torch**, which is carried by numerous people around the world and should arrive at the host city during the opening games. The most important events during The Olympic Games are the opening and closing ceremonies. All the athletes are introduced to the world with the **flags** of each country flying high.

The Olympics are a joyous occasion where people around the world, despite their differences, come together to support their athletes. Having said this, there have been a few occasions with controversy, mostly surrounding **drug testing** and human rights in the host country. A few times this has even led to a **boycott** of the games.