



CANOEING AT OLYMPIC GAMES

1924

1936 – 2008



CANOEING AT THE 1924 SUMMER OLYMPICS

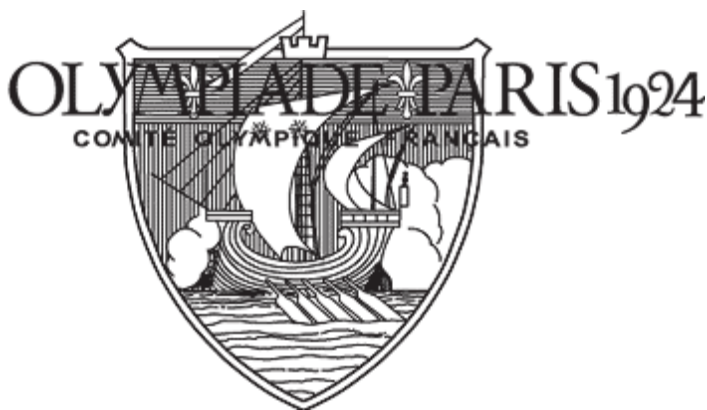
The 1924 Summer Olympics officially known as the Games of the VIII Olympiad. The Games were held May 4 to July 27, 1924 in Paris, the capital of France.

The home city of Pierre de COUBERTIN, founder of the modern games, was selected over bids of Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Rio de Janeiro, and Rome, though Paris had also hosted the 1900 Games before.

There were:

44 NOC's; 3 089 athletes (135 women and 2954 men); 126 events in 17 sports.

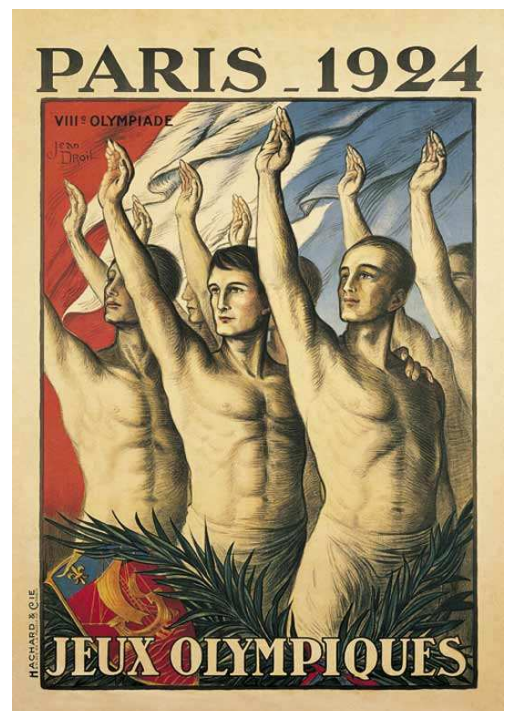
LOGO



It shows semi-naked athletes, a reminder of Antiquity, making the Olympic salute.

In the background there is the flag of the French Republic; in the foreground, palm leaves, symbols of victory.

POSTER



MEDAL



On the obverse, a naked victorious athlete, taking the hand of his rival, seated on the ground, to help him to get up.

Underneath, the Olympic rings.

On the reverse, a harp as a symbol of the cultural programme of the Games and the different sports equipment, winter as well as summer, forming an arch.

In the centre, the inscription "VIIIe OLYMPIADE PARIS 1924".

A total of 912 copies were made – 304 gold medals and the same number of silver medals, as well as 306 bronze medals.

DEMONSTRATIONS OF SPORTS OUTSIDE OLYMPICS PROGRAM

Article VI of the General Rules of the Olympics, adopted by the 1921 IOC Congress in Lausanne, stipulated that the Games Organizing Committee will provide demonstrations of two sports not included in the program:

1. A national sport;
2. A sport foreign to the host country.

Therefore, under the General Rules and the desire expressed by the IOC, the Executive Committee decided to organize:

1. A demonstration of Basque Pelota as the French national sport;
2. A demonstration of Canadian Canoe as a national sport of a foreign country;
3. A demonstration of the Games of Childhood (including Volleyball).

A little later, a demonstration of Savate (French Boxing) and la Canne (Cannes), eminently French sports, was added to the demonstration of Basque Pelota as a national sport.

SAVATE also known as **BOXE FRANÇAISE** (French Boxing, French Kickboxing or French Footfighting) is a French martial art which uses the hands and feet as weapons combining elements of western boxing with graceful kicking techniques.

Only foot kicks are allowed unlike some systems such as Muay Thai, and Silat which allow the use of the knees or shins. "Savate" is a French word for "old shoe". Savate is perhaps the only style of kickboxing in which the fighters habitually wear shoes. A male practitioner of savate is called a savateur while a female is called a savateuse.

LA CANNE or **CANNE DE COMBAT** is a French martial art. As weapon, it uses a cane or canne (a kind of walking-stick) designed for fighting. Canne de combat was standardized in the 1970s for sporting competition by Maurice Sarry. The canne is very light, made of chestnut wood and slightly tapered. A padded suit and a fencing mask are worn for protection.

BASQUE PELOTA (pilota or eusko pilota in Basque, pelota vasca in Spanish, pilota basca in Catalan, and pelote or pelote basque in French) is the name for a variety of court sports played with a ball using one's hand, a racket, a wooden bat or a basket, against a wall or, more traditionally, with two teams face to face separated by a line on the ground or a net. Their roots can be traced to the Greek and other ancient cultures, but in Europe they all derive from tennis (Jeu de Paume). The Basque term pilota comes from the Latin "pilum" (javelin) via Provençal "pilota" (ball).

CANOEING is an outdoor activity that involves a special kind of canoe. When exactly a canoe can be called a kayak is difficult to determine though, and often arbitrary. Internationally, the term canoeing is used as a generic term for both forms though the terms "paddle sports" or "canoe/kayak" are also used. In North America, however, 'canoeing' usually refers only to canoes, as opposed to both canoes and kayaks. Paddling a kayak is also referred to as kayaking.

Kayaking is the use of a kayak for moving across water. Kayaking and canoeing are also known as paddling. Kayaking is generally differentiated from canoeing by the sitting position of the paddler and the number of blades on the paddle. A kayak is defined by **the International Canoe Federation** (the world sanctioning body) as a boat where the paddler faces forward, legs in front, using a double bladed paddle. Almost all kayaks have closed decks, although there are many sit-on-top kayaks which are growing in popularity, as well as inflatable kayaks which come without decks but which have air chambers surrounding the boat. A canoe is defined as a boat where the paddler faces forward and sits or kneels in the boat, using a single bladed paddle. Canoes can be closed deck or open deck.

In modern canoe sport, canoes and kayaks are classified together, although these watercrafts have different designs, and historical uses. Both canoes and kayaks may be closed-decked. Other than by the minimum competition specifications (typically length and width (beam) and seating arrangement it is difficult to differentiate most competition canoes from the equivalent competition kayaks.

The most common difference is that competition kayaks are always seated and paddled with a double-bladed paddle, and competition canoes are generally kneeled and paddled with a single-bladed paddle. Exceptions include Canoe Marathon (in both European and American competitive forms) and sprint (high kneeling position). The most traditional and early canoes did not have seats, the paddlers merely kneeled on the bottom of the boat. Recreational canoes and kayaks employ seats and whitewater rodeo and surf variants increasingly employ the use of 'saddles' to give greater boat control under extreme conditions.

CANOEING was a sport very popular in **CANADA** at that time and in **the UNITED STATES** as well.

It has the advantage of being easily performed as it only requires a water depth insignificant. It was the Indians who taught the people of North America use the canoe, small boat cut in the bark of a birch tree, easily transportable, that some "trappers" still use today, but which architects and builders of modern boats are, of course, made changes in the perfection of the lines.

The demonstrations made by the Canadian and American canoeists were performed by single, two and four paddlers, with single or double-bladed paddle.

According to one or the other form of paddling, the position of the canoeists was different. Regarding the use of the double-bladed paddle, it is especially recommended to sit as close to the bottom as possible: the position "comfortable leaving without any freedom of action" having to worry about maintaining the balance of the boat. Beginners are sometimes tempted to sit on chairs when they use the double-bladed paddle, but the lack of equilibrium product inevitably fall into the water.

The design of the train double shovel used particularly in **Canada** and **the United States** does not differ significantly from that trains formerly used by the Eskimos. The only difference is that the shovels are a little more hollow than those of old who were nearly flat. Their size and length of the string depend entirely on the size of the paddler.

The French Olympic Committee had asked **the Canadian Olympic Committee** will make a demonstration of Canoeing that is a sport national asset in Canada.

The Canadian Olympic Committee went willingly to the desire of the French Olympic Committee and put immediately in connection with **the Canadian Canoe Association** that, besides the canoeists, promised the assistance of canoeists from **the UNITED STATES** (Washington Canoe Club).

In agreement with **the Canadian Olympic Committee** it was decided that the canoe races program would be incorporated into Olympic Rowing Program and that would include the following competitions:

CANOE –

Single kneeling canoe, single-bladed paddle (now C-1);

Double kneeling canoe, single-bladed paddle (now C-2);

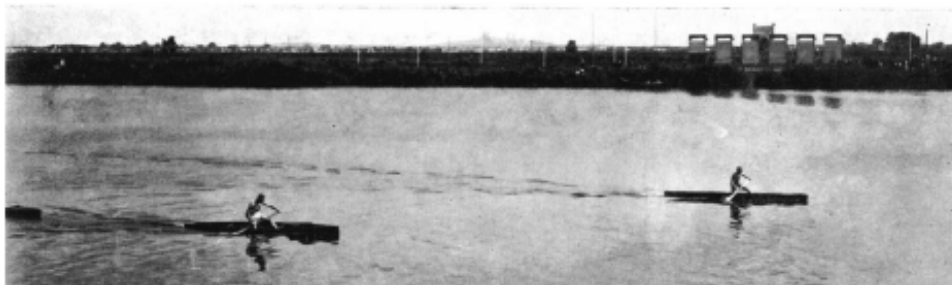
Four-person kneeling canoe, single-bladed paddle (now C-4).

KAYAK –

Single seat kayak, double-bladed paddle (now K-1);

Double seated kayak, double-bladed paddle (now K-2);

Four-seated kayak, double-bladed paddle (now K-4).



Competition of canoe boats on a course.



Team Canada is a champion of four oarsmen competition (simple paddle).

CANOEING was a demonstration sport at the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris.

It was the first time that the sport was part of the Olympic program, and it would become a full medal sport 12 years later at the 1936 Games.

The French Olympic Committee, as hosts of these Games, asked **the Canadian Olympic Committee** to demonstrate the sport in Paris.

Races were arranged between **the Canadian Canoe Association** and **the Washington Canoe Club** from the United States.

The demonstration events were performed by single, two and four athletes with both single-bladed paddles (modern canoe style) or double-bladed paddles (modern kayak style).

SINGLE KNEELING CANOE, SINGLE-BLADED PADDLE (NOW C-1)

JULY 13, Sunday

Place	Country	Name
1	CANADA, Toronto	Roy C.Nurse
2	CANADA, Montréal	Harry C.Greenshields
3	CANADA, Montréal	A. A.Lindsay

SINGLE SEAT KAYAK, DOUBLE-BLADED PADDLE (NOW K-1)

JULY 14, Monday

Place	Country	Name
1	USA, Washington D.C.	C.W.Havens
2	CANADA, Toronto	Roy C.Nurse
3	USA, Washington D.C.	Harry T.Knight Jr.

DOUBLE KNEELING CANOE, SINGLE-BLADED PADDLE (NOW C-2)

JULY 14, Monday

Place	Country	Name
1	CANADA, Montréal	Harry C.Greenshields and A.A.Lindsay
2	CANADA, Toronto	Roy C.Nurse and G.M.Duncan
3	USA, Washington D.C.	K.M.Knight and Harry T.Knight Jr.

DOUBLE SEATED KAYAK, DOUBLE-BLADED PADDLE (NOW K-2)

JULY 15, Tuesday

Place	Country	Name
1	USA, Washington D.C.	C.W.Havens and Harry T.Knight Jr.
2	CANADA, Toronto	Roy C.Nurse and G.M.Duncan

FOUR-PERSON KNEELING CANOE, SINGLE-BLADED PADDLE (NOW C-4)

JULY 15, Tuesday

Place	Country	Name
1	CANADA	A. A.Lindsay, Harry C.Greenshields, G.M.Duncan, Roy C.Nurse
2	USA, Washington D.C.	J.F.Larcombe, K.M.Knight, C.W.Havens, Harry T.Knight Jr.

FOUR-SEATED KAYAK, DOUBLE-BLADED PADDLE (NOW K-4)

JULY 15, Tuesday

Place	Country	Name
1	USA, Washington D.C.	J.F.Larcombe, K.M.Knight, C.W.Havens, Harry T.Knight Jr.
2	CANADA	A.A.Lindsay, Harry C.Greenshields, G.M.Duncan, Roy C.Nurse

