

# THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

## PAST AND PRESENT



# 1948

Nearly 70 years ago, **Sir Ludwig Guttman**, a doctor at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, in Great Britain, organised the first sports competition for people recovering from spinal injuries.



© Christopher Payne

It was an **archery competition** involving

# 16

wheelchair competitors.



# 1959

The **Stoke Mandeville Games** took place every year at the same hospital in Great Britain until 1959.

Every year more sports were included, such as **wheelchair races** and **basketball**.



© Christopher Payne



# 1960

In 1960 the Games became **international**.

They were staged in Rome, Italy.

It was decided that these 13<sup>th</sup> International Stoke Mandeville Games were the first to be officially called **PARALYMPIC GAMES**.



© Christopher Payne

To date the **Paralympic Games** have been held in **summer** and **winter** every two years in different countries around the world.



In 2020s, The Paralympic Games take place in:

Tokyo in 2021



Paris in 2024



Los Angeles in 2028





# 1976

The **first Paralympic Winter Games** took place in 1976 in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden.



© Handikappidrott



In 2020s, The **Paralympic Winter Games** take place in:

Beijing in 2022



Milano Cortina in 2026





Take a look at the pairs of  
photographs on the next page.

What has **changed** over the years?



### LET THE GAMES BEGIN



ROME 1960, ITALY



RIO 2016, BRAZIL

### LET THE GAMES BEGIN



© Italian Institute for Disabled Workers

The athletes enter the stadium behind their **national flag**.

# 5,000

**spectators** watched the Opening Ceremony in Rome in 1960.

**ROME 1960, ITALY**



### LET THE GAMES BEGIN

It includes a **colourful parade of countries.**

In 2016 in Rio de Janeiro there were over

# 75,000

spectators.



**RIO 2016, BRAZIL**



### THE NAME SAYS IT ALL!

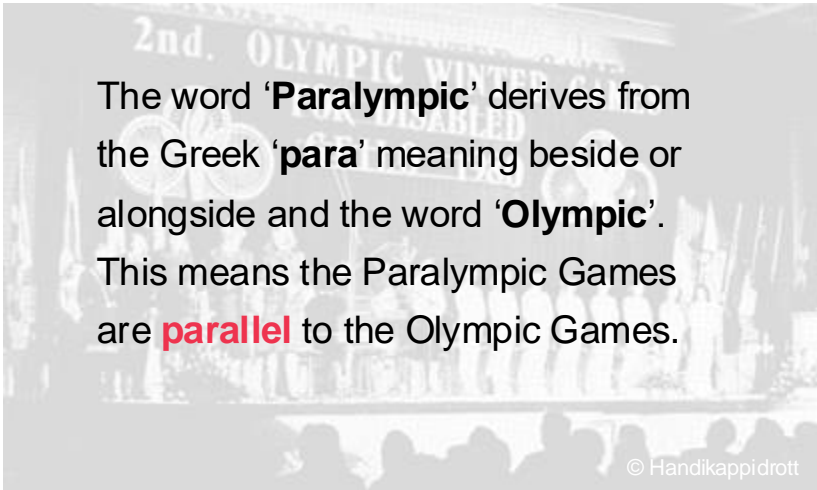


**GEILO 1980, NORWAY**



**NAGANO 1998, JAPAN**

### THE NAME SAYS IT ALL!



The word '**Paralympic**' derives from the Greek '**para**' meaning beside or alongside and the word '**Olympic**'. This means the Paralympic Games are **parallel** to the Olympic Games.

© Handikappidrott

The Paralympic Games always take place **just after** the Olympic Games.

They both use the **same cities** and **venues**.

### FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER



ROME 1960, ITALY



LONDON 2012, GREAT BRITAIN

### FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER

- The men's 50m freestyle S5 was first contested at Barcelona 1992, with gold won in **39.96 seconds**. At London 2012 the title was won in **32.05 seconds**.
- Athletes **practice** more to become the **best** they can be.
- The **materials** and **technology** behind sports equipment have developed a lot.



**LONDON 2012, GREAT BRITAIN**

### SOME COME, SOME STAY, SOME GO



**TEL AVIV 1968, ISRAEL**



### SOME COME, SOME STAY, SOME GO



### PREPARING FOR THE UPCOMING GAMES AND BEYOND

### PARALYMPIC SUMMER GAMES 1960-2016



**400**  
athletes



**4,328**  
athletes

**23**  
countries



**159**  
countries

**8**  
sports



**22**  
sports



ROME 1960, ITALY

RIO 2016, BRAZIL

### PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES 1972-2018



© Handikappidrott

53

athletes



567

athletes

16

countries



49

delegations

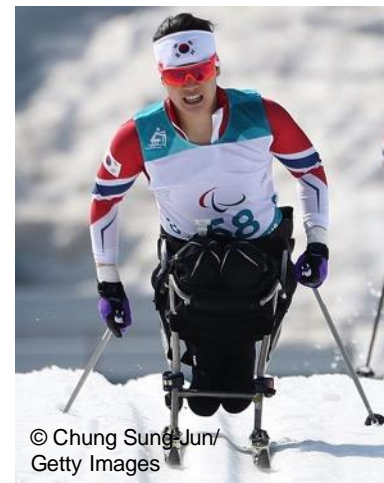
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sports



6

sports



© Chung Sung-Jun/  
Getty Images

ÖRNSKÖLDSVIK 1976, SWEDEN

PYEONGCHANG 2018, SOUTH KOREA

### IMPROVISE AND DEVISE



**TOKYO 1964, JAPAN**



**LONDON 2012, GREAT BRITAIN**

### IMPROVISE AND DEVISE



© NPC Japan

TOKYO 1964, JAPAN

# 1964

In the early days, athletes **improvised** and **devised** their own ways of doing things.

**Look at how wheelchairs were secured.**



### IMPROVISE AND DEVISE

# 2012

Nowadays athletes have **specifically designed** equipment, like the throwing chair in the picture.

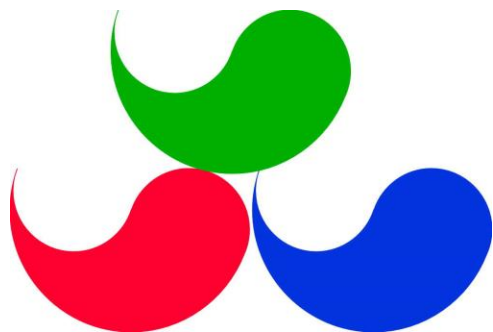
This makes the sport **safer** and **fairer**.



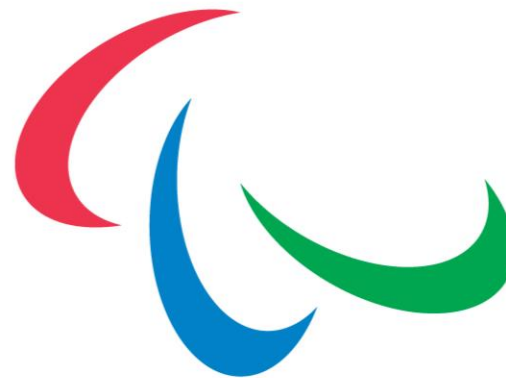
**LONDON 2012, GREAT BRITAIN**

### SYMBOLISING THE SPIRIT

© International Paralympic Committee

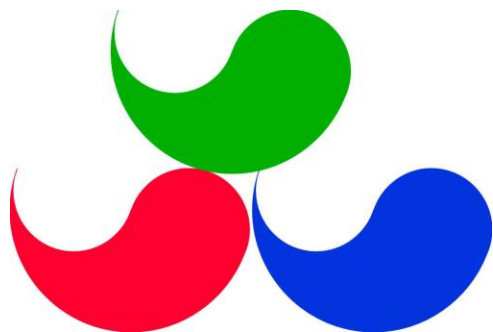


**MIND, BODY, SPIRIT (1994)**



**CHANGE STARTS WITH SPORT (2019)**

### SYMBOLISING THE SPIRIT



**MIND, BODY, SPIRIT (1994)**

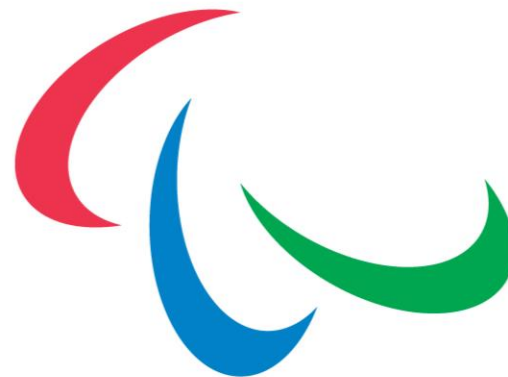
## Tae-Geuks

In 1994 the Paralympic symbol was made up of three **Tae-Geuks**, which are traditional Korean decorative designs.

### SYMBOLISING THE SPIRIT

# Agitos

The 2019 design is made up of three **Agitos** (meaning 'I move') encircling a centre point.

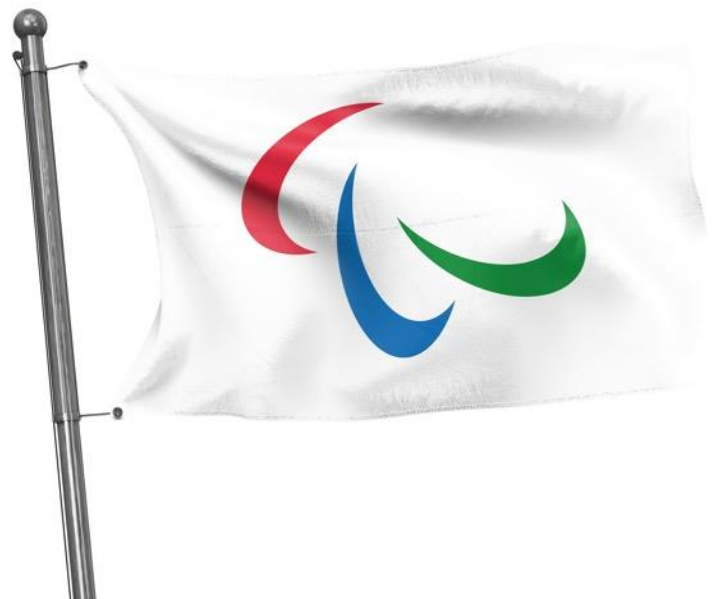


CHANGE STARTS WITH SPORT (2019)

### SYMBOLISING THE SPIRIT

The symbols have always been coloured **red**, **blue** and **green**.

The Paralympic symbol is displayed on the Paralympic flag which is raised at the Opening Ceremony of each Games and lowered at the Closing Ceremony.





### ON THE MOVE



ÖRNSKÖLDSVIK 1976, SWEDEN



SALT LAKE CITY 2002, USA

### ON THE MOVE



ÖRNSKÖLDSVIK 1976, SWEDEN

The Paralympic Games have become one of the **largest sporting events** in the world.

**What has changed over the years?**

### ON THE MOVE

- levels of **fitness**
- the **desire** to push one's body to the limit
- pushing the **boundaries** of what is thought possible
- personal **clothing** and **equipment**
- sports **equipment**
- assistive **devices**



© Lieven Coudenys

**SALT LAKE CITY 2002, USA**

What will our amazing Para athletes do next?

How **fast** will they travel, how **high** will they jump, how **far** will they throw, what new sports will they **play**?

**Let's find out by following their journey to the upcoming Games.**



© Tokyo 2020



© Beijing 2022



© Paris 2024



© Milano Cortina 2026



© Los Angeles 2028