

SHOOTING IN THE 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

SHOOTING IN THE 2024 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

The 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games will give the world's Shooting enthusiasts some of our sport's greatest moments this summer!

By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus



This photo captures one of the great moments in Olympic Shooting history. It shows Kimberly Rhode, USA, breaking her last target enroute to a new Skeet Women World Record and her third Olympic gold medal during the 2012 London Games. Rhode has been one of the most successful women athletes in Olympic Shooting history. She won medals in six successive Olympics, three gold, one silver and two bronze.

The Olympic Games are the world's foremost sports competition. Olympic Games are celebrated in four-year Olympiads (4-year cycles) with Summer and Winter Games taking place in alternating two-year intervals. The **Summer Olympic Games of the 33rd Olympiad** will be celebrated in Paris, France, starting with the Opening Ceremony on Friday, the 26th of July, and ending with the Closing Ceremony on Sunday, the 11th of August. Our sport of Shooting, with 15 gold medal events, is one of 32 sports on the Paris Games Program. 2024 Olympic Shooting will not take place in Paris, however, but 170 miles away in Chateauroux, France ([see page 10 for](#)

[an explanation](#)). For the best Shooting athletes from more than 100 nations, Olympic Games Shooting gives them the most important competition they will ever experience. For millions of Shooting fans, seeing Olympic Games Shooting, either as ticketed spectators at the Games, or at home through electronic media, can be an opportunity to experience Shooting history being made.

Shortly after the Olympic Games close, the **17th Paralympic Games** for athletes with disabilities will also take place in Paris, starting with an Opening Ceremony on the 28th of August and ending with a Closing Ceremony on the 8th of September. Our sport of Shooting, with 13 gold

medal events, is one of 22 sports on the 2024 Paralympic Program. Paralympic Shooting will take place from the 30th of August through the 5th of September, also at the Chateauroux Shooting Center.

This *On the Mark* article about **“Shooting in the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games”** will give USA Shooting fans answers to many of their questions about Olympic and Paralympic Shooting, with an objective of enhancing their 2024 Olympic experiences.

How did the Olympic Games get started?

The original Olympic Games, now remembered as the Ancient Olympic Games, took place in Greece. Those first Olympics began in 776 BCE at the Greek religious sanctuary of Olympia. Today, the Olympia site maintains a perpetual Olympic flame that is used to begin **Torch Relays** for every Olympics. The Ancient Games offered athletic contests between representatives of Greek city-states and were celebrated every four years over a period of nearly 1,200 years, with the last Games taking place in 393 AD. 1,500 years later, those Ancient Games inspired an idealistic French nobleman to dream about establishing a Modern Olympic Games. Baron Pierre de Coubertin’s vision was that conducting sports competitions stressing friendship and goodwill among nations could further the cause of world peace. By 1894, de Coubertin had established the International Olympic Committee that would govern the Games. This fledgling organization staged the first Modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 with 241 participants from 14 nations in 43 events, including five Shooting events. de Coubertin was an active sportsman and had won a French national pistol championship, a connection that may have influenced Shooting’s presence in those first Games.

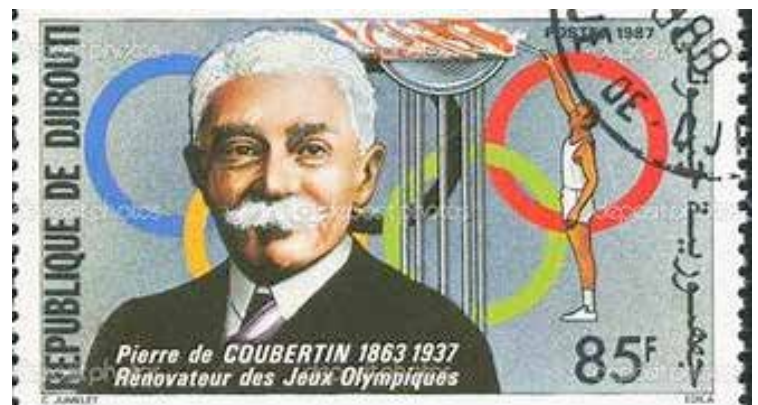
The tradition of holding Olympic Games every four years became well-established. Games cancellations occurred only in 1916 for WWI and in 1940 and 1944 for WWII. Major changes in the Olympics included the introduction of Winter Olympics in 1968, the addition of Youth Olympic Games in 2010 and the elimination of its original amateurs only standard and the acceptance of professional athletes. Recent changes now ensure equal participation by men and women. Paris will be the first Olympics in history to achieve numerical gender equality.



The link between the Ancient Olympic Games and the 2024 Paris Olympics is symbolized by this lighting of the Olympic flame at the Olympia shrine in Greece on 16 April 2024. Ten thousand torch bearers are carrying this flame to Paris where, during the Games’ Opening Ceremony, it will ignite the Olympic torch that will burn throughout the Games. Photo: Courtesy IOC

Why are the Olympic Games so important?

The Olympic Games are the world’s only truly global, multi-sport competition. There are more than 200 countries participating with 10,500 of the world’s best athletes, in 32 of the world’s most popular sports. The worldwide TV viewership for the Summer Games in 2012, and again in 2016, was 3.6 billion people. That’s nearly half of the world’s population, which makes this sports extravaganza one of the world’s most-watched human events. In most Olympic sports, including Shooting, winning an Olympic medal of any color is the most prestigious victory an athlete can win. And now, with gender equality firmly established, all people in the world, male or female, can aspire to compete for Olympic medals. **Winning an Olympic gold medal truly means you are the best in the world!**



Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who is credited with founding the Modern Olympic Games, is pictured in this 1987 postage stamp.

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These are the medals that will be presented to the first three athletes in every 2024 Olympic event. Each medal presented in Paris victory ceremonies will actually contain a piece of the Eiffel Tower.

How are the Olympic Games and Olympic Sports Governed?

One often confusing aspect of the Olympics is understanding how they are governed. To understand international sport governance, the chart (below) and the brief explanations that follow offer a starting point.

International Olympic Committee (IOC). The supreme governing body for the Olympics is the IOC. IOC headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland. The IOC

decides which city will host each Games, the sports and specific events approved to be on the Olympic Program, and the qualifying criteria for Games' participation. The chart shows that the IOC also recognizes three types of subordinate bodies, 1) International Sport Federations, 2) Continental Sports Confederations like the Pan American Sports Organization (PASO) and 3) National Olympic Committees.

International Sport Federations (IF). The IOC recognizes one IF for each Olympic sport. The **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)**, which has its headquarters in Munich, Germany, is the Shooting IF. IFs are responsible for deciding the technical aspects of their sport, including its technical rules. All Olympic Shooting events are governed by ISSF Rules.

National Olympic Committees (NOC). The IOC also recognizes an NOC in each country that participates in the Olympics. The **U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC)**, which is based in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the USA NOC. NOCs in turn recognize a National Governing Body (NGB) for each Olympic sport that it supports. **USA Shooting (USAS)**, which is also headquartered in Colorado Springs, is the USA NGB for both Olympic and Paralympic Shooting.

International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The IPC is the supreme governing body for the Paralympic Games. The IPC recognizes Paralympic NOCs and Paralympic IFs. The USOPC is the NOC for both Olympic and Paralympic

sports. The Paralympic IF is **World Shooting Para Sport (WSPS)**. The IPC and WSPS are both located in Bonn, Germany. The USOPC and WSPS serve functions for the Paralympic Games that are generally parallel to those of Olympic Games NOCs and IFs.

Olympic Games Organizing Committee (OGOC). Whenever the IOC appoints a new Olympic Games host city, the host city must establish an OGOC that is responsible for planning, appointing, and training the staff, and for organizing, and conducting the sports events in the Olympic Games. The Paris Olympic Organizing Committee holds those responsibilities for the Shooting competitions that will take place at Chateauroux.

International Sport Governance



How does Shooting Fit Into the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Programs?

2024 Olympic Games Shooting.* Since the first Modern Olympics in 1896, Shooting has been on the Program of every Olympic Games except two, 1904 and 1928. Olympic Shooting has varied from two events in 1932 to as many as 21 events in Antwerp 1920 and 17 events in Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004. Olympic Shooting events are chosen because of their worldwide popularity and whether they can be practiced in countries all over the world. The 300m rifle event, for example, was once the Games' most prestigious Shooting event, but it was deleted from the Program in 1976 because it became too expensive to practice, and suitable ranges were too expensive to build. Air gun events, which were first included in the Games Program in 1984, are now the world's most popular Shooting events because they can be practiced everywhere. Here are some notes on the 2024 Paris Olympic Shooting Program:

- There are 5 rifle, 5 pistol and 5 shotgun events.
- Three shooting events are for Mixed Teams, consisting of one man and one woman (*10m Air Rifle, 10m Air Pistol and Skeet*).
- Rifle events include 10m Air Rifle for men and women, 50m 3 Position for men and women and 10m Mixed Teams.
- Pistol events include 10m Air Pistol for men and women, 25m Pistol for women, 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol for men and 10m Mixed Teams.
- Shotgun events include Skeet for men and women, Trap for men and women and Skeet Mixed Teams.
- All Olympic Shooting events have a qualification and a final. All athletes entered in an event compete in the qualification; the top eight (or six) advance to the final.
- Qualification stages are now the same for men and women (*60 shots in rifle and pistol, 125 targets in skeet and trap*).
- Athlete scores in qualifications determine the athletes who advance to finals. Finals are separate events where the finalists start from zero.
- Shooting finals for 25m pistol use hit/miss scoring; Skeet and Trap finals use traditional hit/lost scoring; rifle and 10m pistol finals use tenth ring scoring.
- 2024 Olympic Shooting begins on 27 July, the first day of Olympic competition, and continues for ten days, through the 5th of August. View the full schedule at

*Anyone who wishes detailed information on the history of Olympic Shooting can download the author's **A History of the Olympic Shooting Program** from the CMP website at: <https://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/History-of-Olympic-Shooting-Text.pdf>.



Athletes in Paralympic pistol events are allowed to use adaptive devices like stools or wheelchairs in accordance with their medical classifications. The athletes shown in this photo are YanXiao Gong (l.) and Marco De La Rosa (r.). Both are now qualified to represent the USA in the Paris Paralympics. Photo by Brittany Nelson, USA Shooting.

<https://www.nbcolympics.com/news/shooting-2024-paris-olympic-games>.

- The first Shooting event on 27 July, 10m Air Rifle Mixed Teams, starts at 9:00 AM (Central European Time), with the final at 10:30 AM and victory ceremony at 11:40 AM. By tradition, first established in 1984, Shooting awards the first gold medal of the Games, to be presented by the IOC President.

- Except for the 10m Mixed Air Rifle and Air Pistol Team events on the first day, Olympic Shooting events now have their qualification competition on one day and their final on the following day.



Phryges are the official mascots of Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Their design is derived from the Phrygian caps that are a symbol of France.

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SH2 Para-athletes are allowed to support their rifles on shooting stands and have the assistance of loaders while firing.
Photo: Courtesy USA Shooting.

2024 Paralympic Games Shooting. Paralympic Shooting has two athlete categories. SH1 athletes are able to support their rifle or pistol without a shooting stand. SH2 athletes have upper body limitations that require them to use a shooting stand to support their rifles while loading and firing. Trained medical experts classify athletes according to the amount of support their adaptive devices such as wheelchairs can provide to ensure relatively equal competition conditions. Here are some notes on the 2024 Paris Paralympic Shooting Program:

- There are 9 rifle and 4 pistol events.
- There are 9 SH1 and 4 SH2 events.
- Three events are for men, three for women; seven are “Mixed” events where men and women are together.



This site map of France’s Chateauroux Shooting Center shows the many different shooting disciplines that can be accommodated there.

• All events have a qualification for all athletes entered in that event and a final for the top eight athletes in the qualification.

• WSPS technical rules use ISSF rules where possible; the WSPS has its own special rules concerning adaptive firing positions and equipment.

• 2024 Paralympic Shooting begins on the 30th of August, and continues for seven days, through the 5th of September. View the full schedule here: <https://olympics.com/en/paris-2024/paralympic-games/schedule>.

Why is 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Shooting in Chateauroux and not in Paris?

By tradition, Olympic sports take place in or around the host city. However, for these Games, Shooting will take place in this small city of 50,000 people in the center of France, while the sport of Surfing will take place in Tahiti, 9,800 miles away. The reason for conducting surfing in Tahiti is obvious. The reason Shooting is being conducted in Chateauroux is not so obvious, but it has to do with economics. The IOC has criticized Shooting’s status as an Olympic sport because of its “*high venue cost.*” Most Olympic sports require only one venue. Shooting requires as many as five venues: 1) 50m rifle, 2) 25m pistol, 3) 10m air gun, 4) shotgun (skeet and trap) and 5) a rifle-pistol finals range, each of which can cost several million dollars to construct. Temporary ranges that were removed after the Games were used to address this problem in London 2012 and Tokyo 2020. The Paris Organizing Committee considered constructing a temporary or permanent Shooting facility in Paris, but with an established national shooting center at Chateauroux, they decided to save money by conducting Shooting there, even though that would mean separating Shooting from the rest of the Games.

The Chateauroux Shooting Center was established by the French Shooting Federation in 2018; a finals range was added in 2022. This center has the facilities needed to conduct all Olympic Shooting events and has already hosted ISSF and WSPS championships. Travel time from Chateauroux to Paris is approximately three hours by auto, or two and one-quarter hours by train. The Organizing Committee is making arrangements for Shooting athletes and officials to travel back and forth for the Opening Ceremony and to see other Olympic events. Chateauroux shooting facilities are more than adequate to host Olympic Shooting events, but the Olympic Look (signage and graphics), security fencing, and television

and press facilities must be added. There must also be secure housing for the Shooting athletes, team officials and competition officials in that area.

What is the Olympic Qualifying System?

The Olympic Qualifying System now used by all sports, including Shooting, ensures that only the best athletes compete in the Olympics. The system starts with the allocation of **Olympic Participation Quotas** to each of the Olympic sports. The IOC established a limit of 10,500 athletes for all Summer Olympic sports. Shooting has 340 of those athlete slots or quotas that are equally divided between male and female athletes and allocated among the 15 Shooting events. The IPC and WSPS have similar regulations for allocating the 160 Paralympic Shooting quotas. No country can earn more than two quotas in one event. Individual athletes earned quotas for their countries in designated ISSF or WSPS Championships (World Championships, World Cups, Continental Championships) during the two years prior to the Paris Games. One further requirement to ensure that only truly qualified athletes compete in the Olympic Games is that all Shooting athletes entered by the NOCs must have participated in pre-Games qualifying and achieved a minimum qualifying result.

The quotas earned for each country belong to the NOC which, in cooperation with their NFs, decide how to select the athletes they will enter in the Games. As of the first of May, USA athletes had earned a total of 19 Olympic Games quotas and six Paralympic Games quotas.



Vince Hancock will compete in his fifth consecutive Games. He already has three Olympic gold medals and will strive for four. This would equal the modern record of four golds won by Korean pistol athlete Jin Jongoh. Hancock could become the sixth athlete ever to win the same individual Olympic event four times and only the fourth American to do so after Al Oerter, Carl Lewis, and Michael Phelps (and the first in Shooting).
Photo by Brittany Nelson, USA Shooting

Nations with the Most Olympic Participation Quotas in Shooting:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|----------|----|
| • China | 22 | • India | 21 |
| • Germany | 11 | • USA | 19 |
| • Italy | 11 | • France | 15 |
| • Korea, Republic | 15 | | |

The USOPC authorized USA Shooting to conduct a series of Olympic and Paralympic trial competitions where the highest-ranking competitors are selected to occupy those quotas slots.

Who are the USA Athletes who will compete in Paris?

The trials processes to select the athletes who are qualified for the 2024 USA Olympic and Paralympic Shooting Teams are essentially over, but the USOPC will make the official announcement of team members in June. There are still some aspects of the qualifying process that are not finished so some additional athletes could be named to either the Olympic or Paralympic teams. The chart lists the USA Athletes who are now qualified for these teams.



Army Sergeant Sagen Maddalena will compete in both the Air Rifle and 50m 3-Position Rifle events in Paris. Maddalena began shooting in a 4-H Shooting Sports program, competed at the National Matches as a member of the California Grizzlies Service Rifle team, and then as a member of the U. of Alaska Rifle Team before joining the Army. Photo by Joshua Shave

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How can you have a great Olympic Shooting Experience?

For today's Shooting fans, a massive amount of information, data and resources about Olympic Shooting

is available through the Internet and in Olympic related apps. During the Games, all Olympic Shooting finals will be telecast live through the work of the IOC's Olympic Broadcast Services (OBS). OBS telecasts will be available

USA ATHLETES QUALIFIED TO COMPETE IN PARIS

| Name | Event(s) | Hometown | Affiliation | Notes |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| RIFLE | | | | |
| Ivan Roe | 10m AR M 50m Rifle 3x20 M | Manhattan MT | SGT, USAMU | |
| Mary Tucker | 10m AR M 50m Rifle 3x20 M | Sarasota, FL | West Virginia U. '23 | Tokyo 2020, Silver Medalist |
| Sagen Maddalena | 10m AR M 50m Rifle 3x20 M | Groveland, CA | SGT, USAMU | Olympian 2020 |
| PISTOL | | | | |
| Alexis Lagan | 10m AP W | Boulder City, NV | | Olympian 2020 |
| Katelyn Abeln | 10m AP W 25m P W | Douglasville, GA | Ohio State U. | |
| Ada Korkhin | 25m P W | Brookline, MA | Ohio State U. | |
| Keith Sanderson | 25m RFP M | Monument, CO | | Olympian 2008, 2012, 2016 |
| Henry Leverett | 25m RFP M | Bainbridge, GA | Ohio State U. | Olympian 2020 |
| SHOTGUN | | | | |
| Rachel Tozier | Trap W | Pattonsburg, MO | SSG, USAMU | |
| Ryann Phillips | Trap W | Gail, TX | Texas A&M U, Corpus Christi, TX | |
| Derrick Mein | Trap M | Paola, KS | | Olympian 2020; World Champion 2022 |
| Will Hinton | Trap M | Dacula, GA | SSG, USAMU | |
| Vincent Hancock | Skeet M | Eatonton, GA | 3-time Olympic gold medalist, see illustration | |
| Conner Prince | Skeet M | Burleson, TX | Tarleton State U. | |
| Austen Smith | Skeet W | Keller, TX | U. of Texas, Arlington | Olympian 2020 |
| Dania Vizzi | Skeet W | Odessa, FL | U. of Florida '17 | World Champion 2017 |
| PARALYMPIC GAMES | | | | |
| Jazmin Almlie-Ryan | R5 Mixed AR Prone SH2 | Cypress, TX | | Paralympian 2016 |
| YanXiao Gong | P3 Mixed 25m Pistol SH1 | Malibu, CA | | Paralympian 2020 |
| Kevin Nguyen | R6 Mixed 50m Rifle Prone SH1 | Westminster, CA | SSG, USAMU | Paralympian 2020 |
| John Wayne Joss | R6 Mixed 50m Rifle Prone SH1 | Corsicana, TX | SFC, Army World Class Athlete Program | Paralympian 2016, 2020 |
| Marco De La Rosa | P1 Men's 10m AP SH1 | Chicago, IL | | Paralympian 2016 |

to national TV networks like NBC for the USA.

Current scores will be posted on the Paris Olympic and IOC websites. There are many alternative opportunities for viewing Olympic Shooting so it is essential that you plan how you will follow Olympic Shooting when the Games start this July.

- Shooting finals showcase the best athletes in each event. They are staged on dedicated finals ranges where placement of the finalists, their coaches, the judges, and the OBS television production cameras are all designed to enhance the presentation. Shooting finals are especially exciting to watch because the differences between the top athletes are so small.

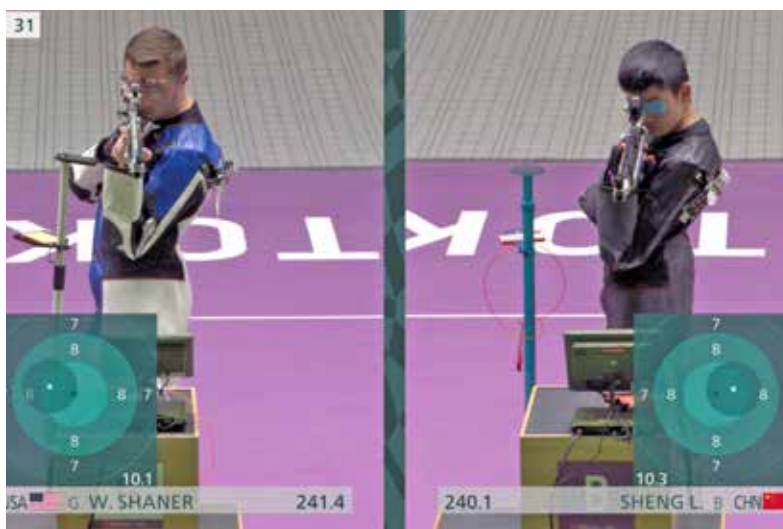
- The Paris Olympics will be shown on NBC and its affiliated channels. The network says it will televise at least nine hours of daytime Olympic coverage on NBC during the Games, including live broadcasts of key finals. That likely will not include Shooting finals. NBC will also broadcast every sport and every one of the 329 medal events on its streaming service Peacock. The complete broadcasting schedule, including times and TV channels for specific events, has yet to be announced.

- There are so many possibilities for watching individual sport finals that it is best to do your own research regarding what is available to you. Remember also that if you hope to watch Shooting events live, there is a six-hour difference between the Eastern USA time zone and Central European time. The first 10:30 AM 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team final on the 27th of July, will be at 4:30 AM (or earlier if you live further west) here in the USA.

- The IOC and the Paris Organizing Committee both offer apps that will provide live results during each Shooting event's qualification and final stages. Your use of these apps will benefit Shooting for another reason. Every click on these Shooting apps during the Games will be used by the IOC to evaluate Shooting's popularity in comparison with the other Olympic sports.

- Be sure to watch the Paris Opening Ceremony. Olympic and Paralympic Games opening ceremonies always make memorable television viewing. For the first time, the Paris Opening Ceremony on the 26th of July 2024 will not take place in a stadium, but on the River Seine, with 350,000 people watching. Paris will have an Olympic Games Opening Ceremony like no other Games opening.

An important chapter in the history of the Sport of Shooting will be written during the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. Thanks to the capabilities of modern television and electronic media, Shooting fans all over the world will be able to experience the performances of the world's best Shooting athletes as they occur.



Watching Olympic Shooting finals on television can be exciting! This split screen view from the 2021 Tokyo 10m Air Rifle Men final shows the last two finalists, Will Shaner, USA, and Lihao Sheng, China, firing their last shots. Shaner won the gold medal with a 251.6 total; Sheng won the silver medal with a 250.9 total. The difference between gold and silver was only seven-tenths of one point!

About the Author

Gary Anderson, Director of Civilian Marksmanship Emeritus, retired as the full-time CMP Director at the end of 2009. He continues to work with the CMP as the senior marksmanship instructor. During his remarkable career, he won two Olympic gold medals, seven World Championships and 16 National Championships. He served as a Vice President of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) from 1990 through 2018. He is a former Nebraska State Senator and Past President of USA Shooting. He served as a Technical Delegate for Shooting during the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games as well as for the 2014 and 2018 World Shooting Championships.

In 2012, the International Olympic Committee awarded Gary Anderson with the Olympic Order, its highest honor "for outstanding services to the Olympic Movement."

In 2014, the CMP expanded its world-class air gun center at Camp Perry and renamed the facility the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center, in honor of Anderson's contributions to the organization and the marksmanship community.

