



GoodSport



S R I L A N K A O L Y M P I C W E E K L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N

Olympic Day Celebrations 2023



UNITING THE NATION IN THE SPIRIT OF OLYMPISM

After the Covid-19 affected - a barren period of three years where the June 23 'Olympic Day' spectacle was confined to the limits of the NOC SL premises and multimedia, the celebrations are finally back on the streets.

Olympic Day, established in 1948, is a global celebration of sport and getting active that takes place on 23 June each year to commemorate the day -

the IOC was founded in 1894 -the birth of the modern Olympic Games. For this year's Olympic Day, the IOC has launched the "Let's Move" initiative, which aims to encourage and enable the world to move more every day. Led by Olympians and created in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), "Let's Move" invites everyone to make time for movement every day, for better health.

With regular physical activity helping to prevent noncommunicable diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes and several cancers, the importance of living an active, healthy lifestyle is undeniable. But despite this, people around the world are moving less. A 2022 report revealed that 81 per cent of adolescents and 27.5 per cent of adults are not meeting these goals.

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Not having enough time in the day is one of the most common reasons given for not being able to reach this goal. At the same time, starting with just 30 minutes of movement a day has significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds.

So this year, the entire Olympic Movement got behind the “Let’s Move” initiative, with over 150 National Olympic Committees across five continents hosting Olympic Day celebrations in their territories – with around five million people participating in the festivities.

For Sri Lanka’s edition, the Colombo Municipality came in as an official partner in a bid to be more inclusive and penetrative. On this occasion, the programme was christened - “Imagination and Understanding of Olympism”.

Prior to the celebrations proper, there were a plethora of other activities organized to add value to the concept. There were programmes such as the Exhibition by the French Embassy: Paris 2024, which introduced four champions through the work of four photo artists.

These images shake up stereotypes, giving the public a modern insight into socially-engaged athletes.

This photo exhibition was displayed by the Embassy of France at the Viharamadevi Park.

NOC Sri Lanka annually conducts an Art Competition during the Olympic Day Celebrations. An Olympic Day-related theme was utilized to draw paintings by school children aged 12 – 18 years old.

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Following the initial online submission, the best-selected 50 finalists were invited to the NOC Sri Lanka headquarters for the final contest.

The Olympic Day celebrations on the 23rd in Sri Lanka commenced with a dynamic day run that wound its way around the picturesque Viharamahadevi Park, from the main gate of the Park to the Open Air-Theatre.

Participants from various walks of life, including a multitude of personalities which includes celebrities,-

present and past athletes, children from 5 schools, namely - Ratnawali Balika Vidyalaya, Susamayawardena Vidyalaya, Seevali Madya Maha Vidyalaya, Polwatta St. Mary's Girls' School and, All Saints' College, winners of the Olympic Day Art Competition and others who are directly and indirectly involved with the celebrations which count to around one thousand people, converged to commemorate this momentous occasion.

Another first in this year's celebrations was the involvement of athletes who are involved in the NOC SL-Crysbro "Next Champ" athletes who were responsible to unveil the talents of a multitude of athletes.

They are also a strategic partner in the NOC SL Programme.

Leading the crowd were a fleet of roller skaters, followed by majestic horse riders, and the school band of C/ Ratnawali Balika Vidyalaya.

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The Olympic torch, a symbol of the Olympic spirit, was prominently carried during the front walk by multiple prominent athletes and invitees. Adding to the event's grandeur, the esteemed French Ambassador, Jean-François Pactet, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Following the walk, the celebrations proceeded to the Open Air-Theatre, where the event came to an open, highlighting the country's rich cultural heritage through a captivating dance performance.

Later the celebrations featured captivating performances by talented DanceSport athletes, showcasing their skills in various dance styles.

From striking Hip Hop dances to energetic Latin rhythms, the dancers enthralled the audience with their precision, agility, and artistic flair.

Then, the event served as a platform to recognize the winners of the Olympic Day art competition.

The top 10 winners were honored for their outstanding creations that vividly captured the Olympic values of friendship, respect, and excellence.

1st Place – M. D. Sarani Samadhi Jayamanna
 2nd Place – Nulara Nelindee Ekanayake
 3rd Place – B. D. Methuki Nethma
 4th Place – Sarah Suresh
 5th Place – D. Senuli Dinara Wilathgamuwa

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- 6th Place – Panindu Rathnaga
- 7th Place – Thatsilu Sewhas
- 8th Place – P. L. P. Binuthi Lochana Kodagoda
- 9th Place – H. A. Ashika Senura Chamathka
- 10th Place – A R. Ishari Janithya

The recognition and gifts presented to these talented individuals served as an encouragement to pursue their artistic endeavors further. The best 50 paintings were displayed during the day as well.

As the event drew to a close, participants and spectators had the opportunity to explore demonstration stalls hosted by the E-Sports and Archery Federations of Sri Lanka.

These interactive exhibits provided a hands-on experience, allowing attendees to try their hand at Archery and immerse themselves in the world of E-Sports. This unique addition to the celebrations not only piqued interest but also encouraged

individuals to explore new avenues of physical activity and competition.

Sri Lanka's Olympic Day celebrations were a testament to the NOC SL's dedication to promoting the Olympic values and fostering a culture of sportsmanship – where the event's setting, dynamic activities and cultural showcases united participants in the spirit of "Let's Move."



IOC SESSION WITHDRAWS RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL BOXING ASSOCIATION

Upon the recommendation of the Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the IOC Session, which met remotely on 22 June 2023, has decided to withdraw recognition of the International Boxing Association (IBA), in accordance with Rule 3.7 of the Olympic Charter (OC)



This decision is based on the IOC Comprehensive Report on the Situation of the IBA dated 2 June 2023, discussed and approved by the IOC EB on 7 June 2023.

The report establishes that the IBA has failed to fulfil the conditions set by the IOC in its decision communicated to the IBA on 9 December 2021 – which was not challenged by the IBA – for lifting the suspension of the IBA's recognition.

As an additional consequence of the above decision, the IOC Session has decided that the IBA will not organise the Olympic Games LA28 boxing tournament.

In the preparation of this report, the IBA was granted the right to be heard in writing and to provide any -

information it deemed relevant; consequently, the IBA's reply was shared with the IOC Members, along with the recommendation by the IOC Executive Board.

In the interest of the boxing athletes and the sport of boxing, the IOC Session also followed the IOC EB's recommendation to maintain boxing on the sports programme of the Olympic Games Paris 2024, in accordance with the IOC EB's decisions communicated on 24 June 2022, 8 September 2022 and 6 December 2022. The IBA had already appealed to CAS concerning the recommendation of the IOC EB. The IOC successfully opposed this request.

As there is now a new opportunity to appeal, the IOC is not in a position to comment further on the situation.

Background information

In a decision taken on 26 June 2019, upon the IOC EB's recommendation, the IOC Session suspended the IOC's recognition of AIBA (subsequently the IBA as of 2021), pursuant to OC Rules 3.7, 18.2.8, 18.2.11 and 25 §2.

Such decision noted that, although there were sufficient grounds to withdraw AIBA's recognition, for the protection of boxing athletes and the maintenance of boxing as a sport at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the IOC Session was willing to provide AIBA with an exceptional opportunity to restore its full compliance with OC Rule 25 and the IOC Code of Ethics.

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