

BACKGROUND GUIDE  
LILLEHAMMER OLYMPIC ORGANIZING  
COMMITTEE, 1994

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Composed by Zoe Wang



WMIDMUN-XXII

# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Hello and welcome to &MUN XII! My name is Zoe Wang and I am so excited to serve as your Director for the Lillehammer 1994 Olympic Organizing Committee. A little bit about me: I am a sophomore here at William & Mary majoring in Public Policy and am from Northern Virginia. I first started doing MUN in high school, where I competed for three years, and am still competing now, having gone to nine college conferences so far and currently serving on the IRC's C-Team as Assistant Head Delegate. Outside of MUN, I am a part of W&M's Student Assembly, where I serve as the '26 President, and W&M's Taiwanese American Student Association as Treasurer. In my free time, you can find me reading, napping, or catching up on the latest episode of Only Murders in the Building or Abbott Elementary.

Lillehammer 1994 is a Specialized Agency committee, which combines both GA and crisis elements. Specifically, you will be expected to be continuously working towards GA-style draft resolutions that address various topics, but will also be writing and passing rounds of public directives that respond to crisis updates throughout the weekend. As such, being diplomatic and integrating your own unique solutions into resolutions and directives while forwarding your positions' agenda is key.

I am truly looking forward to meeting all of you in March. If you have any questions leading up to the conference, please feel free to reach out to me. I am committed to making this conference experience the best that it can be!

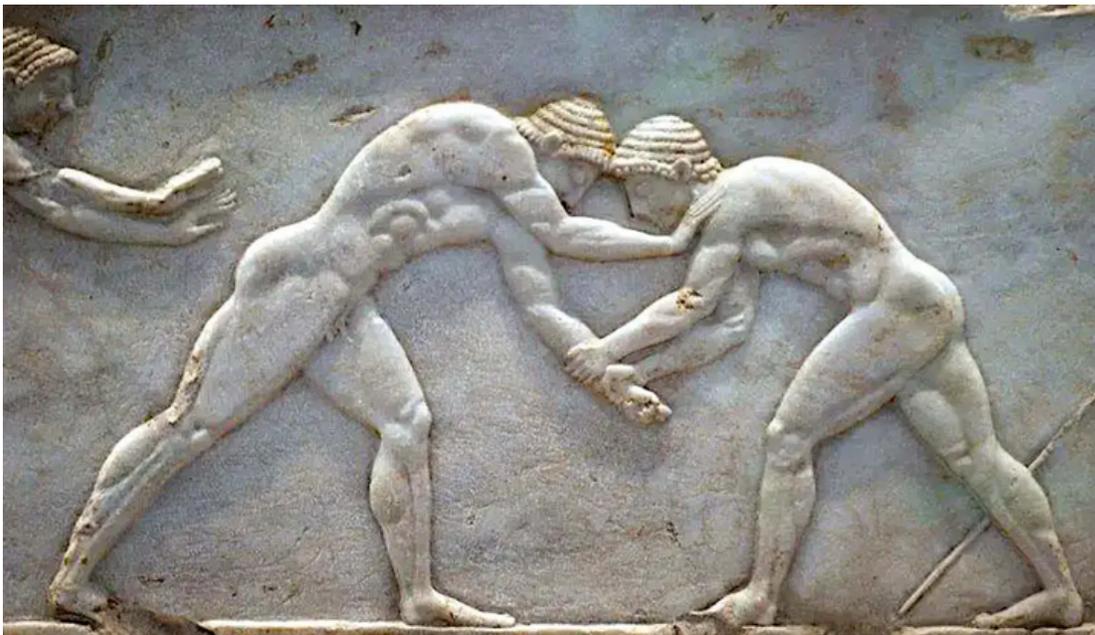
Warmly,

Zoe Wang (she/her)

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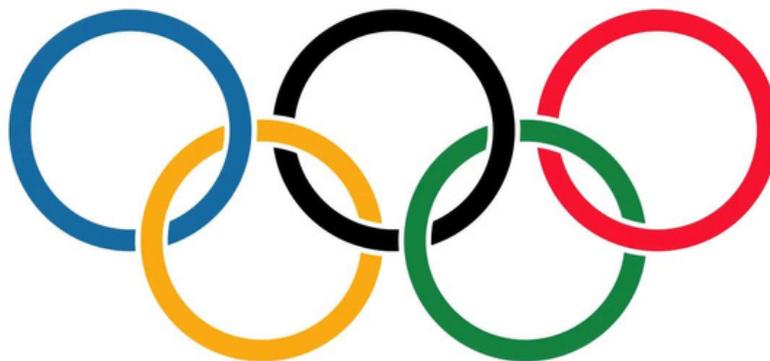
# HISTORY OF THE GAMES

The Olympic Games is a festival of sports with origins in ancient Greece and was brought back to life in the late 19th century. Around 3,000 years ago, in Ancient Greece's Peloponnese region, the Games began. These sports contests, known as the Olympic Games, happened every four years in Olympia and were in honor of the Greek god Zeus. While the exact year that they started is not fully known, many written sources mention the year 776 BC. In the first Olympic Games, there was only one event – a footrace called the *stadion*, which is the equivalent of the modern-day 200 meter race. Over time, more events such as longer 400 meter and 1,500-2,000 meter footraces, wrestling, chariot racing, and the pentathlon (an all-around competition consisting of five events: the long jump, the javelin throw, the discus throw, a footrace and wrestling) were added. The four-year gap between editions was called an “Olympiad,” and the Ancient Games were held for 293 consecutive Olympiads until 393 CE. The Games were so significant that people used them as the basis for their calendar, measuring time in Olympiads instead of years.



Several attempts were made to revive an international sporting event at the end of the 19th century, but they failed due to a lack of coordination among global sports organizations. The turning point came when Baron Pierre de Coubertin organized the first Olympic Congress in Paris, bringing key stakeholders together. This historic event, held at the Grand Amphitheatre at Sorbonne University from June 16 to 23, 1894, led to the revival of the Olympic Games and the creation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOC ensures the consistent hosting of the Olympic Games, ensuring they embody the spirit that led to their revival, and actively promotes the growth of sports worldwide.

# TIMELINE OF THE MODERN GAMES



- 1896: the first modern-era Games took place in Athens
- 1990: Women participated for the first time, and female participation in the Olympic Games has increased dramatically since. Charlotte Cooper, a skilled British tennis player with five Wimbledon victories, was the inaugural female Olympic champion. Among the 997 athletes, only 22 were women, engaging in five sports: tennis, sailing, croquet, equestrian events, and golf. Notably, golf and tennis were the only sports with exclusive events for women.
- 1904: The first to award gold, silver, and bronze medals. They also featured George Eyser, the first documented disabled athlete in the Olympics, who secured six gymnastics medals, including three golds.
- 1912: The first participation of athletes from all five continents represented by the Olympic rings and the debut of women in the swimming events.
- 1916: Canceled due to World War I
- 1920: Pierre de Coubertin unveiled the Olympic flag and the Olympic Oath: "We pledge to participate in the Olympic Games with a sense of chivalry, for the honor of our country, and for the glory of sport."
- 1924: The first Winter Games was held in Chamonix, France. The Paris Olympics were the first to create an Olympic Village, setting a tradition followed in every Games thereafter.
- 1936: Both Winter and Summer Olympic Games occurred in Germany. The opening ceremony was broadcasted live for the first time and the Olympic flame was first introduced. However, these Games were exploited as propaganda for Nazi Germany.
- 1940 and 1944: Canceled due to World War II. As such the 1948 Winter Olympic Games in St. Moritz was named "The Games of Renewal."
- 1960: The ninth Stoke Mandeville Games (recognized as the first Paralympic Games) took place in Rome, in the same city as the Olympic Games, just one week later
- 1968: The Grenoble Olympic Games were broadcasted live and in color on television for the first time.

# List of Sites



- 1896: Athens
- 1900: Paris
- 1904: St. Louis
- 1908: London
- 1912: Stockholm
- 1916: *Games not held*
- 1920: Antwerp
- 1924: Paris (Summer Games), Chamonix (Winter Games)
- 1928: Amsterdam (S.G.), St. Moritz (W.G.)
- 1932: Los Angeles (S.G.), Lake Placid (W.G.)
- 1936: Berlin (S.G.), Garmisch-Partenkirchen (W.G.)
- 1940: *Games not held*
- 1944: *Games not held*
- 1948: London (S.G.), St. Moritz (W.G.)
- 1952: Helsinki (S.G.), Oslo (W.G.)
- 1956: Melbourne (S.G.), Cortina d'Ampezzo (W.G.)
- 1960: Rome (S.G.), Squaw Valley (W.G.)
- 1964: Tokyo (S.G.), Innsbruck (W.G.)
- 1968: Mexico City (S.G.), Grenoble (W.G.)
- 1972: Munich (S.G.), Sapporo (W.G.)
- 1976: Montreal (S.G.), Innsbruck (W.G.)
- 1980: Moscow (S.G.), Lake Placid (W.G.)
- 1984: Los Angeles (S.G.), Sarajevo (W.G.)
- 1988: Seoul (S.G.), Calgary (W.G.)
- 1992: Barcelona (S.G.), Albertville (W.G.)
- 1994: ~, Lillehammer (W.G.)

# ORGANIZATION



It is January 1st, 1993, and the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee (LOOC) is convening to make crucial decisions in order to ensure the success and impact of the 1994 Winter Olympic Games, which will be held in 1994 from February 12th to February 27th. The Games will feature 61 events across 12 disciplines (alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsleigh, cross-country skiing, figure skating, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, luge, nordic combined, ski jumping, short track speed skating, and speed skating). Occurring only two years after the previous games in Albertville due to calendar changes, Lillehammer will be the first to be held in a different year than the Summer Olympics. As such, the LOOC has the unique opportunity to reframe the Winter Olympics as a distinct event that's not just the opening act to the Summer Olympics and to heighten the social and economic benefits that Lillehammer and Norway would receive from hosting an Olympic Games. Time in this committee will move fast. The Harding-Harrigan scandal that happens just seven weeks before the games will raise its visibility - all eyes will be on Lillehammer. Delegates will create resolutions and write public directives that make pivotal decisions surrounding addressing the topics presented below.

# BACKGROUND 1.0



## *Topic 1: Design and Production*

It is an understatement to say that there are a lot of moving parts to producing an Olympic Games. The LOOC must take into account and coordinate countless aspects that all must be taken into consideration including broadcasting the games to a wider audience, housing the athletes, constructing the arenas, maintaining safety, designing the logo and pictograms, and more.

The small size of Lillehammer is one challenge that the LOOC faces. Lillehammer has a small population of 23,000 people and an area of 185 square miles. As such, the LOOC must consider building venues in different towns, which it has previously proposed in its Olympic bid. However, the LOOC must make the final decisions on where each discipline will be competing and begin construction. Options include Gjøvik and Hamar, which are situated 28 miles and 34 miles south of Lillehammer; Hunderfossen, which is 9.3 miles north of Lillehammer; and Øyer and Ringebu, both of which have just under 5,000 residents are located 11 miles and 31 miles north of Lillehammer in the Gudbrandsdalen valley.



Discussed in previous meetings, the LOOC also has a special focus in mind that can help the 1994 Lillehammer Games leave a lasting legacy - sustainability. The LOOC is trying to avoid “white elephants,” which are large and costly sports facilities or infrastructure built for the Games that become underutilized or economically burdensome after the event concludes. These are typically venues or structures that were constructed with the intention of serving the Games, but due to various reasons, such as lack of ongoing demand or practical use, become challenging to maintain and may not contribute as expected to the local community. As such, not only is the LOOC tasked with finding sustainable post-Olympic uses for each facility that they build, but it must incorporate sustainability into every aspect of the Games. Ideas floated around during previous meetings include creating infrastructure to support transport to and from Lillehammer all by bus or train, having suppliers meet stringent environmental requirements, reducing energy consumption by building venues in specific locations, and using locally sourced, biodegradable and recycled materials for various elements of the Games.

# BACKGROUND 2.0



## *Topic 2: The Bosnian War*

Sarajevo - the host of the 1984 Winter Olympics - has been under siege since April 1992, so addressing the ongoing Bosnian War is at the forefront of the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee's mind. The Bosnian War, occurring in the 1990s, was a result of the breakup of Yugoslavia. Bosnia and Herzegovina, a part of Yugoslavia, experienced tensions among its main ethnic groups: Bosniaks (mostly Muslim), Serbs (mainly Orthodox Christian), and Croats (mostly Catholic). Disagreements over the country's governance between the ethnic groups led to conflict. The war, which began in 1992 and lasted around three years, witnessed intense fighting, atrocities, and the displacement of thousands of families. This led to a humanitarian crisis as people were forced to flee their homes due to the violence and war crimes that were perpetrated.



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has already made efforts to address the Bosnian War. In 1992, the IOC initiated a call for the adherence to the Olympic Truce and collaborated with the United Nations to enable the involvement of athletes from the former Republic of Yugoslavia in the 1992 Barcelona Summer Games. The practice of the "Olympic Truce" or "Ekecheiria" originated in Ancient Greece around the ninth century BC. It began with a treaty signed by three kings - Iphitos of Elis, Cleosthenes of Pisa, and Lycurgus of Sparta. The aim was to ensure the secure involvement of athletes and spectators from these Greek city-states in the ancient Olympic Games, even though these states were frequently in conflict with each other.

To display solidarity with the people of Sarajevo and do what it can to stop the conflict, the Lillehammer Olympic Organizing Committee (LOOC) has a couple paths forward and must decide what to do. Some ideas that LOOC members have debated in previous meetings include trying to convince the UN to adopt a resolution endorsing the Olympic Truce, fundraising for humanitarian aid in Sarajevo, inviting Olympic athletes and observers to add their names to a peace appeal, organizing acts of solidarity during the Games, and more. Delegates must pick and choose what actions to pursue.

# BACKGROUND 3.0



## Topic 3: Rules and Regulations

The LOOC will make a couple pivotal decisions around rules and regulations leading up to the 1994 Winter Olympics. The first is whether or not to allow prominent figure skater Tonya Harding to compete. On January 6th, 1994, Harding's rival, Nancy Kerrigan, was struck right before the 1994 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in an attack orchestrated by Harding's ex-husband and her bodyguard, aiming to injure Kerrigan and improve Harding's chances at the Olympics. Harding so far has denied involvement but her case is still underway. The United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA) will be the body that has authority to make the final call, but the LOOC can make a recommendation to the USFSA.

Throughout the weekend, crisis updates will be released surrounding rules and regulations, and delegates will be expected to respond to them through public directives.



# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

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How will the LOOC address the ongoing war in Bosnia and display solidarity?

How can the design of the venues make the 1994 Winter Olympics stand out and more sustainable? What are other ways to make the event more sustainable?

Who will broadcast the games and what are ways to increase viewership of the games?

Given the smaller size of Lillehammer, where will the competitions for each sport be held? Will they be all within Lillehammer or expand to neighboring towns?



# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

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What other aspects of the games (housing, media, safety, etc.) must be addressed?

Should Tonya Harding be allowed to compete in the 1994 Winter Games?

## Dossier

To learn more about each position, look through the Human Resources and Organization chapter of the "[Olympic Winter Games Official Report Lillehammer 1994](#)" or email [zfwang@wm.edu](mailto:zfwang@wm.edu).

\*Denotes a fictitious person based upon reality.

1. Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC President
2. Gerhard Heiberg, LOOC President
3. Audun Tron, Mayor of Lillehammer
4. Nita Kapoor, Lillehammer Olympic Aid Spokeswoman
5. Henrik Andenæs, LOOC Vice President
6. Petter Rønningen, Managing Director of Events
7. Sigmund Thue, Director of Marketing
8. Ingrid Flugrud, Director Events
9. Sebastain Strand, Director of Events Support
10. Greta Søndersrød, Director of Human Resources
11. Bjørn Sund, Director of Construction
12. Torill Broch Seeberg, Director of Public Affairs
13. Aage Enghaug, Director of Information
14. Bjørn Brenna, Director of Finances/Administration
15. Arne Myhrvold, Director of Post-Olympic Use
16. Sarah E. Rosenbaum, Director of Graphic Design
17. Marit Wiig, Norwegian Sports Community Representative
18. Kåre Karlsen, Norway Ministry of Culture Representative
19. Nora Olsen, Director of Opening and Closing Ceremonies\*
20. Batilde Dahl, Rules Committee Chair\*
21. Greta Anderson, Environmental Consultant\*
22. H.R.H. Crown Prince Harald, Honorary President
23. Batilde Borger, Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) Representative\*
24. Charlie Martin, European Broadcasting Union (EBU) Representative\*
25. Arne Alnæs, Legal Chief

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