

Polish athletes at the XXXII Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games¹



Increase in the number of medals won by Polish athletes at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games compared to the previous in Rio de Janeiro in 2016

During the XXXII Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, Polish athletes won 14 medals, including 4 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze. Poland ranked 17th in the medal table.

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From July 23 to August 8, 2021, the Polish national team took part in the Summer Olympics for the 22nd time. It was a unique sports event. Due to the pandemic, it was postponed from 2020 and held under strict sanitary conditions without the participation of the public. The Olympic Games in Tokyo were attended by representatives of 205 countries and athletes associated with the Olympic Refugee Team.

210 Polish representatives took part in the competition, including 110 men and 100 women, who competed in 28 sports. The most numerous were athletic events (63 athletes) as well as rowing (20) and swimming (17). The most experienced participants of the games in the Polish representation were Paweł Korzeniowski (swimming) and Mikołaj Burda (rowing), for whom it was the fifth participation in the Olympics.

The oldest representative of Poland at the Olympics was Sławomir Napłoszek (53), who competes in archery. Tokyo was his second Olympic performance, previously he represented Poland at the Olympics in Barcelona in 1992. The youngest Polish representative who performed in Tokyo was the swimmer Laura Bernat (16).

Maja Włoszczowska and Paweł Korzeniowski were the flag-bearers of the Polish Olympic Team Tokyo 2020. Maja Włoszczowska is the most titled Polish mountain biker, World Champion and multiple European Champion and runner-up, who has won two Olympic silver medals (Beijing 2008 and Rio de Janeiro 2016). Tokyo was her fourth appearance at the Olympics. Swimmer Paweł Korzeniowski is a champion and two-time World runner-up, multiple European Champion and Olympian (Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio de Janeiro 2016, Tokyo 2020). During the closing ceremony, the Polish flag was brought to the Olympic Stadium by the silver and bronze medallist of the Tokyo Olympics, kayaker Karolina Naja. This competitor has already four Olympic rings to her credit. She won the first one at the Olympics in London in 2012, the second at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 (both bronze in K-2 500 meters).

Poland ranked 17th in the medal table, out of 86 countries that won medals. This result was much better than that achieved during the previous Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, where Poland took 33rd place (11 medals, including 2 gold).

The Polish representative competed in 133 out of 339 events held during the Tokyo competition. Olympic rings were won by 26 representatives, including 18 women. The female athletes who took part in the mixed 4x400 meters relay and the 4x400 meters women's relay were on the podium twice, winning gold and silver, while canoeists competing in the K-2 500 meters and K-4 500 meters competitions - silver and bronze.

Gold medals were won by athletes: Anita Włodarczyk (hammer throw), Dawid Tomala (50 km race walk), Wojciech Nowicki (hammer throw) and a mixed 4x400 meters relay (Natalia Kaczmarek, Iga Baumgart-Witan, Małgorzata Hołub-Kowalik, Justyna Święty-Ersetic, Dariusz Kowaluk, Karol Zalewski, Kajetan Duszyński).

During the Olympic Games in Tokyo, in the medal table, Poland was ranked 16 positions higher than 5 years ago at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro

¹ Information prepared on the basis of data from the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport and materials placed on the website of the Polish Olympic Committee (<https://olimpijski.pl/en/>).

Table 1. Medal classification of the XXXII Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	 United States of America	39	41	33	113
2.	 China	38	32	18	88
3.	 Japan	27	14	17	58
4.	 United Kingdom	22	21	22	65
5.	 Russian Olympic Committee	20	28	23	71
6.	 Australia	17	7	22	46
7.	 Netherlands	10	12	14	36
8.	 France	10	12	11	33
9.	 Germany	10	11	16	37
10.	 Italy	10	10	20	40
...					
17.	 Poland	4	5	5	14

Silver Olympic rings were obtained by: Maria Andrejczyk (athletics - javelin throw), 4x400 meters relay (Anna Kiełbasińska, Justyna Święty-Ersetic, Natalia Kaczmarek, Małgorzata Hołub-Kowalik, Iga Baumgart-Witan), K-2 500 metres canoeing team (Karolina Naja, Anna Puławska), double four rowing (Maria Sajdak, Agnieszka Kobus-Zawojcka, Marta Wieliczko, Katarzyna Zillmann) and sailors in 470 competition (Agnieszka Skrzypulec, Jolanta Ogar).

The Olympic bronze was won by: Malwina Kopron (athletics - hammer throw), Tadeusz Michalik (wrestling – Greco-Roman style - 97 kg), Patryk Dobek (athletics - 800 m), Paweł Fajdek (athletics - hammer throw) and K-4 500 meters canoeing team (Justyna Iskrzycka, Karolina Naja, Helena Wiśniewska, Anna Puławska).

The Tokyo Olympics for 10 medalists - Justyna Iskrzycka, Anna Puławska, Helena Wiśniewska, Natalia Kaczmarek, Marta Wieliczko, Katarzyna Zillmann, Kajetan Duszyński, Dariusz Kowaluk, Dawid Tomala and Tadeusz Michalik - were their Olympic debut.

One of the debutants, Dawid Tomala, became the Olympic champion in 50 km race walk – a competition that will no longer be played at the Olympic Games.

Among the debutants, Aleksandra Mirosław is also noteworthy, as she took fourth place in sports climbing, which was held for the first time at the Olympics (speed, bouldering and lead). The Polish woman set a new world record in speed, scoring 6.84 seconds. Unfortunately, the results obtained in bouldering and lead did not allow her to win a medal.

The Polish team performed for the first time at the 8th Olympic Games in Paris in 1924. Since then, Poles have won a total of 72 gold, 89 silver and 136 bronze medals of the Summer Olympics

Table 2. Participation of Polish competitors at the XXXII Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Types of sports	Number of events		Participation of Polish competitors	Medals				Further places				
	total	of which with participation of Polish competitors		total	gold	silver	bronze	4	5	6	7	8
Total	339	133	210	14	4	5	5	4	7	7	9	6
Badminton ^a	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baseball ^a	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Boxing	13	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Skateboarding	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gymnastic ^b	18	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golf	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hockey ^a	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equestrian	6	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judo	15	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Canoeing ^c	16	10	13	2	-	1	1	2	1	-	1	-
Karate ^a	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cycling ^d	22	16	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Basketball ^e	4	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Athletics	48	30	63	9	4	2	3	-	1	1	1	1
Archery	5	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Modern pentathlon	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Football ^a	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Handball ^a	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Volleyball ^f	4	2	16	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Water polo ^a	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swimming	37	11	17	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1
Synchronized swimming ^a	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight lifting	14	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Rugby ^a	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diving ^a	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Softball ^a	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surfing ^a	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sport shooting	15	9	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fencing	12	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Taekwondo	8	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Tennis	5	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	1 ^g	-	-	-
Table tennis	5	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Triathlon ^a	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rowing	14	6	20	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	1
Sport climbing	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Wrestling	18	6	6	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Sailing	10	6	9	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

a Competitions played without the participation of Poles. b Artistic and sports gymnastics and springboard.

c Whitewater and classic canoeing. d Mountain biking, road biking, track biking, BMX. e Basketball and 3x3 basketball. f Volleyball and beach volleyball. g 5-8 places ex aequo.

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