



Sport History

Badminton

Origins and the sport today:

The roots of badminton date back more than 2000 years to China. Initially known as battledore and shuttlecock, it developed in British India and became known as badminton in the 19th century, after the name of the home of the Duke of Beaufort where the sport was popularised – its first set of written rules still form the basis of the game today.

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) was established in 1934 (initially known as the International Badminton Federation) and is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with five regional confederations and 183 member associations. While hugely popular in Asia, there is also extensive participation in Europe, North America and Australia.

Major matches in Indonesia and Malaysia regularly attract crowds of 15,000 and more than 1.1 billion people watched the sport's Olympic Games debut on TV in 1992.

Badminton at the Commonwealth Games:

Badminton is one of 10 core sports at the Commonwealth Games, meaning it has to be included in the program. The other nine are: aquatics (diving and swimming), athletics, boxing, hockey, lawn bowls, netball, rugby sevens, squash and weightlifting. It was a demonstration sport at the Munich 1972 Olympic Games, pre-dating its official appearance as an Olympic sport on the program of the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games.

England, Malaysia, India, Canada, Australia and Singapore traditionally dominate the sport at Commonwealth Games, although Canada's Michelle Li won gold at Glasgow 2014.

Badminton is one of six competitions to feature mixed-team events on the program (mixed doubles and mixed team). The others are lawn bowls, shooting, squash, table tennis and triathlon.

Badminton in Australia:

The sport was first played in Australia in 1900 and became popular through church groups. The Australian Badminton Association was formed in 1935.

Australia's first representatives at the Olympic Games were Anna LAO and Rhonda CATOR at Barcelona 1992. LAO reached the quarterfinals in the women's singles, with the pair going out at the same stage in the doubles.

The sport's prestigious Sudirman Cup was held on the Gold Coast for the first time, in May 2017.

Leanne CHOO is one of Australia's highest regarded players and is the reigning Oceania champion in women's and mixed doubles. She also appeared at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games. In London she made her Olympic debut as a 21-year-old, in the women's doubles with Renuga VETERAN.

After initially failing to escape the group stage, they progressed to the quarterfinals when four other pairs were disqualified for, "not using one's best efforts to win a match". However, CHOO and VETERAN lost to the Canadian pairing in the last eight – this remains the best result in Australia's Olympic badminton history.