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## Sport History

### Diving

#### Origins and the sport today:

The first historical record of diving dates from at least 480 BC and the *Tomba del Tuffatore* (Tomb of the Diver) in Paestum, Italy. The tomb includes a painting depicting a man diving gracefully into water from a high platform and is believed to signify the passage of life to death.

Diving made its Olympic debut at the St Louis 1904 Olympic Games with platform diving and plunging the only events. The United States and Germany were the two countries competing, with USA athletes George SHELDON and William DICKEY triumphant in the platform and the plunge for distance respectively.

Today, more than 40 countries participate at international level. Diving, along with swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo, is one of the four disciplines governed by the Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA).

#### Diving at the Commonwealth Games:

Diving, alongside swimming, is one of two disciplines under the sport of aquatics, which is one of the 10 core sports at the Commonwealth Games, meaning it has to be included in the program. The other nine core sports are athletics, badminton, boxing, hockey, lawn bowls, netball, rugby sevens, squash and weightlifting.

Australia is second to Canada in the overall Commonwealth Games medal table for diving, with 34 gold, 39 silver and 34 bronze. Canada has won 114 medals (37 gold, 39 silver and 38 bronze).

At the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, Jack LAUGHER (ENG) won two gold medals (1m springboard and synchronised 3m springboard) and one silver (3m springboard), while in the women's competition, Meaghan BENFEITO (CAN) won two gold medals (10m platform and synchronised 10m platform).

One of the most famous names in modern diving, Tom DALEY (ENG), has competed at two Commonwealth Games. He won two gold medals (10m platform and synchronised 10m platform) at Delhi 2010 and a gold (10m platform) and silver (synchronised 10m platform) at Glasgow 2014. He has a long way to go to match Canada's Alexandre DESPATIE, who has nine Commonwealth Games gold medals and two bronze, from 1998 to 2010.

The program at Gold Coast 2018 consists of 1m and 3m springboard, 10m platform and synchronised diving events for both men and women.

#### Diving in Australia:

The governing body for the sport in Australia, Diving Australia, conducts three annual Australian championships: Australian Open Championships, Australian Elite Junior Championships and Australian Age Championships.

The first Australian to compete in diving at the Olympics was Reginald "Snowy" BAKER at London 1908, who finished 22<sup>nd</sup> in the springboard – although he did win silver in boxing. Australia's first Olympic gold in diving came at Paris 1924, as Richmond "Dick" EVE won the plain high diving event.

It was at Sydney 2000 that Australia returned to the dais in Olympic diving, with Robert NEWBERY and Dean PULLAR taking bronze in the men's synchronised springboard, while Rebecca GILMORE and Loudy TOURKY earned bronze in the first Olympic women's synchronised platform event.