



Redesign the Olympics!

The United Nations has asked you to re-design the Olympics to reduce nationalism and more faithfully reflect the Olympic ideals of peace, friendship and international understanding. Look at the options below, then choose the best 3 ideas, writing the numbers 1 to 3 in the spaces. Then, explain your choices and the reasons why you like them.

Continent Against Continent

Make all team competitions 'continent-against-continent' instead of "country vs country" to de-emphasize national rivalry. That way, Koreans, Japanese and Chinese, for example, would all belong to one 'Asia team' and would have to live, train and cooperate together in order to win.

Multi-National Dream Teams

Make all team sports more international by having players from different countries on the same team. Require each team to have members from every continent with no more than 1 member from any one country. Allow these "dream teams" to get together and practice for 6 months, then hold the Olympic events to see which team is best.

Eliminate Nationalism

Eliminate national anthems and national flags during the award ceremonies. Focus on the winning athletes as representatives of humanity, rather than of particular nations.

Replace Violent Sports with Peace Sports

Eliminate all violent Olympic events such as boxing, wrestling, judo, fencing and shooting. Replace these with peaceful sports and games which emphasize friendship, teamwork, trust and cooperation.

Global Education for Olympic Athletes

Introduce a global education curriculum for all athletes who wish to take part in the Olympic Games. This should include courses on Olympic ideals, global issues and on the countries and cultures of their fellow competitors. Give a test which all athletes have to pass in order to take part in the games.

Invent New Global Issue Sports

Add new events to the Olympics to raise awareness about some of the world problems that face our planet. Examples could include events such as Olympic land mine clearing, team litter pick-ups, competitive rescue operations, group tree-planting races, oil spill clean-up races...

Hold Events in Multiple Countries

Use multiple sites in different countries to make each Olympics a "shared" event like the Japan-Korea World Cup. Include poorer nations that normally can't afford to host the Olympics. This would enable spectators to see a wider range of cultures and countries. For example, you could hold track and field events in Kenya, volleyball in Venezuela, swimming in Finland and cycling in India.

Demonstrate Sports from Local Cultures

Add demonstration sports from local, indigenous and traditional cultures so people can learn about the variety of sports in the world. Introduce Australian aborigine sports such as the boomerang, for example, or have athletes try a sumo event in Japan.

New Opening Ceremony

Change the Opening Ceremony so that athletes enter the stadium with others in the same event, not with people from the same country. That way, all the swimmers would enter together, all the gymnasts together and all the soccer players together.

Socially Responsible Athletes

Select Olympic athletes not just for athletic skill, but also for their actions as global citizens. Make the Olympics like modern universities which emphasize not only grades but also community service and volunteer spirit. Have TV stations focus on socially responsible athletes (a swimmer who works for human rights, the soccer team which raised \$1 million to protect the rainforests) instead of the usual stories of who defeated who or which nation got the most medals.

Your Own Idea