

Olympic scoring - Is every event measurable

1. What are your favorite sports to watch in the Olympics?

Some of the Olympic competitions are given technical, style, audience rapport and other artistic ratings. In other sports, the gold medalists are the athletes who finish their event the fastest or who achieve the longest jump or the heaviest weight lift ... measurable quantities.

We've been looking at the upcoming schedule of events in this year's Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan and getting very excited about watching them on TV or online.

2. Take a moment to check out the schedule of events that we've supplied and try to discern which sports are judged strictly objectively and which sports require a panel of judges to determine the subjective and objective value of the athletic performance.

Objective judging	Subjective judging	Both objective and subjective judging

3. What percent of each kind of judging is represented in the games this year?

Objective scoring	
Subjective scoring	
Both	

The number of sports that have been represented in the Olympics has grown through the years. Different sports have been added and removed.

The original Olympic games were begun in Ancient Greece. The games involved the city-states of Greece. Those games are thought to have begun in 776 BC and were outlawed in 393 AD. Women were not allowed to participate.

The first modern Olympics were begun in Athens in 1896. There were only 9 sports represented in 43 events. The sports were:

- Artistic gymnastics - horizontal bar, parallel bars, vault, pommel horse, rings, and rope climbing
- Athletics - marathon, discus, shot put, 100-meter, 400-meter, 800-meter, 1,500-meter
- Cycling (Road and Track)
- Fencing
- Shooting
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Weightlifting - one-arm weightlifting, two-arm weightlifting
- And Greco-Roman Wrestling

Women were not allowed to participate in that first, modern Olympic competition.

4. Which of those first Olympic sports could have been objectively scored? (By winning or losing; by finishing in the shortest time; or by succeeding in performing at the most difficult level?)

Objective judging	Subjective judging	Both objective and subjective judging

5. What percent of the 9 listed sports was probably judged objectively and what percent judged subjectively?

Objective scoring	
Subjective scoring	
Both	

6. Since the beginning of the modern Olympic games, would you say Olympic event scoring has become more subjective or objective over time? Justify your reasoning with math.

7. Check out the schedule of events that we've provided for you and choose what you would most like to watch. List those events here.

8. What percent subjective and objective are the sports that you are most interested in?

9. As you compare what you are interested in watching and what proportion of the events are subjective or objectively scored, what can you conclude?

10. How do you think the Olympic rules protect against bias in panel scoring?

Sources: <http://www.topendsports.com/events/summer/hosts/rio/index.htm>
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