

Baku 2015 European Games

Frequently Asked Questions

When was Baku awarded the inaugural European Games?

Baku was awarded the honour of being host of the first ever European Games at the 41st European Olympic Committees (EOC) General Assembly in Rome, on 8 December 2012. The European Games will take place from 12-28 June 2015 and every four years thereafter, with the next competition due to be held in 2019.

How many sports are on the Baku 2015 programme?

There will be a total of 20 sports on the Baku 2015 programme, 16 of which are Olympic (Aquatics, Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Canoe sprint, Cycling, Fencing, Gymnastics, Judo, Shooting, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Triathlon, Volleyball and Wrestling) and 4 non-Olympic (Basketball 3x3; Beach Soccer, Karate and Sambo).

What is sambo?

Sambo is a Russian martial art and combat sport. The word "SAMBO" is an acronym for SAMozashchita Bez Oruzhiya, which literally translates as "self-defense without weapons". Sambo is relatively modern since its development began in the early 1920s by Soviet Army to improve hand-to-hand combat abilities. Intended to be a merger of the effective techniques of other martial arts, Sambo has roots in Japanese judo, international styles of wrestling, plus different traditional folk styles of wrestling.

Which sports will offer qualification opportunities for the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games?

Twelve sports will offer qualification opportunities for Rio 2016 – Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Cycling, Judo, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Triathlon, Wrestling and Volleyball.

How many competition venues will be used during the European Games?

There will be 18 competition venues including newly-built venues for Gymnastics, BMX, Aquatics and Shooting and a purpose-built 68,000-seat stadium for Athletics and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

Do you think you have the time required to finish construction of the venues?

Absolutely. We are fully confident that all venues will be delivered in time for the European Games and to a world class standard.

How many athletes do you expect to compete at the first European Games?

We expect more than 6,000 athletes to compete and more than 3,000 team officials to attend Baku 2015 during the 17 days of the Games.

Of the 20 sports represented at the first European Games, a total of 12 sports will offer qualification opportunities for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. We have worked closely with a number of international sporting federations to guarantee those opportunities, and subsequently we are confident that Europe's best athletes will be keen to compete at Baku 2015.

What are the benefits from hosting the Games?

We have made the Baku 2015 European Games blueprint as affordable as possible by using a lot of existing venue infrastructure and we only have a limited amount of new construction to deliver.

Much of the new supporting transport infrastructure – such as the new airport terminal and upgrades to the bus and rail systems – were already underway when Baku was selected as host city, and will leave a marvellous legacy for our communities and increase our economic and business capacity after the Games.

What will be the future of the Games?

At Baku 2015 we are fully focused on delivering a spectacular event which will unite Europe in a celebration of sport. We are working closely with the EOC to develop the European Games brand to ensure that the first ever event is a fantastic success and delivers a sustainable blueprint for future editions.

The host city for the 2019 edition of the European Games will be announced at an Extraordinary General Assembly of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) in May 2015. A total of six cities have already expressed an interest in hosting the 2019 European Games.