

RUGBY

RUGBY RETURNS AFTER 92-YEAR ABSENCE



Rugby was an Olympic sport from 1900-1924 before taking an extended break until now. Back then, it was rugby union, with 15 players per team, but this time around it is rugby sevens, with seven per side, making the cut for the Olympics. In rugby, teams try to score as many goals as possible by carrying, passing, kicking and grounding the ball. There are men's and women's tournaments, with 12 squads in each beginning the competition in pool play and eight advancing to the quarterfinals with a shot at a medal. Both U.S. teams are expected to be competitive.

8/6-7 Q; 8/8 M; 8/9-10 Q; 8/11 M

SAILING

SAILING: RIDING WIND AND WATER



Ten gold medals are awarded among various categories in two size classes (one- and two-person crews), with six for men and four for women. On the men's side, look for Australia to defend its 2012 gold medal from Austria, Croatia and the USA in the 470 (two person), while the Aussies and Germans are considered to be factors in the Laser (one person). Poland is a likely candidate for gold in the RS:X (one person), while New Zealand, Denmark and Spain are in a wide-open field in the 49er FX (two person). In the women's competition, look for New Zealand to vie for gold in the 470, while France should bag hardware in the RS:X.

8/8-13 Q; 8/14-18 M; 8/19 Q

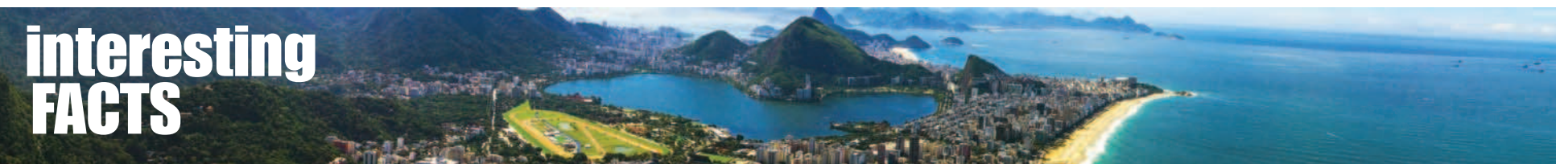
SHOOTING



SHOOTING ATHLETES AIM HIGH

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the Olympic shooting competition is the combination of modern and classic firearms. The shotgun sports, which remain trap and skeet, showcase the craftsmanship and balance that double-barreled shotguns have always been known for. The .22-caliber small-bore pistols, meanwhile, are all about performance and handling. The air rifles and air pistols showcase the development of modern firearms that rely on air rather than gunpowder. The shooting sports are anyone's game. Although China excelled in 2012, U.S. skeet shooter Morgan Craft of Pennsylvania is among the favorites to shoot straight in Rio.

8/6-14 M



interesting FACTS

- Hollywood starlet Esther Williams, an accomplished swimmer, hoped to compete in synchronized swimming at the 1940 Olympics, but they were canceled due to World War II.
- Sailing events at the first Summer Olympics in Athens in 1896 were canceled due to bad weather. Sailing made its Olympic debut four years later at the Paris games.
- Child development expert Dr. Benjamin Spock won a gold medal in rowing at the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris.
- After the 1924 Paris Summer Games, members of the Hungarian and Italian fencing teams settled a scoring dispute with an actual duel.
- Field hockey was first played on artificial turf at Montreal's Olympic Stadium in the 1976 Olympics.
- Actress Geena Davis tried out for the USA archery team for the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney.
- The first known archery competition was held in London in 1583.