

English Tutorial Classes Week 4

Olympism and the Olympic Movement



Junior Researcher: Anja Petrović

Faculty of Sport and Physical Education, University of Niš, Serbia

What is Olympism?

Olympism (olimpizam) is a philosophy of life which places sport at the service of humanity (u službi čovečanstva).



This philosophy is based on the interaction of the qualities of the body, will and mind. Olympism is expressed through actions which link sport to culture and education.

What is Olympism?

This philosophy is an essential element of the Olympic Movement and the celebration of the Games. It is also what makes them unique.

The pursuit of this ideal and the other fundamental principles of Olympism gives resulted in a series of values, which are applicable both on the field of play and in everyday life.



The International Olympic Committee is a non-governmental sports organization based in Lausanne, Switzerland.



Međunarodni olimpijski komitet je nevladina sportska organizacija sa sedištem u Lozani, Švajcarska.

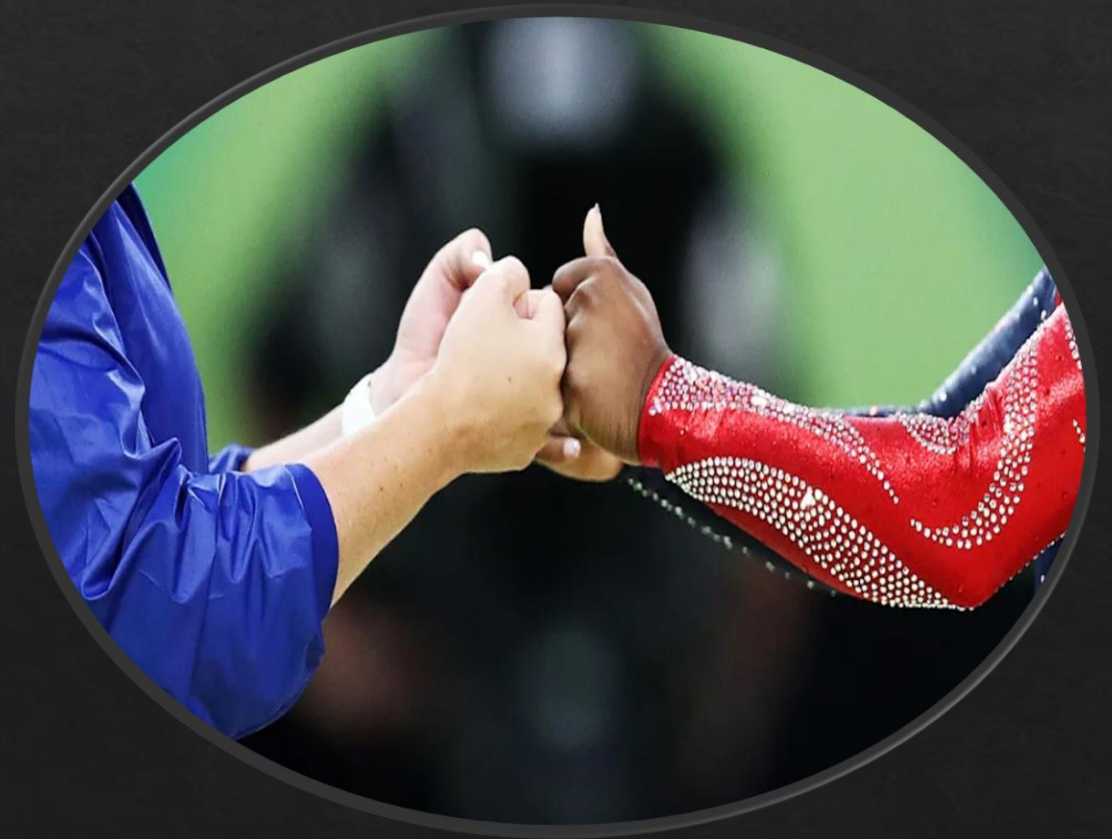
The International Olympic Committee

Founded in 1894 by Pierre de Coubertin and Demetrios Vikelas, it is the authority responsible for organizing the modern Olympic Games.



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has identified the following three Olympic values:

- Excellence (Izvrsnost)
- Friendship (Prijateljstvo)
- Respect (Poštovanje)



Excellence

In the Olympic ideal, this value refers to **giving one's best (dati svoj maksimum)**, on the field of play or in life, without measuring oneself with others, but above all aiming at reaching one's personal objectives with determination.

It is not only about winning, but mainly about **participating (učestvovanje)**, making progress based on personal goals, striving to be and to do our best in our daily lives and benefiting from the combination of **a strong body, will and mind (snažno telo, volja i um)**.



Friendship

Men and women are at the center of the Olympic Movement's focus encouraging the connection and mutual understanding between people. This value broadly refers to building a better world through **solidarity (solidarnost)**, **team spirit (timski duh)**, and optimism in sport.

The Olympic Games inspire humanity to overcome political, economic, gender, racial or religious differences and make friendships in spite of those differences. The athletes express this value by forming life-long bonds with their **team-mates (saigrači)**, as well as their **opponents (protivnici)**.



Respect

In the Olympic ideal, this value represents the **ethical principle (etički princip)** that should inspire all who participate in the Olympic programs.

It includes **respect** for oneself and one's body, respect for one another, for rules and for the environment. It thus refers to the **fair play (poštena igra)** that each athlete has to display in sport, as well as avoiding doping.

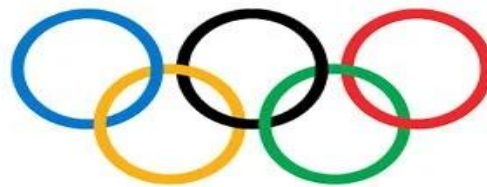


The values and meaning of Olympism are expressed by the Olympic symbol – **the five rings (pet krugova)** and other identifying Olympic elements:

the flame (plamen)
the torch relay (olimpijska štafeta)
the motto (moto)
the maxim (maksima / izreka),
the anthem (himna)
and **the oaths (zakletve).**



They give the Olympic Movement and the Games their own identity.



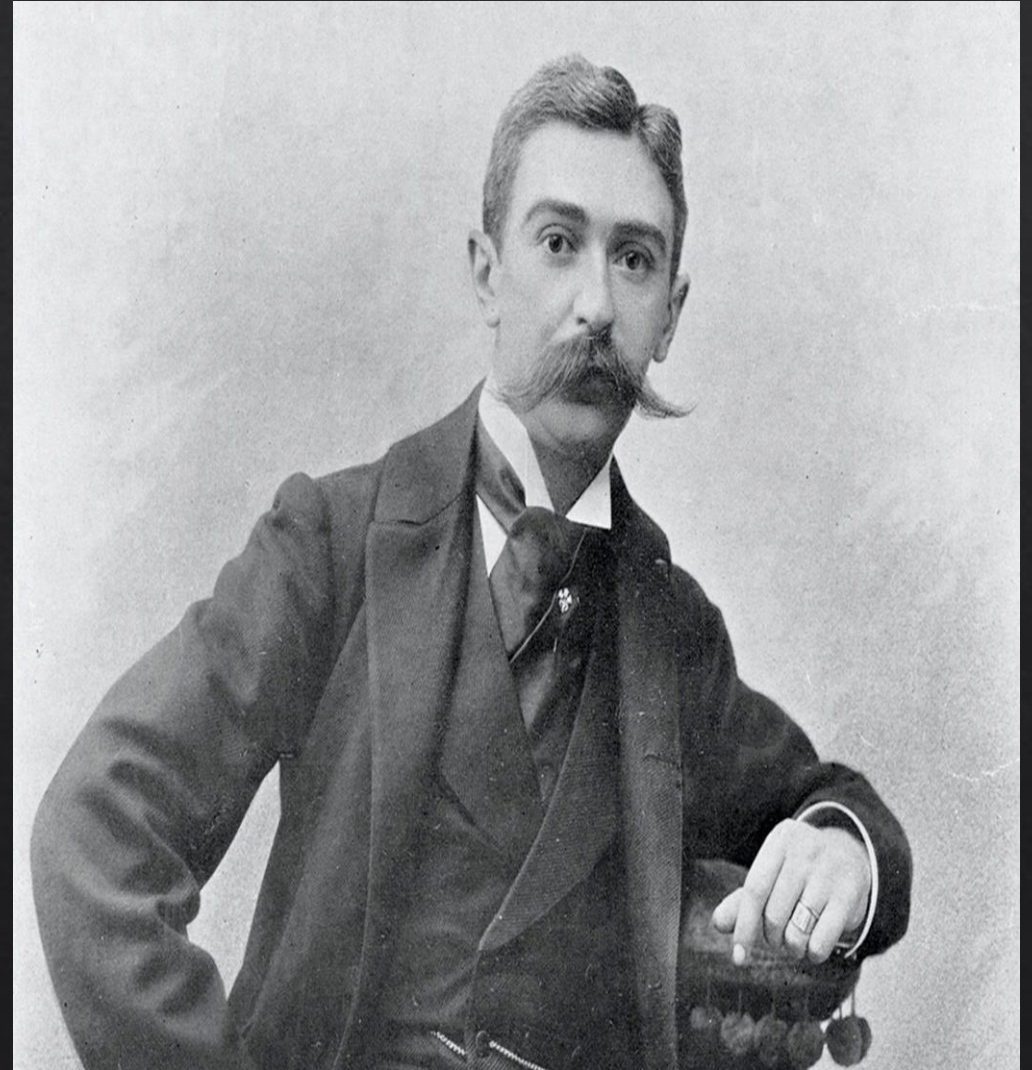
Olympism is a philosophy of life,
which places sport at the service of humankind



Baron Pierre de Coubertin

It was **Baron Pierre de Coubertin** who revived the Games. Born in 1863, he devoted his life to the reform of education and youth in France.

Fascinated by the English education system, which included sport in the teaching programme (a new idea at the time), he wanted to convince his contemporaries in France that sport could be beneficial for young people.



Baron Pierre de Coubertin

Not everyone shared this view, so Coubertin looked for a way to make people change their views. That was when he had an idea: **to revive the Olympic Games (obnoviti Olimpijske igre).**

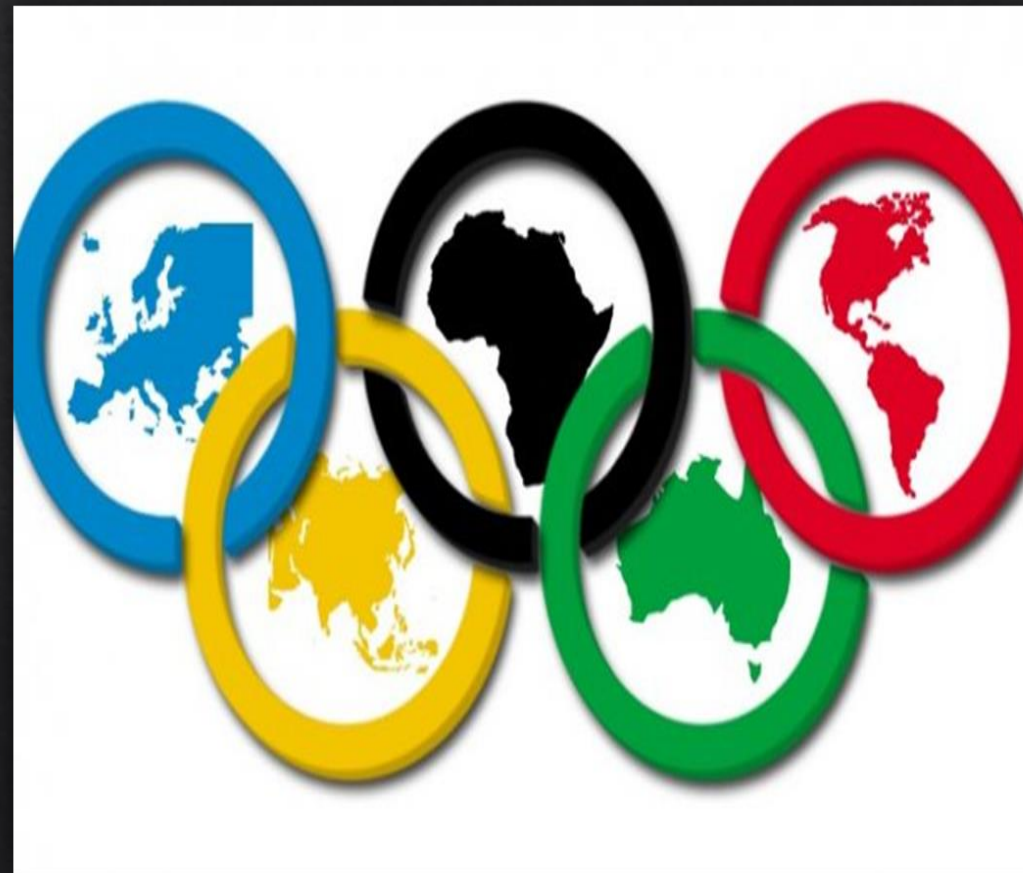
Coubertin brought a modern and international dimension to the Games and succeeded in re-establishing them. But for him, the Games were a part of a much broader project: **education through sport (obrazovanje kroz sport).**



The five rings

The five rings represent **the five continents (pet kontinenata)**. They are interlinked to show the universality of Olympism and how athletes from all over the world come together for the Olympic Games.

On the Olympic flag, the rings appear against a white background. Combined in this way, the six colors of the flag (**blue, yellow, black, green, red and white**) represent **all the nations (sve nacije)**.



The five rings and the flag

It was also Pierre de Coubertin who had the idea of an Olympic flag. He presented the rings and the flag in June 1914 in Paris, at the Olympic Congress.

But as the First World War prevented the Games from being held as planned in Berlin in 1916, it was not until 1920 at the Games in Antwerp, Belgium that the flag with its five rings was flown in an Olympic stadium for the first time.



The Flame and Torch Relay

The Olympic flame is an expression of the positive values that human beings have always associated with the symbolism of **fire (vatre)**.

The flame is lit at Olympia in Greece (Plamen se pali u Olimpiji u Grčkoj), recalling the Ancient Greek roots of the Olympic Games and also emphasizing the link between the ancient and modern Games.



The flame and torch relay

From Olympia, the flame is carried to the city hosting the Games by thousands of torchbearers (bakljonoše).

Wherever it goes, the flame announces the Olympic Games and transmits a message of peace and friendship to all those it meets along the way.



The flame and torch relay

At the modern Olympic Games, a flame was lit for the first time in the stadium at **Amsterdam**, in **1928**.

The torch relay was not introduced until the **1936** Games in **Berlin**.



Berlin, 1936

The motto and maxim

The Olympic motto is composed of three Latin words: *CITIUS-ALTIUS-FORTIUS*, which mean **FASTER – HIGHER – STRONGER** (brže – više – jače).

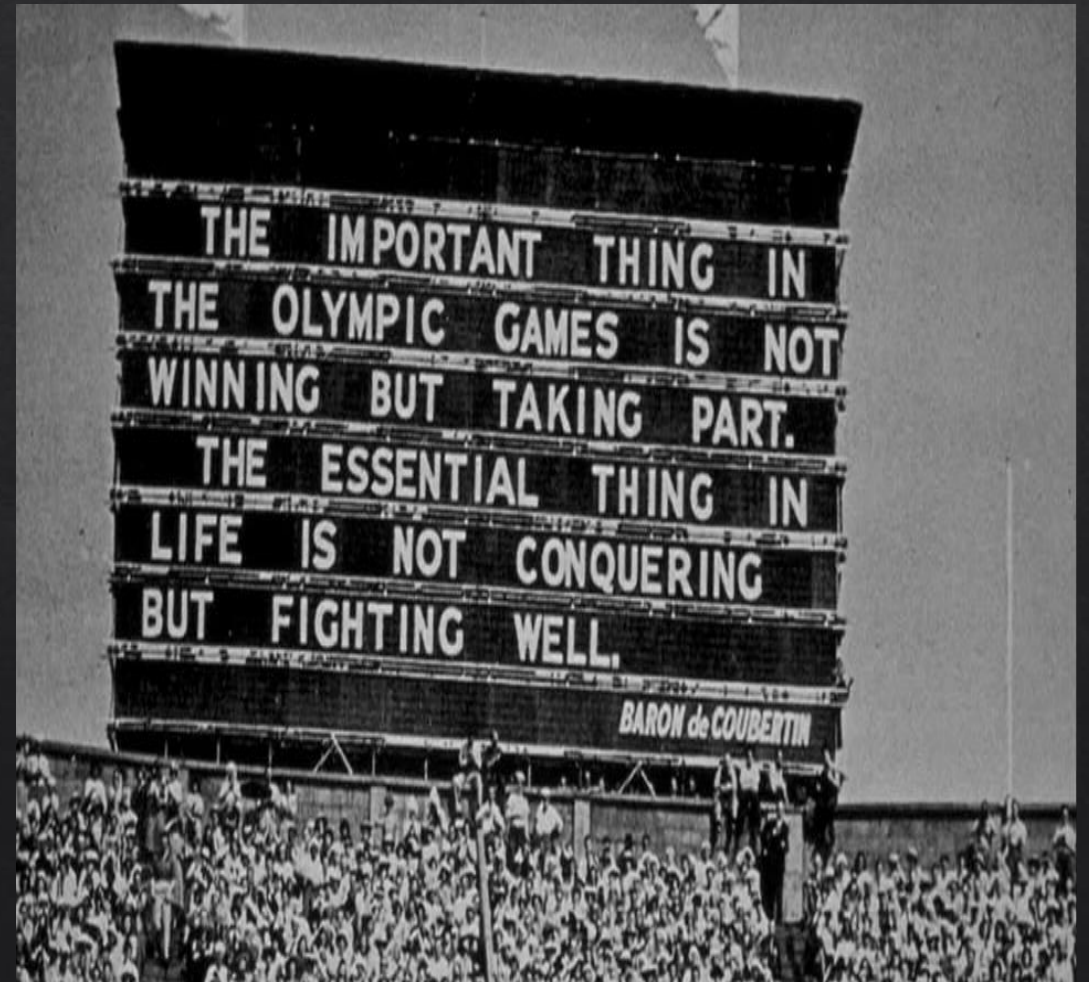
These three words encourage the athletes to give their best when they compete.



The Olympic Maxim

The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well.

Najvažnija stvar na Olimpijskim igrama nije pobjeda, već učestvovanje; suštinska stvar u životu nije osvajanje, već časna borba.



The motto and maxim

Taken together, the Olympic motto and maxim represent an ideal which Coubertin believed in and promoted as an important lesson for life learned from taking part in a sports activity and the Olympic Games.

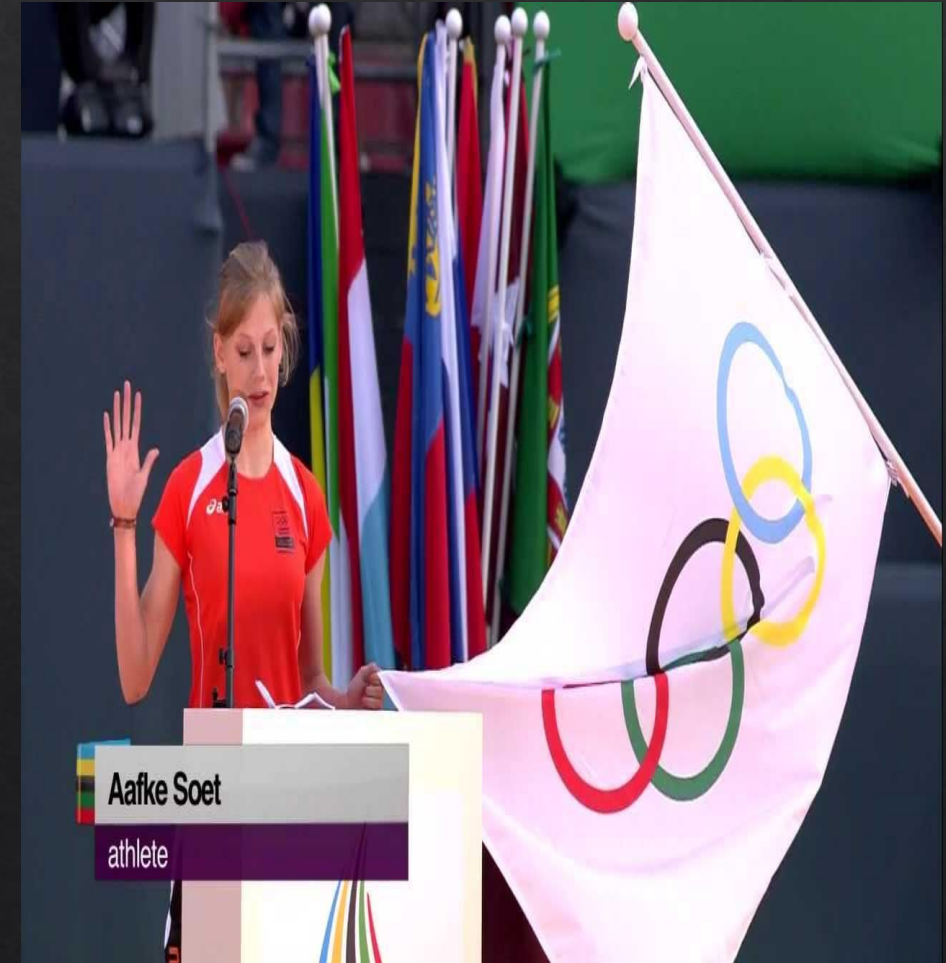
Giving one's best and striving for personal excellence is a lesson which still holds true today, not just for athletes but for every one of us.



The anthem and oaths

The Olympic anthem and the oaths are taken by an **athlete (sportista)**, a **referee (sudija)** and a **coach (trener)** and are part of the official protocol of the Olympic Games opening ceremonies.

Those who take them are **nationals (državljeni)** of the **host country (zemlja domaćin)**, and they hold a corner (drže ugao) of the **Olympic flag (olimpijska zastava)** as they say the words.



The anthem and oaths

The Olympic anthem was composed by **Spiros Samaras** while the lyrics were written by Kostis Palamas.

It became the IOC's official anthem only in **1958**.



The anthem and oaths

Like the athletes at the ancient Games, today's Olympic athletes **take an oath (polažu zakletvu)**. The words of this oath were written by Pierre de Coubertin, and it was spoken for the first time at the **1920 Games in Antwerp**.

The **referees' oath (zakletva sudija)** first featured at the Opening Ceremony of the Games in 1972, while the **coaches' oath (zakletva trenera)** was introduced at the 2012 Games in London.



The anthem and oaths

It is important to note that the oaths have been modified over the years to reflect the changing nature of sports competition.

For example, the reference to doping was added to the athletes' oath at the 2000 Games in Sydney.



Thank you for your
attention!