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The Process of KARATE's Adoption as Formal Game for the TOKYO Olympic Games and Its Prospects

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Abstract

The ancient Olympic games, which were held every four years as now for a millenium from 776 BC until 395 AD, were a forum of competition for the mankind to mutually compete and enjoy in a variety of ways. Such Olympic games are a unique connection between the ancient and the modern times. The modern Olympic games were held for the first time in Athens, Greece, in 1896 and the 32nd Tokyo Olympic Games will be held in 2020. After Japan experienced the great earthquake in 1923 and lost the second World War, Tokyo was the first to attract the Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964 in Asia, where 19 games were held, with 94 countries and 6,318 athletes participated, thereby becoming an opportunity to inform the world about the high speed growth and strength of the post war Japan.

In particular, Japan, which has grown into an economic powerhouse and which is standing in the center of the international political arena, has endeavored to make the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games as the ones attracting greater attention from the world than any other host country in history. Among such endeavors, Japan intended to raise its stature as the host country of the larger and successful games by adding games. Of the games, Karate was a traditional Japanese martial art, which was first introduced from Okinawa to the main islands of Japan in 1917. Thereafter, in 1922, as the Ministry of Education hosted an ancient martial art exhibition in which Karate participated, and as Keio University and Waseda University founded Karate departments, Karate developed into a martial art culture of Japan.

Thereafter, Karate has become globalized by the spectacular performance and leadership of Oyama Masters, in which process the Japanese society escaped from the ruins of the war and achieved prosperity and success drawing attention from the world. Furthermore, the spirit of martial art through Karate has brought the Japanese people together, and Karate became the spirit of the Japanese people.

For these reasons, Japan has wanted Karate to become an official game for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

While 26 games were held at the 30th London Olympic Games in 2012 and 28 official games were held at the 31st Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games in 2016, including golf and rugby, but Japan has successfully enabled adopting Karate as an official Olympic game, and by including surfing, skateboarding, sports climbing, baseball and softball, the number of official games grew to 33 in total.

The modern Olympic games are also used to strengthen national interests, international status, and pride of the nation rather than promoting the understanding of international peace and harmony of mankind.

In particular, Karate had faced difficulties in being adopted as a formal game since it was a similar game to Taekwondo of Korea, but since Japan was able to decide on which games to add through the "Olympic Agenda 2020," the Tokyo Olympic Games Organizing Committee nominated additional candidates of official games for pentathlon to the IOC in September 2013 and acquired approval of the executive committee for the finalization at the general assembly.

Accordingly, this study will examine the process of changes for the Olympic games and what process the Japanese Karate underwent to be adopted for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games as an official game. In particular, it will be helpful to understand what impact it will have on the martial art sport after the Tokyo Olympic Games

and the flow of sports diplomacy as Karate is adopted as an official Olympic game representing the Japanese martial arts.

[Keywords] Olympic Games, Karate, History, Sports Games, Taekwondo

1. Introduction

Mankind has lived through mutual competition in a variety of ways. One of which was a sports competition to enjoy, and the representative games were the Olympic games. Such Olympic games are a unique connection between the ancient and modern times. From 776 BC until 395 AD, the games were held every four years as now for a millennium[1]. The 1st modern Olympic games were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896, with 9 games and 13 countries and 311 athletes participating. Thereafter, they have been held every four years as a festival for the global citizens in the country which hosted the games. To commemorate its 2,600th anniversary, Japan applied for and acquired approval of the IOC to host the 1940 Summer Olympic Games. However, they were put off by the second World War[2]. After losing the second World War, Japan hosted the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games for the first time on the Asian continent with the participation of 19 Olympic games, 94 countries, and 6,318 athletes, through which Japan had the opportunity to inform the world about the high speed growth and strength of the post war Japan.

The 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games were a competitive game intended to elevate the honor of Japan beyond the meaning of a simple sports game. At the time, Japan invested \$3 billion, which was the largest amount ever in the history of Olympic games, and redeveloped the city of Tokyo over 3 years, thereby transforming it into a new city through the hosting of the Olympic games. Yoyogi Square in downtown Tokyo had remained a symbol of militarism where the Japanese military paraded in the presence of the emperor. However, the city constructed a large scaled athletic village in Yoyogi Square and successfully held the Olympic games, which are the largest festival of mankind. For Japan, the Tokyo Olympic Games were a great revolution which attracted the attention of the world for

the first time since the great earthquake in 1923 and the second World War. The then chairman of the Organizing Committee, Ritaro Azuma said, "Japan used the Olympic games in order to join the league of advanced industrial nations. Had there been no such magic about the Olympic games, Japan would not have invested so much money. By hosting the games as a policy, Japan has turned it into an opportunity to inform the world that it is no longer a defeated country[3]."

As such, Japan, which has grown into an economic powerhouse and which is standing in the center of the international political arena, has endeavored to make the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games as the ones attracting greater attention from the world than any other host country in history. Among such endeavors, Japan intended to raise its stature as the host country of the larger and successful games by adding games.

In particular, Karate is a traditional Japanese martial art from Okinawa, and after being demonstrated by Funakoshi Gichin in 1917 for the first time on the main islands of Japan, the Ministry of Education hosted an ancient martial art exhibition in which Karate participated, and in 1924, Keio University and Waseda University founded Karate departments for the first time. In 1934, Shotokan was founded and became the most influential organization on the Japanese main islands[4]. As such Karate entered the 1950s, it became known across the world by Oyama Matsudatsu, in which process the Japanese society escaped from the ruins of the war and achieved prosperity and success drawing attention from the world. Furthermore, the spirit of martial art through Karate has brought the Japanese people together, and Karate became the spirit of the Japanese people[5]. For these reasons, Japan has wanted Karate to become an official game for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

In this background, this study will examine the process of changes for the Olympic games and what process the Japanese Karate underwent to be adopted for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games as an official game. In particular, we intend to understand what impact it will have on the martial art sport after the Tokyo Olympic Games as Karate is adopted as an official Olympic game representing the Japanese martial arts.

Table 1. Changes in the ancient Olympic games.

Year implemented	Game	Remark (Olympiad)
776 BC	200M race	1st Olympiad
724 BC	400M race	14th Olympiad
720 BC	4800M long-distance race	15th Olympiad
708 BC	Pentathlon, wrestling	18th Olympiad
688 BC	Boxing	23rd Olympiad
680 BC	Four horse chariot race	25th Olympiad
648 BC	Pancration, horse racing	33rd Olympiad
632 BC	Boys 200M race, wrestling	
628 BC	Boys : Pentathlon	Implementation ceased
616 BC	Boys : Boxing	
520 BC	Race in armor	65th Olympiad
500 BC	Mule cart race	Ceased after implementation
496 BC	Race for mares	Ceased after implementation
408 BC	Two horse chariot race	93차 Olympiad
396 BC	- Trumpeter competition - Herald competition	
384 BC	Four horse chariot race (colt)	
256 BC	Single horse race (colt)	
200 BC	Boys : Pancration	

2. Changes of the Olympic Games

The ancient Olympic games began with running races and the 5 game races first emerged in 708 BC. Winners were decided by hosting the games of standing long jump, javelin, running, discus, disc throwing and wrestling. The boxing games began in 688 BC. In 680 BC, the four horse chariot race was adopted, and in 648 BC, pancration games and horse racing games, which were a mixture of boxing and wrestling, were adopted as official games. In 384 BC, the four horse chariot race was adopted as an official game in which participants competed with their physical strength and skills required for war or fighting.

3. Process of Karate's Adoption as a Formal Game for the Olympic Games

On October 10, 1964, the 18th Tokyo Olympic Games, in which 5,140 athletes from 93 countries participated, became the first Olympic games hosted in Asia. Before then, Tokyo, Japan, was selected as the host of the 12th Olympic Games in 1940, but following the outbreak of the second World War, they were ceased, and after becoming the defeated nation, Japan was not able to participate in the international sports world including the Olympic Games. However, after the post war Japanese society escaped from the ruins of the war, and as the national order came back on its track, Japan endeavored again to participate in the Olympic games[8].

In 1949, the 3 gaming organizations of swimming, wrestling and cycling returned to the League of Nations, thereby laying a foundation for international sports. In May 1951, the Japan Olympic Committee(JOC) was approved by the IOC at the general assembly, thereby enabling Japan's participation in the Winter and Summer Olympic Games of 1952 and return to the Olympic games in 16 years.

Table 2. Changes in the modern olympic games.

No. of Times	Year	Host City	No. of Participant Countries	No. of Personnel	No. of games
1	1896	Athens, Greece	13	311	9
2	1900	Paris, France	21	1,088	14
3	1904	St. Louis, USA	12	562	12
4	1908	London, United Kingdom	22	2,666	20
5	1912	Stockholm, Sweden	28	2,561	14
6	1916	Berlin, Germany, was decided to host, but was put off by the first World War			
7	1920	Antwerp, Belgium	29	2,655	19
8	1924	Paris, France	44	3,211	19
9	1928	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	46	4,308	16
10	1932	Los Angeles, USA	38	1,366	16
11	1936	Berlin, Germany	49	4,308	21
12	1940	Tokyo, Japan, was decided to host but then was changed to Helsinki, Finland, due to the second World War			
13	1944	London, United Kingdom, was decided to host, but was put off by the first World War			
14	1948	London, United Kingdom	58	4,447	18
15	1952	Helsinki, Finland	69	6,358	18
16	1956	Melbourne, Australia	67	3,555	17
17	1960	Rome, Italy	84	5,933	17
18	1964	Tokyo, Japan	94	6,318	19
19	1968	Mexico City, Mexico	125	7,470	18
20	1972	Munich, West Germany	123	10,080	21
21	1976	Montreal, Canada	94	7,814	21
22	1980	Moscow, Soviet Union	81	5,923	21
23	1984	Los Angeles, USA	140	7,810	21
24	1988	Seoul, Korea	160	13,304	23
25	1992	Barcelona, Spain	169	15,229	23
26	1996	Atlanta, USA	192	17,765	26
27	2000	Sydney, Australia	200	15,300	28
28	2004	Athens, Greece	202	11,000	28
29	2008	Beijing, China	204	11,028	28
30	2012	London, United Kingdom	204	11,028	26
31	2016	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	207	11,239	28
32	2020	Tokyo, Japan	207	11,239	28

When Japan returned to the Olympic games, Japan participated in competing for winning the 17th Olympic Games for 1960 in Tokyo, but ultimately, Roma, Italy, turned out to be the winner.

Thereafter, the IOC members, who attended the IOC's general assembly in November 1956, successfully attracted the IOC's general assembly to be hosted in Tokyo in 1958. Japan used the 13th Asian Games in 1958 to publi-

cize the game organizing and operating capability to the members of the IOC. Eventually, Tokyo, Japan, successfully attracted the 18th Olympic Games, beating Brussels, Detroit, and Vienna at the IOC's general assembly held in Munich, West Germany, on May 23, 1959[9].

Japan attempted to include Judo, which is the national sport of Japan, in the Olympic Games with the hosting of the Tokyo Olympic Games. At the IOC's general assembly held in Rome from August 3rd through 23rd, 1960, Japan proposed Judo as an official game, which was approved by 32 votes against 2. Meanwhile, Japan strived to include Karate among the Olympic games while continuously competing against Taekwondo of Korea. However, through the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, Taekwondo was adopted as a pilot game, which in 2000, was confirmed as a formal game at the Sydney Olympic Games. Consequently, the IOC's preception of precluding similar games has made it even more difficult to adopt Karate as an Olympic game[10].

At the 31st Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games in 2016, a total of 28 official games were held with golf and rugby added to the 26 official games held at the 30th London Olympic Games in 2012. Japan succeeded in adopting Karate as an official game for the 32nd Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020, thereby increasing the number of official games to 33 including surfing, skateboarding, sports climbing, baseball, and softball[11].

As such, official games were added and changed according to the host country of the Olympic Games, and the International Olympic Committee(IOC) decided at its general assembly in 1989 that only the universal games widely spread worldwide and in which both men and women could participate can be adopted. Consequently, 25 games were adopted, with 2 games less than the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona and the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul. What is important is that the host countries of the Olympic games strive to achieve commercial effects through the Olympic games. While wrestling was a game which had walked alongside the history of Olympic games since the first Olympic

Games, it was on the verge of exclusion in 2013 from among the official games for the lack of fun and popularity evidence by small audiences. The International Olympic Committee(IOC) designated 25 core games which have not been excluded forever from the Olympic games in the reform plan for the Olympic games entitled, "Agenda 2020." Karate was also faced with much difficulty to the point of being adopted for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. On May 30, 2013, the International Olympic Committee's executive committee held a meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, and finalized baseball and softball, which had been ousted in 2005, and wrestling and squash, which had been ousted in 2013, as the candidates for the new games for the 2020 Olympic Games. While Karate was disqualified for its similarity with Taekwondo, the IOC decided at the 129th general assembly held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in December 2014, that the host cities of the Olympic games can decide which games to add through the "Olympic Agenda 2020." Consequently, the organizing committee of the Tokyo Olympic Games in September 2013 nominated candidates for the 5 additional games to the IOC, and the IOC had them approved at the executive committee in June 2014 and finalized them at the general assembly[12].

4. Conclusion

This study examined the process of changes for the Olympic games and what process the Japanese Karate underwent to be adopted for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games as an official game. In particular, this study intends to present the impact it will have on the martial art sport after the Tokyo Olympic Games and the flow of sports diplomacy as Karate representing the Japanese martial arts is adopted as an official Olympic game.

1)At its general assembly in 1989, the International Olympic Committee(IOC) allowed only the universal games, which are widely spread across the world and in which both men and women could participate. Consequently, the IOC designated a total of 25 core games which have not been excluded forever from the Olympic games in the reform plan

for the Olympic games entitled, “Agenda 2020,” respectively.

2) Host countries of the Olympic games strive to achieve commercial effects through the Olympic games. In particular, they are using the games to strengthen their national interests, international status, and pride of the nation rather than promoting the understanding of international peace and harmony of mankind, respectively.

3) The IOC allowed host cities of the Olympic games to decide which games to add through the “Olympic Agenda 2020.” Consequently, the organizing committee of the Tokyo Olympic Games nominated candidates for the 5 additional games to the IOC, and the IOC had them approved at the executive committee in June 2014 and finalized Karate to be among the official games at the general assembly, respectively.

4) At the 32nd Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020, the number of games grew to a total of 33 by adding Karate, surfing, skateboarding, sports climbing, baseball and softball, respectively.

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