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Sports Supporter's News Olympic Special



Issue 4 – March 2011

With the tickets for London Olympics on sale from 15 March, we highlight some of Ukraine's top events and some of our proudest Olympic moments.

Tickets on sale

The wait is almost over. Applications for London 2012 Olympic Games tickets is now open.

The people at London 2012 have given out a few top tips to make sure you are ready to apply for tickets for the greatest show on earth...

- You will have until 11.59pm on 26 April 2011 to submit your application, so take your time and plan which sessions you want to apply for. There is no advantage to submitting your application on the first day or the last day. **We have made some suggestions about Ukraine's top events below.**
- Make sure you have your account login details ready. If you have forgotten your password you can [reset it here](#).
- Consider your budget when planning your application. There is a wide range of ticket prices available, starting at just £20, with prices to suit every budget and special prices for young people and over-60s.
- You can [view the full competition schedule](#) including prices and ticket limits. Look out for the blue flag which indicates which price categories and sessions have special prices available.
- Remember www.tickets.london2012.com and travel and hospitality providers Thomas Cook, Prestige Ticketing and Jet Set Sports are the only official sales channels for the Games. Don't be fooled by bogus websites and organisations claiming to sell tickets.
- Check that the expiry date on your Visa card (debit, credit or prepaid) is no earlier than August 2011. If you don't already have a Visa card, please visit the Visa website for more details on how you can obtain a Visa debit, credit, prepaid or virtual card.

(Information from London 2012)

Which events should you pick?

Our pick of Ukraine's top events:

- 28, 30, 31 July and 2 August: Shooting Men's and Woman's + Medal Ceremony @ Royal Artillery Barracks
- 29, 30, 31 July: Canoe and Kayaking – Lee Valley White Water Centre Hertfordshire
- 31 July and 7,12 August: Gymnastics Artistic and Rhythmic @ North Greenwich Arena
- All Athletics at the Olympic Park Stadium 3–11 August.
- 3–12 Wrestling Greco-Roman, and Freestyle: Finals 7th and 12th respectively at Wembley Arena.

➤ [Click here to visit the website with all the schedules](#)

Ukraine's Olympic history

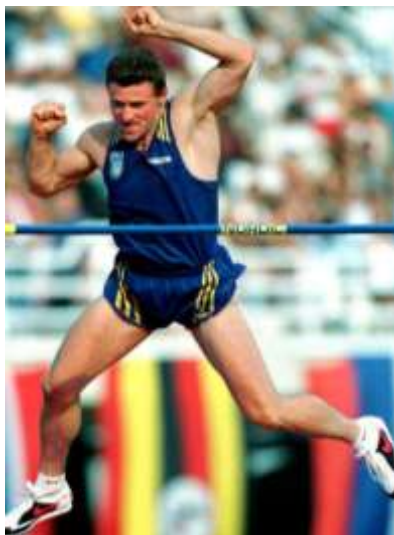
Ukraine first participated at the Olympic Games as an independent nation in 1994, and has since competed in all Olympic Games held since. Prior to independence, Ukrainian athletes competed as part of the USSR from 1952 to 1988, and after the collapse, as part of the Unified Team in 1992.

Since its first participation the Ukrainian Olympic team has won a total of 96 medals across the last four summer Olympics games. Ukraine's haul of 27 medals in Beijing 2008 has been its most successful Olympics yet, strangely racking up a total of 23 medals in each of the prior games in Atlanta 96, Sydney 2000, and Athens 2004.

Ukraine has achieved consistently in Olympic Gymnastics, with a total of 6 gold and a total of 15 medals, and Athletics with 3 gold and again a total of 15. Ukraine has also had notable successes in Swimming, Shooting, and Wrestling.

Our 2012 hopefuls?

September 2010 saw the first ever Youth Olympic Games held in Singapore. Ukraine was represented by 55 young athletes (aged 14-18), who competed in 18 sports and won 35 medals, including 10 gold, 9 silver and 16 bronze. Ukraine came 3rd in the final medal standings of 204 countries, finishing behind China and Russia. Again Ukraine's most notable successes coming in swimming, athletics, gymnastics, and shooting. Based on the success in these events, and given the age of the competitors in time for 2010, Ukraine looks to be in a healthy position to increase its successes, especially in the above mentioned events in London 2012.



British Ukrainians

Lviv born Yana Stadnik will be representing Great Britain in 2012. Yana moved to Manchester in 2007, and is currently making a lot of noise on the wrestling scene. Her elder brother Andriy, is also a wrestler winning silver for Ukraine in Beijing. Interestingly, Yana's sister-in-law is also a wrestler in the same weight category, and although also Lviv born, will be representing Azerbaijan!!

PROFILE: Serhiy Bubka

Despite only winning one Olympic gold for the former USSR, Serhiy Bubka is regarded as one of Ukraine's, and arguably the world's best athletes.

Bubka won 10 IAAF World Championships, an Olympic gold, and broke the world record for men's pole vaulting no fewer than 35 times. He was the first to clear 6.0 metres and the first and only to clear 6.10 meters (20ft). He currently holds the outdoor world record of 6.14 meters, set on 31 July 1994, and indoor record of 5.15 meters set in Donetsk on 21 February 1993.

Although Bubka had complete dominance in pole vaulting at his time, he was highly unlucky in the Olympic Games. The first Olympics after his introduction into international athletics were in 1984, which were boycotted by the USSR. Two months prior to these games, Bubka vaulted 12cm higher than the eventual gold medal winner Pierre Quinon. At the Seoul Olympics 1988 Bubka won his one and only Olympic gold, however subsequently failed to make an impression at the following Olympics Games in Barcelona, Atlanta, and Sydney.

Despite only achieving one Olympic gold, Bubka boasts a personal record of 10 World Championship gold medals. Between 1983- 1997 he won 6 consecutive gold outdoor world championship medals, and 4 golds in the indoor world championships.

Serhiy Bubka retired from competitive pole vaulting in 2001 but is still heavily involved in athletics. He is currently serving as the president of National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, and is a member of the 'Champions for Peace' club, a group of 40 famous elite athletes committed to serving peace in the world through sport.

"My jump was imperfect, my run-in was too short and my hands were too far back at take-off. When I manage to iron out these faults, I am sure I can improve." – Serhiy Bubka in an interview after he was the first person to break 20 feet (6.10 m).

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