TEAM FINLAND
Games of the XXXII Olympiad
Tokyo 2020
Main Partners of Olympic Team Finland

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Greetings from PyeongChang to Tokyo

JENNI HIIRIKOSKI
ICE HOCKEY, OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST 2010 AND 2018

Being an Olympian is a dream come true, something that most kids dream of when they start their career in sports. Personally, as a three-time Olympian and a member of Olympic Team Finland, I am proud and honored to be part of a great legacy, the same story with all of you who have qualified to Tokyo. I am a true sports enthusiast, will follow your competitions and share the excitement. I wish all the best and good luck for all the Finnish Olympic athletes performing in Tokyo. Enjoy your moments in spotlight, Finland is full of your fans, and I am one of them!

MIKA POUTALA
SPEED SKATING, OLYMPIC GAMES 2010, 2014, 2018
CHAIRMAN OF NOC FINLAND ATHLETES’ COMMISSION

I can still recall being a 7-year old kid, first time on my speed skates, and already thinking that one day I want to be an Olympian. Ever since it was my dream and my goal, and when it all came true, it was more than I could ever have imagined. For all the athletes competing in Tokyo I want to say: seize the day! You don’t have to do miracles, just let the energy flow and do the best you can. You all have deserved your status as an Olympic athlete. Enjoy and let it show!

ARCHERY

ARCHERY

Antti Vikström earned a surprise ticket to the Olympic archery competition in Tokyo by taking four match victories and climbing to third place in the final qualification event in Paris in June. His best previous international achievement had been 17th place at the European Championships of 2016. Antti follows the footsteps of his parents, who both were national team archers. His father and coach Pentti Vikström finished seventh at the Olympic Games of 1988 in Seoul. Antti has a degree in medicine and works as a physician at the municipal health clinic in Haapavesi.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2016 EurCh 57–104th, team 9–16th.
2018 EurCh 17–32nd, team 9–16th, mixed pairs 17–24th.
2019 WCCh 57–104th, team 17–24th, mixed pairs 35th.
2021 EurCh 33–56th, team 17–24th.

PERSONAL BEST (70 m round):
669 (31 Aug 2019).

TEAM MANAGEMENT

Miika Aulio
Coach
Athletics has always been Finland’s favourite summer sport. Over the years Finnish track and field athletes have won a total of 114 Olympic medals, 48 of them gold. Finland occupies fourth place in the overall medal table of the sport. Finnish track and field athletes have won at least one medal at every Olympic Games since 1906 except in 2004 and 2016.

Finnish runners reigned supreme in long-distance events before the Second World War. The glorious era began with Hannes Kohlmaan’s three gold medals in Stockholm 1912. Paavo Nurmi won a total of nine Olympic gold medals between 1920 and 1928, seconded by Ville Ritola with five. Finland won five of the first six Olympic finals in both 5000 and 10,000 metres between 1912 and 1936. Finnish long-distance running enjoyed a new period of success between 1972 and 1980, highlighted by Lasse Viren’s four Olympic gold medals in Munich and Montreal.

Throwing events have been another area of Finnish expertise. The latest Finnish Olympic athletics champion is Arsi Harju, who won gold in men’s shot put in Sydney 2000. The most successful event has been the javelin, where Finnish men have won a total of 25 Olympic medals while no other country has won more than seven. Javelin throw is also the only athletics event where Finnish women have won Olympic medals, the most recent of which was Heli Rantanen’s gold in Atlanta 1996.

In shorter running distances the latest Finnish Olympic medal is Arto Bryggare’s bronze in men’s 110 metres hurdles in 1984. In the jump events there have been no Finnish medals since Antti Kalliomäki’s silver in pole vault in 1976 and no gold medalists since the triple jumper Vilho Tuulos back in Antwerp 1920. Finnish race walkers have won several medals at World Championships over the years but are yet to convert that success into Olympic medals.

LASSI ETELÄTALO

Lassi Etelätalo has had a chequered but oddly effective career in the hotly contested scene of Finnish javelin throwing. Recurrent injuries and health problems postponed his debut in the national team until 2014, when he was selected for the European Championships in Zurich and finished fourth behind two other Finnish throwers. The next five years were lost again. Lassi had two operations to his elbow and one to his ankle and struggled to find his form. He finally returned to fore in 2019 and earned a surprising fourth place in the World Championship final in Doha. In 2020 Lassi demonstrated again his gift of standing out at major events by winning the Finnish championship title.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
- 2014 EurCh 4th.
- 2019 WCh 4th.
PERSONAL BEST:
- 84.78 (24 Jul 2014).

JARKKO KINNUNEN

Jarkko Kinnunen becomes the first Finnish race walker to participate at four Olympic Games. In fact he has not missed any major international championship 50 km event since 2006. His best achievement to date is eighth place at the World Championships of 2009 in Berlin. Postponement of the Tokyo Games had a silver lining for Jarkko, as he was able to undergo an operation that cured his persistent hip trouble.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
- 2008 15th.
- 2012 15th.
- 2016 23rd.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
- 2006 EurCh 14th.
- 2007 WCh 10th.
- 2009 WCh 8th.
- 2010 EurCh dnf.
- 2011 WCh 15th.
- 2013 WCh 20th.
- 2014 EurCh 11th.
- 2015 WCh 32nd.
- 2017 WCh 23rd.
- 2018 EurCh 26th.
- 2019 WCh 20th.

PERSONAL BEST:

OLIVER HELANDER

Oliver Helander was a talented handball player in his junior years. He was voted the best young player in the Finnish championship league in the 2013–14 season and played 16 matches in the senior national team. He was also one of Finland’s most promising young javelin throwers, with fourth place at the World U18 Championships of 2013 in Donetsk under his belt. In 2016 Oliver finally decided to concentrate on the javelin. He made his major international debut at senior level at the European Championships of 2018 and threw a personal best of 88.02 in the same year. Oliver missed the 2020 season due to shoulder operation and in June 2021 he suffered an Achilles tendon injury that further affected his Olympic preparations.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
- 2018 EurCh 16th.
- 2019 WCh 19th.

PERSONAL BEST:
- 88.02 (7 Jul 2018).

MEN

Event: Javelin throw

Event: 50 km Racewalk
Aleksi Ojala is the youngest member of the Finnish Olympic walking trio. He earned his ticket to Sapporo by finishing second at the European Race Walking Team Championships in Poděbrady in May 2021 with a time of 3:48:25. His personal best is two minutes better, made five years ago before the Rio Games. Aleksi’s Olympic debut in Rio de Janeiro ended in disqualification, but one year later he finished fourteenth at the World Championships in London.

Veli-Matti Partanen, better known as Aku Partanen, was selected to the Finnish Olympic team a year and a half ago. He achieved the qualifying standard by clocking a time of 3:46:54 in Dudince in March 2019. Aku has been the fastest Finnish race walker in recent years, but he has been particularly unlucky at major championships. That has made him even more determined to continue his career even after the 50-kilometre race is eliminated from championship program after Sapporo. Aku is coached by Valentin Kononen, winner of the World Championship title in 50 km in 1995.

Elmo Lakka has dominated the Finnish high hurdles scene for six years. Two of his long-standing dreams came to fruition in the beginning of the 2021 season: he clocked a result of 13.31, breaking the Finnish record made by Arto Bryggare at the Los Angeles Olympic Games of 1984 and reaching the qualifying standard for his own Olympic debut in Tokyo. Elmo’s coach Antti Haapakoski represented Finland in 110 metres hurdles at the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games.

Toni Kuusela reached the Olympic qualifying standard with his personal best of 85.03 in June. The Tokyo Games will also be his first major event in the Finnish national javelin team in the senior ranks; his only previous assignment was the European U20 Championships in Rieti, where he finished fifth. In his junior years Toni also played pesäpallo, Finnish variant of baseball, and won the national junior championship title in 2012 with his team Vimpelin Veto.
Kristian Pulli reached the Olympic qualifying standard in March 2021 with a jump of 8.24 metres, which earned him bronze at the European Indoor Championships in Torun, Poland. That was in fact Finland’s first medal in indoor athletics in 21 years. Kristian took silver in triple jump at the European Junior Championships of 2013 but since 2016 he has concentrated on long jump. In 2020 he made a national record of 8.27 metres and was named Athlete of the Year by the Finnish track and field association. Kristian is coached by his father Seppo Pulli.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**
- 2013 EurJunCh silver triple jump.
- 2016 EurCh 8th.
- 2021 EurIndoorCh bronze.

**PERSONAL BEST:**
8.27 (11 Jun 2020)

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Antti Ruuskanen is the latest in a long line of Finland’s javelin champions. He won gold at the European Championships of 2014 in Zurich and bronze two years later in Amsterdam. His Olympic bronze from London 2012 was upgraded to silver four years later in Rio 2016. Antti finished sixth and was again the best Finnish track and field athlete. Antti had a knee operation in late 2019 and was able to compete only twice in the following year. He has announced that 2021 will be the final season of his javelin career.

**PREVIOUSolympicgames:**
- 2012 silver.
- 2016 8th.

**OTHERACHIEVEMENTS:**
- 2003 EurJunCh bronze.
- 2005 EurU23Ch silver.
- 2009 WCh 6th.
- 2011 WCh 9th.
- 2013 WCh 5th.
- 2014 EurCh gold.
- 2015 WCh 5th.
- 2016 EurCh bronze.
- 2018 EurCh 8th.
- 2019 WCh 28th.

**PERSONALBEST:**
88.98 (2 Aug 2015)

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Topi Raitanen was one of Finland’s most promising orienteering athletes until he decided in 2017 to concentrate on his track career. In the following year he qualified for his first major steeplechase final at the European Championships in Berlin. Topi was named to the Finnish Olympic team as one of the first athletes in December 2019. His personal best of 8:16.57 made at the Diamond League competition in Monaco in 2020 was the sixth best result in the world that season.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**
- 2003 EurJunCh bronze.
- 2005 EurU23Ch silver.
- 2009 WCh 6th.
- 2011 WCh 9th.
- 2013 WCh 5th.
- 2014 EurCh gold.
- 2015 WCh 5th.
- 2016 EurCh bronze.
- 2018 EurCh 8th.
- 2019 WCh 28th.

**PERSONALBEST:**
8:16.57 (14 Aug 2020)
WOMEN

MARIA HUNTINGTON

Maria Huntington made an impressive rise to the Finnish athletics scene in 2019. She broke the 6,000-points barrier for the first time in June and two months later improved her personal best to 6,339 points. At the World Championships in Doha she fell ill; however and had to abandon the competition after the first day. In current world rankings Maria holds twelfth place after collecting 6,318 points in the classical Götzis heptathlon in May. Maria’s father is English and she has dual Finnish and British citizenship.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**
- 2018 EurCh 19th.
- 2019 WCh dnf.

**PERSONAL BEST:**
- 6,339 (2–3 Aug 2019).

ELLÀ JUNNILA

Ella Junnila improved her national record by one centimetre to win bronze at the European Indoor Championships of 2021 in Toruń, Poland, achieving the Olympic qualifying standard in the process. Ella will become the second Olympic jumping athlete in her family; her mother Ringa Ropo-Junnila took part in long jump in Barcelona 1992. In fact, the mother and daughter are current Finnish record holders in their respective events. Ella studies political science at the University of Tampere.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**
- 2018 EurCh 17th.
- 2021 EurIndoorCh bronze.

**PERSONAL BEST:**
- Indoor: 196 (7 Mar 2021)
- Outdoor: 195 (3 Jul 2019)

REETTA HURSKE

Reetta Hurske is an experienced competitor at major events; she has reached the final at World and European Junior Championships as well as at European Indoor Championships. In 2019 in Glasgow Reetta lost the European indoor bronze by only two hundredths of a second. Later in the same year she took silver at the Universiade in Naples and clocked her personal best time of 12.78.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**
- 2016 EurCh 21st (heats).
- 2017 EurIndoorCh dq heats 60 m hurdles.
- 2018 EurCh 18th (semi-final).
- WIndoorCh 19th 60 m hurdles.
- 2019 WCh 21st (semi-final) EurIndoorCh 4th 60 m hurdles. Universiade silver.

**PERSONAL BEST:**
- 12.78 (24 Jul 2019).

ANNIMARI KORTE

Annimari Korte represented Finland at several World and European junior championships in high hurdles between 2005 and 2009, but recurrent back pains forced her to end her career. In the following years she earned degrees in journalism and worked in sports media in several countries until in 2017 she decided to make a comeback to the track. Training mostly in Spain, Annimari made an immediate impression in the Finnish athletics scene. In 2019 she clocked a new national record of 12.72, which in the end was the third best European result of the season. In 2020 Annimari was voted Finnish track and field athlete of the year by the press.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**
- 2016 EurCh 28th (heats).
- 2019 WCh 17th (semi-final).

**PERSONAL BEST:**
- 12.72 (24 Jul 2019).
Silja Kosonen, 18, is the youngest member of the Finnish Olympic team in Tokyo and looking towards a bright future indeed. On 28 June 2021 she broke the world record in the U20 category with her throw of 73.43 metres. Early in the year she had made headlines by throwing a new Finnish national record of 72.44 in the middle of snow heaps. Tokyo will be a valuable learning experience for Silja, whose targets are in Paris 2024 and beyond. She graduated from high school in the spring and aims to become a language teacher after a successful career in athletics.

Sara Kuivisto has been the leading Finnish name in women's middle distances for several years. In June 2021 she clocked her personal best results in 800 and 1500 metres inside three days, breaking the 44-year-old national record in the longer distance. In 800 metres Sara aims to become the first Finnish woman to break the two-minute barrier. She is coached by Ari Suhonen, who holds the Finnish record in men's 800 metres and competed at the Olympic Games of 1988.

Elina Lampela took silver in pole vault at the European Youth Olympic Festival of 2013 and finished fourth at the European U20 Championships of 2015, but her transition to senior ranks was not easy. She struggled with her technique and confidence for several seasons but in 2020 she made a successful return to limelight. This year has seen Elina improve her personal best to 4.53 metres and gain a ticket to her first Olympic Games through the world qualifying ranking. Her coach Rauli Pudas competed in pole vault at the Moscow Games of 1980.

Viivi Lehikoinen won gold in 400 metres hurdles at the European Youth Olympic Festival in 2015 and at the European U18 Championships in 2016; both competitions took place in Tbilisi, Georgia. She made her debut in the senior ranks at the 2018 European Championships in Berlin, but then her progress stalled for a couple of seasons. This year Viivi has found new direction under the Dutch-based top coach Laurent Meuwly. Her focus was originally at the European U23 Championships, but she gained enough ranking points to earn a call to the Olympic Games.
KRISTIINA MÄKELÄ

Kristiina Mäkelä has been a permanent fixture in the world triple jump elite for almost a decade. She has qualified for the final at World and European outdoor and indoor championships as well as at the Rio Games of 2016, where her twelfth place was the best achievement of Finnish female track and field athletes. Kristiina clinched her ticket to her second Olympic Games in June with a new personal best of 14.41 metres.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2016 12th.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2009 EYOF silver.
2011 EurU20Ch silver.
2012 EurCh no result in qualifying.
2015 WCh 13th. EurIndoorCh 8th.
2016 EurCh 9th. WIndoorCh 6th.
2017 WCh 16th. EurIndoorCh 8th.
2018 EurCh 9th. WIndoorCh 16th.
2019 WCh 12th. EurIndoorCh 6th.
2021 EurIndoorCh 6th.

PERSONAL BEST:

NOORALOTTA NEZIRI

The Olympic year 2021 started with Nooralotta Neziri in the best form of her life. She came agonisingly close to the first senior medal of her long career in March, finishing fourth in 60 metres hurdles at the European Indoor Championships in Toruń, Poland after losing the bronze by one hundredth of a second. Bad luck continued in the spring, when back strain forced her to postpone the start of her outdoor season until just before the Olympic Games. Nooralotta made her international debut at senior level in 2012 and has since that year missed the main event of the season only once.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2016 18th (semi-final).

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2009 EYOF gold.
2011 EurU20Ch gold.
2012 EurCh 7th (heats).
2013 WCh 17th (semi-final). EurIndoorCh 8th 60 m hurdles.
2014 EurCh 17th (heats). WIndoorCh 25th 60 m hurdles.
2015 WCh 24th (heats). EurIndoorCh 6th 60 m hurdles.
2016 EurCh 14th (semi-final).
2018 EurCh 9th (semi-final).
2019 WCh 14th (semi-final). EurIndoorCh 6th 60 m hurdles.
2021 EurIndoorCh 4th 60 m hurdles.

PERSONAL BEST:

WILMA MURTO

In 2016 Wilma Murto cleared the bar at 4.71 metres at an indoor meet in Germany and set a world U20 record that still exists. That year she also made her Olympic debut in Rio and finished seventh at the European Championships in Amsterdam, which still counts as her best achievement at senior level. This year has seen Wilma return to the fore after several troubled seasons. She placed sixth at the European Indoor Championships in Toruń and earned a place at her second Olympic Games by improving her outdoor personal best to 4.62 metres in June.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2016 24th.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2016 EurCh 7th. WU20Ch bronze.
2017 EurIndoorCh 8th. EurU20Ch bronze.
2018 EurCh 17th.
2019 WCh 22nd. EurIndoorCh 18th. EurU23Ch 5th.
2021 EurIndoorCh 6th.

PERSONAL BEST:
Indoor: 471 (31 Jan 2016).

WILMA MURTO

CAMILLA RICHARDSSON

A long string of injuries and ailments has kept Camilla Richardsson mostly on the sidelines after the World Championships of 2019 in Doha, but she still earned enough ranking points for Olympic qualification. She was able to start training only in May Camilla’s best international result is fourth place at the European U23 Championships of 2016. Her coach Jukka Keskisalo won the European championships title in men’s 3000 metres steeplechase in 2006.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2016 24th.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2015 WCh 32nd (heats).
2016 EurCh 25th (heats).
2017 WCh 36th (heats).
2019 WCh 38th (heats).

PERSONAL BEST:
9:35.27 (24 Jul 2019).

100 m hurdles

Event:

Pole vault

Event:

Triple jump

Event:

100 m hurdles

Event:

3000 m steeplechase

Event:

Pole vault

Event:

100 m hurdles

Event:

3000 m steeplechase

Event:

Pole vault

Event:

100 m hurdles

Event:

3000 m steeplechase

Event:

Pole vault

Event:

100 m hurdles

Event:

3000 m steeplechase
Senni Salminen has been the revelation of the Finnish athletics scene in 2021. She made a national triple jump record of 14.51 in early June and improved her mark to 14.63 two weeks later. Tokyo will be Senni’s first major international championship at senior level. In junior ranks her best result was fifth place at the European U20 Championships of 2015. She won her first Finnish championship title in 2020 in long jump.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2021
EurIndoorCh 7th.

PERSONAL BEST:

Krista Tervo has heralded the recent rapid rise of women’s hammer throw in Finland. In June 2019 she became the first Finnish woman to break the 70-metre barrier. Krista reached the Olympic qualifying standard by improving her personal best to 72.92 metres. Her best international result so far is fourth place at the World U20 Championships in Bydgoszcz in 2016.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2018
EurCh 21st.

2019
WCh 21st.

PERSONAL BEST:
72.92 (2 Jul 2021).

Event: Triple jump

Event: Hammer throw

TEAM MANAGEMENT

Tuomo Salonen
Team leader

Petteri Jouste
Coach, sprints

Janne Ukonmaanaho
Coach, distance running

Tuomas Sallinen
Coach, jumps

Jarno Koivunen
Coach, pole vault

Kalle Lehmusvuori
Coach, hammer

Petteri Piironen
Coach, javelin

Matti Liimatainen
Coach, heptathlon

Veli-Matti Ranta
Coach, race walking

Jani Lehtinen
Coach, race walking

Valentin Kononen
Coach, race walking

MAIN PARTNERS OF OLYMPIC TEAM FINLAND

FINNAIR
Aava Virta
IC3PEAK

MAIN PARTNERS OF OLYMPIC TEAM FINLAND

FINNAIR
Aava Virta
IC3PEAK
Finnish badminton players have taken part at every Olympic tournament since Barcelona 1992, where badminton made its debut as an official Olympic sport. The best result so far is Ville Lång’s place in the top 16 in men’s singles in Beijing 2008.

KALLE KOLJONEN

Kalle Koljonen made history in May 2021 by winning Finland’s first individual badminton medal in the senior ranks. He took bronze in the European Championships in Kiev by beating Denmark’s Rasmus Gemke in the quarter-finals of men’s singles competition, and earned enough ranking points in the process to secure a ticket to his first ever Olympic tournament. Kalle is coached by four-time Olympian badminton player Anu Nieminen and Finland-based Indonesian expert Teguh Santoso.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2014 EurCh bronze team.
2017 WCh 33–64th.
2018 WCh 33–64th, EurCh 33–48th.
2019 WCh 33–64th.
2021 EurCh bronze.
Finland has a fair pedigree in the Olympic boxing ring. Finnish fighters have won two gold, one silver and twelve bronze medals over the years. The golden days are in distant past, however: Sten Suvio won the welterweight category in Berlin 1936 and Pentti Hämäläinen took the bantamweight (54 kg) title in Helsinki 1952. The latest Finnish medallist in men’s boxing has been Jyri Kjäll, who took bronze in the 63.5 category in Barcelona 1992. In Rio de Janeiro Mira Potkonen made history by becoming the first Finnish woman to win an Olympic boxing medal. Her bronze in the 60 kg category was in fact Finland’s only medal at the 2016 Olympic Games.

MIRA POTKONEN

Mira Potkonen shocked the boxing world by defeating Ireland’s famous Katie Taylor in the quarter-final bout of women’s 60 kg class in Rio de Janeiro 2016. In Finland she etched her name into history as the country’s only Olympic medallist from the Rio Games. During the last few years Mira has been a constant contender in women’s lightweight category and collected medals at every level. She won European Championship titles in 2018 and 2019 and took bronze at the World Championships of 2016 and 2019. She earned her ticket to Tokyo by virtue of her high ranking position. Her second Olympic tournament will also mark the end of her successful career in the ring.

Weight class:
60 kg

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2016 bronze (60 kg)

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS (all in 60 kg):
2010 EurUnionCh bronze
2011 EurCh 9-16th. EurUnionCh bronze
2012 WCh 17-32nd
2013 EurUnionCh bronze
2014 WCh 9-16th. EurCh 9-16th.
2015 European Games 9-16th
2016 WCh bronze. EurCh silver
2017 EurUnionCh gold
2018 WCh 5-8th. EurCh gold
2019 WCh bronze. EurCh gold. European Games gold

TEAM MANAGEMENT

Maarit Teuronen
Coach

Askar Sarsenbayev
Coach
The best Olympic results of Finnish equestrian sport are fifth places, by Hans Olof von Essen in eventing in Paris 1924 and three times by Kyra Kyrklund in dressage (1980, 1988 and 1992). Kyrklund finished her Olympic career in Hongkong 2008 after taking part in six Games. That could have been eight, but injuries to her horses forced her to withdraw in 2000 and 2004.

HENRI RUOSTE

* 1982
Club: Turun Seudun Ratsastajat
Horse: Kontestro DB

Henri Ruoste's high ranking points in 2019 earned Finland a quota place to the Olympic individual dressage competition. Henri finished fifteenth in GP Special at the European Championships in Rotterdam and qualified for the GP Freestyle final. In Rotterdam his horse was Rossetti, but in Tokyo he will ride his other Grand Prix level horse, the promising 11-year-old Belgian warmblood gelding Kontestro DB. After training in England under Finnish dressage legend Kyra Kyrklund Henri settled in Germany in 2011. He is married to German dressage rider Senta Kirchhoff. They own a stable and run a horse training business near Menden in western Germany.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2013
- EurCh 28th GP Special, 10th team.
2019
- EurCh 15th GP Special, 15th GP Freestyle, 13th team.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

Senta Kirchhoff
Coach

Edouard Adriaensen
Veterinarian

Sara Liljeström
Groom
Finland sends four golfers to the Olympic tournament in Tokyo, just as it did five years ago to Rio de Janeiro. Finnish golf began to develop only in the 1980s but has since made great strides. The first international achievement of note was Mikko Ilonen’s victory in the British Amateur Championship in 2000. In June 2021 Matilda Castrén became the first Finnish woman to win an event in the LPGA Tour.

**MEN**

**KALLE SAMOOJA**

Kalle Samooja gave up a promising football career at the age of 15 and decided to concentrate on golf. He was a member of the Finnish amateur national team for seven years before turning professional in 2010. In 2018 Kalle won the Hainan Open tournament and earned full playing rights to the European Tour, where his best results so far have been second places at the European Masters of 2019 and the Cyprus Open of 2020. This year has seen Kalle qualify for his first Major tournament, the U.S. PGA Championship, as well as to the Olympic golf tournament.

**Official World Golf Ranking:**
120 (27 June 2021)

**Best ranking:**
109 (9 May 2021)

**SAMI VÄLIMÄKI**

Sami Välimäki was one of the fastest risers in the world golf rankings in 2020. Playing his first full season on the European Tour he won the Oman Open tournament and finished second at the Wales Open. Sami ended the year with fifth place at the Dubai World Tour Championship and saw his name climb to number 68 in the official world ranking. He also won the Rookie of the Year award of the European Tour and finished second in the voting for Finnish Athlete of the Year 2020. Before turning professional Sami reached 10th place in the World Amateur Rankings and led Finland to surprise victory at the European Amateur Team Championships of 2018.

**Official World Golf Ranking:**
119 (27 June 2021)

**Best ranking:**
68 (17 Jan 2021)

**WOMEN**

**MATILDA CASTRÉN**

Matilda Castrén was born in New York and holds Finnish and American dual citizenship. She took up golf after her parents moved back to Finland. After playing in the Finnish amateur national team Matilda went to Florida State University and earned success in U.S. collegiate golf while studying for a degree in international affairs. Matilda turned professional in 2018 and played her first full season on the LPGA Tour in 2020. She is currently based in California. In June 2021 Matilda made history by winning the LPGA Mediheal Championship tournament in San Francisco and becoming the first ever Finnish player to win a title on the biggest circuit of women’s or men’s golf.

**Women’s World Golf Ranking:**
74 (28 June 2021)

**Best ranking:**
71 (14 June 2021)

**SANNA NUUTINEN**

Sanna Nuutinen led the Finnish women’s amateur golf team to World Championship bronze 2012 and two European Championship medals. She played golf at Texas Christian University and graduated with a degree in sport psychology before turning professional in 2014. Sanna’s best result on Ladies’ European Tour so far is second place at the Czech Open of 2019. She finished fifth in the final rankings and tenth on the money list of the LET in 2020.

**Women’s World Golf Ranking:**
232 (28 June 2021)

**Best ranking:**
232 (28 June 2021)
Finnish sailors have participated at every Olympic regatta since 1936. Finland has collected a total of eleven Olympic medals in sailing between 1912 and 2012: two gold, two silver and seven bronze. The two gold medals were won by Esko Rechardt in Finn class in 1980 and Thomas Johanson and Jyrki Järvi in 49er in 2000. Sailors won two of Finland’s three medals in London 2012: Tuuli Petäjä took silver in women’s RS:X sailboard class and the team of Silja Lehtinen, Silja Kanerva and Mikaela Wulff bronze in women’s match racing.

KAARLE TAPPER

Kaarle Tapper won medals in several sailing classes in his junior years before settling in Laser in 2013. He made his Olympic debut in Rio de Janeiro but real breakthrough came in 2018, when Kaarle finished twelfth at the World Championships and earned Finland an early quota place for Tokyo. Other good achievements that year were eighth place at the European Championships and fifth place at the World Cup final in Marseille. Kaarle comes from a sailing family: his father and brother have also competed at World Championship level.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2016 26th.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
(In Laser if not stated otherwise):
2010 WCh bronze Europe, WCh bronze Byte CII 10th, Byte 4th, Byte 6th.
2011 WJ70C; bronze Laser Radial.
2013 WCh 43rd, EurCh 31st.
2014 WCh 45th, EurCh 36th.
2015 WCh 59th, EurCh 35th.
2016 WCh 47th, EurCh 24th.
2017 WCh 27th, EurCh 35th.
2018 WCh 12th.
2019 WCh 19th.
2020 WCh 32nd.

Event: Laser

Tuuli Petäjä-Sirén was voted Finnish Athlete of the Year 2012 after winning silver at the Olympic regatta in Weymouth. She has been a constant performer in the RS:X class for the past decade and missed major events only when giving birth to her two daughters. Tokyo will be her fourth and last Olympic Games, as RS:X will be replaced by another sailboard class in Paris 2024. On dry land Tuuli is an architect who specializes in sea-inspired wooden cottages.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2008 16th.
2012 silver.
2016 10th.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2006 WCh 50th.
2007 WCh 32nd, EurCh 31st.
2008 WCh 34th, EurCh 12th.
2009 WCh 30th.
2010 WCh 35th, EurCh 19th.
2011 WCh 16th.
2012 WCh 11th.
2013 WCh 4th.
2014 WCh 15th, EurCh 7th.
2015 WCh 28th, EurCh 16th.
2016 WCh 32nd, EurCh 12th.
2017 WCh 21st, EurCh 10th.
2018 WCh 47th.
2019 WCh 26th.
2020 WCh 23rd.
2021 WCh 13th.

Event: RS:X

Tuula Tenkanen made her Olympic debut in 2008 at the Beijing Games after winning the World Junior Championship title in the previous year. She is nowadays an experienced performer in the Laser Radial class, with World Championship silver of 2013 and two European Championship bronze medals under her belt. Her fifth place in Rio de Janeiro 2016 was the second best result of the entire Finnish Olympic team. Postponement of the Tokyo Games has allowed Tuula to finish her studies in biochemistry while training for her third and possibly last Olympic regatta.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2008 22nd.
2016 5th.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2007 WJunCh gold, EurCh 32nd.
2008 WCh 12th, EurCh 34th.
2009 WCh 40th, EurCh 27th.
2010 WCh 10th, EurCh 13th.
2011 WCh 11th, EurCh 23rd.
2012 WCh 12th, EurCh 13th.
2013 WCh silver, EurCh 5th.
2014 WCh 4th, EurCh 6th.
2015 WCh 4th, EurCh bronze.
2016 EurCh bronze.
2017 WCh 15th, EurCh 5th.
2018 WCh 14th, EurCh 6th.
2019 WCh 8th, EurCh 6th.
2020 WCh 19th.

Event: Laser Radial

MEN

TUULA TENKANEN

WOMEN

Tuuli Petäjä-Sirén

Tuula Tenkanen

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2008 16th.
2012 silver.
2016 10th.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2006 WCh 50th.
2007 WCh 32nd, EurCh 31st.
2008 WCh 34th, EurCh 12th.
2009 WCh 30th.
2010 WCh 35th, EurCh 19th.
2011 WCh 16th.
2012 WCh 11th.
2013 WCh 4th.
2014 WCh 15th, EurCh 7th.
2015 WCh 28th, EurCh 16th.
2016 WCh 32nd, EurCh 12th.
2017 WCh 21st, EurCh 10th.
2018 WCh 47th.
2019 WCh 26th.
2020 WCh 23rd.
2021 WCh 13th.

Event: Laser Radial

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2008 22nd.
2016 5th.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2007 WJunCh gold, EurCh 32nd.
2008 WCh 12th, EurCh 34th.
2009 WCh 40th, EurCh 27th.
2010 WCh 10th, EurCh 13th.
2011 WCh 11th, EurCh 23rd.
2012 WCh 12th, EurCh 13th.
2013 WCh silver, EurCh 5th.
2014 WCh 4th, EurCh 6th.
2015 WCh 4th, EurCh bronze.
2016 EurCh bronze.
2017 WCh 15th, EurCh 5th.
2018 WCh 14th, EurCh 6th.
2019 WCh 8th, EurCh 6th.
2020 WCh 19th.
SINEM KURTBAY

Sinem Kurtbay took up sailing at the age of seven when she was living in her father’s home city Istanbul. She was a member of the Turkish junior national team in the Optimist class before her family moved to Finland, her mother’s home country. Sinem hoped to win a ticket for the Rio Games in the 49er FX class with Silja Kanerva, Olympic Match racing medalist from 2012, but she was injured just before the final qualifiers. Her next project as skipper in the mixed Nacra 17 class has been more successful, and in March 2021 the crew clinched an Olympic quota place in the last qualifying regatta in Lanzarote.

ACHIEVEMENTS
(In Nacra 17 unless stated otherwise):
2013 WCh 17th 49er FX
(with Silja Kanerva).
2014 WCh 20th; EurCh 23rd 49er FX
(with Silja Kanerva).
2015 WCh 33rd; EurCh 13th 49er FX
(with Silja Kanerva).
2016 WCh 23rd 49er FX
(with Silja Kanerva).
2017 WCh 28th; EurCh 16th
(with Janne Järvinen).
2018 WCh 19th; EurCh 9th
(with Janne Järvinen).
2019 WCh 27th; EurCh 8th
(with Akseli Keskinen).
2020 WCh 9th (with Akseli Keskinen).

TEAM MANAGEMENT

Joakim Wilenius
Team leader
Jonathan Emmett
Coach
Borja Carracedo
Coach
Kyle Langford
Coach
Martin Gahmberg
Meteorologist

AKSIEL KESKINEN

Akseli Keskinen used to practice wrestling in his junior years before he decided to concentrate on sailing. He competed mainly in Lightning and 49er before joining the Olympic Nacra 17 project skippered by Sinem Kurtbay in 2018. Their best result together so far has been ninth place at the World Championships in February 2020. In the previous year Kurtbay and Keskinen finished ninth in a World Cup race on future Olympic waters in Enoshima. Unusually for Finnish Olympic sailors, Akseli does not hail from seaside but from the inland waters of Lake Tuusulanjärvi.

ACHIEVEMENTS
(In Nacra 17 unless stated otherwise):
2014 WJunCh 14th 29er
(with Juho Kotiranta).
2019 WCh 27th; EurCh 8th
(with Sinem Kurtbay).
2020 WCh 9th (with Sinem Kurtbay).
Finnish shooters have taken part at every Olympic Games since London 1908 and won a total of 21 medals. Shooting has been Finland’s most successful Olympic sport in the 21st century: In Sydney 2000 Juha Hirvi won silver in 50 m rifle three positions event, and in Athens 2004 Marko Kemppainen took silver in men’s skeet after losing the gold in a two-man shoot-off. In Beijing 2008 Satu Mäkelä-Nummela won gold in women’s trap and Henri Hukkinen bronze in men’s air rifle. Two of Finland’s four Olympic gold medals in shooting came at the Tokyo Games of 1964, where Väinö Markkanen won the 50 m pistol event and Pentti Linnosvuo took gold in the 25 m rapid-fire pistol competition.

**EETU KALLIOINEN**

Eetu Kallioinen made his debut in the Finnish national skeet team in 2019 after a successful career in the junior ranks. In May 2021 he took his first senior medal, bronze at the European Championships in Osijek, Croatia, earning Finland a second quota place for the Olympic skeet competition. One of Eetu’s rivals in tough domestic competition among Finnish skeet shooters for the tickets to Tokyo was his own coach Timo Laitinen, who participated at the Sydney Games of 2000. Eetu works as a non-commissioned officer at the Finnish Defence Forces Sports School in Helsinki.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**
- 2015 WJunCh 5th, EurJunCh silver.
- 2017 WJunCh 8th.
- 2018 WJunCh 10th, EurJunCh 5th.
- 2019 WCh 19th, 16th team, EurCh 47th, 9th team, 12th mixed pairs.
- 2021 EurCh bronze, 8th team, 10th mixed pairs.

**PERSONAL BEST:**
- 124 (17 Sep 2015)

**LARI PESONEN**

Lari Pesonen caused a surprise by earning Finland an Olympic quota place in men’s skeet with his fifth place in the World Cup competition in Changwon, South Korea in 2019. His best previous individual result had been fifth place at the World Student Championships of 2018. Lari had to wait for confirmation of his trip to Tokyo until May 2021, when Eetu Kallioinen gained another Olympic ticket for himself.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**
- 2015 WJunCh silver team.
- 2019 WCh 96th, 16th team.

**PERSONAL BEST:**
- 124 (17 Aug 2016)

**TEAM MANAGEMENT**

Pietro Genga
Coach

Kimmo Yli-Jaskari
Coach

**SHOOTING**

**EVENTS**

**WOMEN**

**SKEET**

**SATU MÄKELÄ-NUMMELA**

Satu Mäkelä-Nummela is the only Olympic champion from previous Games in the Finnish team in Tokyo. Gold medal in women’s trap in Beijing 2008 marks the middle point of a very long international career. Satu took her first major medal, World Championship bronze, back in 1995 and the latest one, European Championship bronze, in 2017. She has scored several world records, the latest of which, qualification result of 123 made in Acapulco in 2019, is still valid. Satu earned the ticket to her fourth Olympic Games by finishing second in the World Cup event in Finland in 2019. She will thus beat the family record of her husband Matti Nummela, who participated in three Olympic Games in trap between 1984 and 1992.

**PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:**
- 2008 gold.
- 2012 7th.
- 2016 10th.

**OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**
(In trap unless stated otherwise):
- 1993 EurCh 20th.
- 1994 WCh 13th double trap.
- EurCh 8th double trap.
- 1995 WCh bronze, EurCh 5th.
- 1996 EurCh 5th, 13th double trap.
- 1997 EurCh 18th.
- 1998 WCh 29th, EurCh 7th.
- 1999 EurCh 19th, EurCh 30th.
- 2002 WCh 36th.
- 2003 WCh 43rd, 22nd double trap.
- EurCh 14th, 10th double trap.
- 2004 EurCh 6th, 5th double trap.
- 2005 WCh 20th, 20th double trap.
- EurCh 8th.
- 2006 WCh 36th, EurCh 10th.
- 2007 WCh 28th, EurCh 10th.
- 2008 EurCh 9th.
- 2009 WCh bronze, EurCh 9th.
- 2010 WCh 25th, EurCh 4th.
- 2011 WCh 26th, EurCh 11th.
- 2012 EurCh 10th.
- 2013 WCh 26th, EurCh 10th.
- 2014 WCh 17th, EurCh 11th.
- 2015 WCh 30th, EurCh 8th.
- 2016 EurCh 10th.
- 2017 WCh 18th, 13th mixed pairs.
- EurCh bronze, 18th mixed pairs.
- 2018 WCh 17th, 40th mixed pairs.
- EurCh 8th, 6th mixed pairs.
- 2019 WCh 27th, 28th mixed pairs.
- EurCh 8th, 5th mixed pairs.
- 2021 EurCh 18th.

**PERSONAL BEST:**
- 123 WR (18 Mar 2019)
Skateboarding has been a popular hobby and lifestyle for young people in Finland as elsewhere since the 1990’s, but as a competitive sport it has not yet developed far. The Finnish national skateboarding team was first founded in 2019. On the other hand, Finland has been very successful in its sister sport snowboarding ever since its inclusion into the Olympic Winter Games in 1998.

**LIZZIE ARMANTO**

In January 2019 Finnish sports fans learned to their surprise that they will have a medal contender in the first ever Olympic skateboarding competitions: Lizzie Armanto announced that she wants to represent her father’s home country at the Tokyo Games. Lizzie was born to a Finnish father and an American mother of Filipino descent in California, where she has lived all her life. She collected three overall titles in the World Cup of Skateboarding between 2010 and 2012 and won the Park event at the X Games in Barcelona in 2013. Lizzie earned her ticket to Tokyo by placing fifth in Olympic ranking in women’s Park.

**Event:**

- **Park**

**Achievements (World Skate):**

- 2019 WCh 5th Park
MEN

ARI-PEKKA LIUKKONEN

Ari-Pekka Liukkonen’s long career in the shortest swimming event finally came to fruition May 2021 when he sprinted to gold medal at the European Championships in Budapest. He swam in his first European long course final in 2012 and won his first medal, bronze, in 2014. At World Championships Ari-Pekka’s best result is sixth place in 2017 Towering at 2.08 metres, Ari-Pekka is Finland’s tallest Olympic athlete of all time. He was recently re-elected to the municipal council of his home town Jyväskylä.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2012 25th 50m free.
2016 24th 50m free, 42nd 100m free.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2009 EurShCh 19th 100m free, 25th 50m breaststroke, 38th 100m medley, 49th 50m butterfly, 7th 4x50m free, 14th 4x50m medley
2010 EurCh 12th 50m free, 47th 50m breaststroke, 50th 100m free, 51st 50m butterfly, 59th 100m breaststroke, 12th 4x100m free EurShCh 6th 50m free, 8th 100m free, 25th 50m backstroke, 46th 200m free.
2011 WCh 27th 50m free, EurShCh 9th 50m free, 13th 100m free, 30th 100m medley, 35th 50m breaststroke
2012 EurCh 4th 50m free, 28th 50m butterfly, 33rd 100m free, 34th 50m breaststroke, 43rd 50m backstroke, EurShCh 14th 50m free, 45th 100m free, 38th 50m breaststroke, 4th 4x50m free, 4th 4x50m medley bronze 4x50m mixed medley, 10th 4x50m mixed medley.
2013 WCh 19th 50m free, EurShCh 7th 50m free, 36th 100m free, 37th 50m breaststroke, 53rd 50m butterfly, 7th 4x50m free.
2014 EurCh bronze 50m free, 38th 100m free, 30th 50m breaststroke, 54th 50m butterfly, 7th 4x50m mixed medley WShCh 19th 50m free, 27th 50m breaststroke, 44th 100m breaststroke.
2015 WCh 22nd 50m free, 48th 100m free, 11th 4x100m mixed medley EurShCh 6th 50m free, 33rd 100m free, 19th 50m breaststroke, 5th 4x50m free, 9th 4x50m medley, 5th 4x50m mixed free, 6th 4x50m mixed medley.
2016 EurCh 5th 50m free, 39th 100m free, WShCh 5th 50m free, 35th 50m breaststroke, 38th 100m breaststroke, 10th 4x100m free, 10th 4x50m mixed medley.
2017 WCh 6th 50m free, 40th 100m free, 21st 50m breaststroke, EurShCh 11th 50m free, 62nd 100m free, 27th 50m breaststroke, 9th 4x50 m free, 8th 4x50m medley, 6th 4x50m mixed free, 7th 4x50m mixed medley.
2018 EurCh 7th 50m free, 73rd 100m free, 40th 50m breaststroke, 53rd 100m breaststroke, 45th 50m butterfly, WShCh 21st 50m free, 38th 50m breaststroke, 8th 4x50m mixed free, 8th 4x50 mixed medley.
2019 WCh 21st 50m free, 44th 100m free, 43rd 50 m breaststroke, EurShCh 12th 50m free, 35th 100m free, 33rd 50m breaststroke, 9th 4x50m free, 9th 4x50m mixed free, 6th 4x50 mixed medley.
2020 EurCh gold 50m free, 53rd 100m free, 35th 50m breaststroke, 51st 100m breaststroke.

PERSONAL BESTS:
50m freestyle: 21.58 (2017)

MATTI MATTSSON

Matti Mattsson has made an impressive return to the world breaststroke elite in 2021 after years in the doldrums. He finished fourth in 200 metres at the European Championships in Budapest in May and improved the Finnish record he had set when he won a sensational bronze medal at the World Championships of 2013 in Barcelona. Matti was the best Finnish male swimmer at the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, but for many years he suffered from recurring health problems due to dietary malfunctions, which have now been cured.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2012 17th 200m breaststroke.
2016 16th 200m breaststroke, 38th 100m breaststroke.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:
2011 EurJunCh silver 200 m breaststroke, 7th 100m breaststroke, 15th 50m breaststroke.
2013 WCh bronze 200m breaststroke.
2014 EurCh 10th 200m breaststroke, 39th 100m breaststroke, 33rd 50m breaststroke.
2015 WCh 12th 200m breaststroke, 30th 100m breaststroke.
2016 EurCh 5th 200m breaststroke, 11th 100m breaststroke.
2017 WCh 22nd 200m breaststroke, 36th 100m breaststroke.
2018 EurCh 9th 200m breaststroke.
2019 WCh 3rd 200m breaststroke.
2020 EurCh 12th 200m breaststroke, 30th 100m breaststroke, 32nd 50m breaststroke.
2021 EurCh 4th 200m breaststroke, 13th 100m breaststroke.

PERSONAL BESTS:
100m breaststroke 59.99 (17 May 2021)
200m breaststroke 2:08.26 (19 May 2021)

SWIMMING

Finland has sent swimmers to every Olympic Games since London 1908. The first Finnish swimmer to win an Olympic medal was Arvo Altonen, who took bronze in both 200 and 400 metres breaststroke in Antwerp 1920. For its next Olympic medal Finland had to wait 72 years, until Antti Kasvio won bronze in men’s 200 metres freestyle in Barcelona 1992. Four years later in Atlanta Jani Sievinen took silver in mens 200 metres medley. In women's swimming Finland's best Olympic achievements so far are four places by Eija Pyrhönen in 100 metres butterfly in Tokyo 1964 and by Hanna-Maria Seppälä in 100 metres freestyle in Beijing 2008.
Ida Hulkko has made giant strides towards the world breaststroke elite in recent years. She qualified for her first European Championship final in 2018 and won her first major medal, European Championship silver in 50 metres, in Budapest in May 2021. In the Olympic 100-metre event her best result so far is tenth place at the European Championships. Ida’s father is the commander of the Finnish Army and she may embark on a military career herself in the future.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2017 EurShCh 10th 50m breaststroke, 23rd 100m breaststroke, 33rd 200m breaststroke.
2018 EurCh 5th 50m breaststroke, 12th 100m breaststroke, 44th 50m free. W5ShCh 8th 50m breaststroke, 19th 100m breaststroke.
2019 WCh 8th 50m breaststroke, 19th 100m breaststroke. 18th 4x100m medley. EurShCh 8th 50m breaststroke, 10th 100m breaststroke. 6th 8x50m mixed medley.
2021 EurCh silver 50m breaststroke, 10th 100m breaststroke. 50th 50m free, 7th 4x100m medley.

PERSONAL BEST:
100 m breaststroke: 1:06.73 (18 May 2021).

Mimosa Jallow won the first individual medal of her career in 2018 by finishing third in 50 metres backstroke at the European Championships in Glasgow. Two days later she made her personal best of 1:00.28 in 100 metres. Mimosa is a versatile swimmer: backstroke is her best discipline but she has regularly taken part in butterfly and freestyle sprint events as well at major championships. Her father hails from Gambia.

PREVIOUS OLYMPIC GAMES:
2016 EurCh 24th 50m free, 6th 50m backstroke, 11th 100m backstroke. 19th 50m butterfly, 8th 4x100m free, bronze 4x100m medley.
2017 WCh 25th 50m free, 13th 50m backstroke, 23rd 100m backstroke, 27th 50m butterfly. 11th 4x100m medley. EurShCh 8th 50m free, 12th 50m backstroke, 9th 50m butterfly, 9th 4x50m free, 8th 4x50m medley, 6th 4x50m mixed free, 7th 4x100m mixed medley.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2012 EurCh 29th 50m backstroke, 34th 100m backstroke.
2013 EurShCh 37th 50m free, 33rd 50m backstroke, 29th 100m backstroke. 11th 4x50m free. 2014 EurCh 34th 50m free, 13th 50m backstroke, 14th 100m backstroke, 6th 4x100m free, 13th 4x100m medley, 7th 4x50m mixed medley. W5ShCh 25th 50m backstroke, 31st 100m backstroke, 6th 4x100m medley.
2015 WCh 23rd 100m backstroke, dq heats 50m backstroke, 13th 4x100m medley, dq heats 4x100m free.
2016 EurCh 19th 50m free, bronze 50m backstroke, 14th 100m backstroke. 9th 50m butterfly. WShCh 17th 50m free, 25th 100m free, 19th 50m backstroke, 13th 100m backstroke, 12th 50m butterfly, 8th 4x50m mixed free, 8th 4x50m mixed medley.
2017 WCh 29th 50m free, 14th 50m backstroke, 26th 100m backstroke, 20th 50m butterfly. 19th 4x100m medley. 2018 EurCh 31st 50m free, 7th 50m backstroke, 16th 100m backstroke, 7th 4x100m medley.

PERSONAL BEST:
100 m backstroke: 1:00.28 (6 Aug 2018).
Fanny Teijonsalo made her debut in the Finnish national swimming team in 2015. She spent four years in the U.S. college scene at Florida Gulf Coast and Arizona State, but her results began to really improve when she returned to Finland in 2020 and joined coach Marko Malvela’s team in Jyväskylä. Her focus shifted from butterfly to freestyle at the same time. In May 2021 Fanny finished tenth in 50 metres freestyle at the European Championships in Budapest, and one week later she achieved the qualifying standard of 24.77 to earn a ticket to her first Olympic Games.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2015 WCh 36th 50m butterfly, dq heats 4x100m free EurShCh 45th 50m free, 18th 100m backstroke, 18th 50m butterfly 25th 100m butterfly 13th 100m medley, 7th 4x50m free, 5th 4x50m medley 2016 EurCh 48th 50m free, 62nd 100m free, 18th 50m backstroke, 37th 50m butterfly, 35th 100m butterfly, 8th 4x100m free WCh 39th 100m backstroke 25th 100m butterfly, 34th 100m butterfly, 15th 100m medley, 12th 4x50m medley, 10th 4x50m mixed medley 2019 EurShCh 40th 50m free, 28th 100m free, 25th 50m butterfly, 16th 100m butterfly, 12th 4x50m free, 7th 4x50m medley, 9th 4x50m mixed free, 2021 EurCh 10th 50m free, 16th 100m free, 22nd 50m backstroke, 26th 100m backstroke, 7th 4x100m medley.

PERSONAL BEST:
50 m freestyle: 24.77 (29 May 2021).
Wrestling is second to only track and field athletics as the most successful summer sport in Finnish Olympic history. The first Finnish Olympic champion in any sport was the wrestler Verner Weckman who won gold at the Intercalated Games in Athens 1906 and in London 1908. Over the years Finland has won a total of 83 Olympic medals in wrestling, the most recent of which was Marko Yli-Hannukela’s silver in Athens 2004. The latest Finnish gold medal was won by Jouko Salomäki in Los Angeles 1984.

WRESTLING

ELIAS KUOSMANEN

Elias Kuosmanen has been Finland’s most successful male wrestler at senior championships for the past few years. He won bronze in the 97 kg category at the European Championships in Kaspiysk in 2018 and repeat the feat in Bucharest in the following year. In early 2021 Elias lost the domestic throne of his weight class to Arvi Savolainen. Undeterred, he moved up to the 130 kg class and conquered a ticket to Tokyo in the last Olympic qualification tournament in Sofia by beating much heavier opponents. Elias has indicated that his move to the heaviest division will be permanent in the long run.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2011 WU17Ch gold 85 kg.
2012 WU17Ch bronze 85 kg.
2016 EurCh 10th 98 kg.
2017 WCh 15th 98 kg.
2018 WCh 19th 97 kg.
2019 WCh 11th 97 kg.
2020 EurCh 5th 97 kg.

ARVISAVOLAINEN

Winner of almost all World and European junior titles, Arvi Savolainen has long been vaunted as Finland’s brightest wrestling prospect. The only problem was that the sole representative’s spot in the 97 kg class belonged to Elias Kuosmanen. Arvi had to make his senior international debut in 2020 in the 130 kg category and placed fifth at the European Championships. In 2021 Arvi turned the tables, unseated Kuosmanen and went on to win the Olympic qualification tournament in Budapest in March. Arvi and Elias are training partners and work together as noncommissioned officers at the Defence Forces Sports School in Helsinki.

ACHIEVEMENTS:
2015 WU17Ch bronze 85 kg.
2017 WU20Ch bronze 96 kg.
2018 WU20Ch gold 97 kg.
2019 WU23Ch gold 97 kg.
2020 EurCh 5th 130 kg.
2021 EurCh 8th 97 kg.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

Juha Lappalainen
Coach
Marko Yli-Hannukela
Coach
ABBREVIATIONS

WCh  World Championships
EurCh  European Championships
WJunCh  World Junior Championships
EurJunCh  European Junior Championships
WShCh  World Short Course Championships (swimming)
EurShCh  European Short Course Championships (swimming)
EYOF  European Youth Olympic Festival
dnf  Did not finish
dnq  Did not qualify
dns  Did not start
dq  Disqualified
qf  Quarter-final
sf  Semi-final
rnd  Round

NOTES

Achievement statistics include all results at previous Olympic Games as well as at World and European Championships at senior level. Also included are medal achievements at World and European Junior Championships.

All statistics up to date on 8 July 2021.
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### FINNISH MEDALS AT OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES

#### BY GAMES

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*Note: Athens 1906 (not included in totals).*

### BY SPORTS

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>86</strong></td>
<td><strong>118</strong></td>
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</table>

*Note: Antwerp 1920 (Winter Games sport since 1924).*
FINNISH MEDALLISTS AT OLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES

1906
- Discus throw: Ancient style
  - Verner Järvinen
- Greco-Roman wrestling 85 kg
  - Verner Weckman
- Greco-Roman wrestling, open class
  - Verner Weckman
- Discus throw
  - Verner Järvinen

1908
- Greco-Roman wrestling 93 kg
  - Verner Weckman
- Cross-country race
  - Ville Ritola
- Javelin throw
  - Tölli Saarila
- Discus throw, Ancient style
  - Verner Järvinen
- Greco-Roman wrestling 86.6 kg
  - Arni Lindén

1912
- Gymnastics, team competition

1920
- 5000 m
  - Kaarlo Mäkinen
- Cross-country race
  - Armas Taipale
- Javelin throw
  - Urho Peltonen
- Greco-Roman wrestling 80 kg
  - Heikki Kähkönen
- Greco-Roman wrestling over 82.5 kg
  - Emil Väre

1924
- Discus throw
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Shot put
  - Elmer Niklander
- Discus throw
  - Armas Taipale
- Javelin throw
  - Urho Peltonen
- Greco-Roman wrestling 75 kg
  - Arthur Lindfors
- Greco-Roman wrestling 82.5 kg
  - Edith Rosenqvist
- Freestyle wrestling 75 kg
  - Väinö Penttala
- Cross-country race, team competition
  - Robert Tikkanen, Nestori Toivonen, Magnus Vesikari, Kaare K. Lappalainen, Yrjö Koho
- Cross-country race
  - Heikki Lumalainen
- Javelin throw
  - Paavo Johansson
- Pentathlon (athletics)
  - Hugo Lahtinen
- Swimming, 200 m breaststroke
  - Arvo Aaltonen
- Swimming, 400 m breaststroke
  - Arvo Aaltonen
- Greco-Roman wrestling 75 kg
  - Matti Pettillä
- Greco-Roman wrestling over 82.5 kg
  - Martti Nieminen
- Shooting, military rifle, 300 m prone, team
  - Väinö Vauhkonen, Kaare K. Lappalainen, Veeti Nieminen, Magnus Vesikari, Väinö Koho
- Shooting, running deer double shots, team
  - Robert Tikkanen, Nestori Toivonen, Yrjö Koho, Väinö Vauhkonen

1928
- 5000 m
  - Paavo Nurmi
- 1500 m
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Marathon
  - Alpo Asikainen
- 3000 m steeplechase
  - Ville Ritola
- Cross-country race
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Cross-country race, team competition
  - Paavo Nurmi, Ville Ritola, Heikki Lumalainen
- 3000 m team race
  - Paavo Nurmi, Ville Ritola, Elias Katzf
- Javelin throw
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Pentathlon (athletics)
  - Eero Lehtonen
- Greco-Roman wrestling 62 kg
  - Oskar Friman
- Greco-Roman wrestling 87.5 kg
  - Edvard Westerlund
- Freestyle wrestling 68 kg
  - Kustaa Piiramäki
- 5000 m
  - Ville Ritola
- 400 m hurdles
  - Erik Välik
- 3000 m steeplechase
  - Elias Katzf
- Cross-country race
  - Ville Ritola
- Discus throw
  - Väinö Vauhkonen
- Greco-Roman wrestling 75 kg
  - Airiaali Althin
- Greco-Roman wrestling 52 kg
  - Aksalan Tarvila
- Greco-Roman wrestling 75 kg
  - Arthur Lindfors
- Greco-Roman wrestling over 82.5 kg
  - Edith Rosenqvist
- Freestyle wrestling 68 kg
  - Väinö Vesikari

1932
- 5000 m
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Marathon
  - Paavo Nurmi
- 10,000 m
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Discus throw
  - Armas Taipale
- Shot put
  - Elmer Niklander
- Cross-country race
  - Väinö Penttala
- Javelin throw
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Greco-Roman wrestling 75 kg
  - Arthur Lindfors
- Greco-Roman wrestling 82.5 kg
  - Edith Rosenqvist
- Freestyle wrestling 75 kg
  - Väinö Penttala
- Shooting, running deer single shots, team
  - Robert Tikkanen, Nestori Toivonen, Magnus Vesikari, Kaare K. Lappalainen, Yrjö Koho

1936
- 5000 m
  - Paavo Nurmi
- 1500 m
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Marathon
  - Alpo Asikainen
- 3000 m steeplechase
  - Ville Ritola
- Cross-country race
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Cross-country race, team competition
  - Paavo Nurmi, Ville Ritola, Heikki Lumalainen
- 3000 m team race
  - Paavo Nurmi, Ville Ritola, Elias Katzf
- Javelin throw
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Pentathlon (athletics)
  - Eero Lehtonen
- Greco-Roman wrestling 62 kg
  - Oskar Friman
- Greco-Roman wrestling 87.5 kg
  - Edvard Westerlund
- Freestyle wrestling 68 kg
  - Kustaa Piiramäki
- 5000 m
  - Ville Ritola
- 400 m hurdles
  - Erik Välik
- 3000 m steeplechase
  - Elias Katzf
- Cross-country race
  - Ville Ritola
- Discus throw
  - Väinö Vauhkonen
- Greco-Roman wrestling 75 kg
  - Airiaali Althin
- Greco-Roman wrestling 52 kg
  - Aksalan Tarvila
- Greco-Roman wrestling 75 kg
  - Arthur Lindfors
- Greco-Roman wrestling over 82.5 kg
  - Edith Rosenqvist
- Freestyle wrestling 68 kg
  - Väinö Vesikari

1940
- 5000 m
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Marathon
  - Paavo Nurmi
- 10,000 m
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Discus throw
  - Armas Taipale
- Shot put
  - Elmer Niklander
- Cross-country race
  - Väinö Penttala
- Javelin throw
  - Paavo Nurmi
- Greco-Roman wrestling 75 kg
  - Arthur Lindfors
- Greco-Roman wrestling 82.5 kg
  - Edith Rosenqvist
- Freestyle wrestling 75 kg
  - Väinö Penttala
- Shooting, running deer single shots, team
  - Robert Tikkanen, Nestori Toivonen, Magnus Vesikari, Kaare K. Lappalainen, Yrjö Koho
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gymnastic, all-around</td>
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<tr>
<td>competition</td>
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<td>Sailing, 12 foot dinghy</td>
<td>Ilmari Niemeläinen, Paavo Aaltonen, Kalevi Laitinen, Heikki Savolainen, Olaai Rove, Ale Saanaa, Eino Tukiainen, Kaisa Parviainen, Martti Uosikkinen, Pentti Hämäläinen, Tapio Rautavaara, Bruno Ahlberg</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Olympic Daily Competition Schedule V5.00

### Venues
- Olympic Stadium
- Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium
- Yoyogi National Stadium
- Nippon Budokan
- Imperial Palace Garden
- Tokyo International Forum
- Kokugikan Arena
- Equestrian Park
- Musashino Forest Sport Plaza
- Tokyo Stadium
- Musashinonomori Park
- Ariake Arena
- Ariake Gymnastics Centre
- Ariake Urban Sports Park
- Ariake Tennis Park
- Odaiba Marine Park

### Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Details</th>
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<td>Olympic Stadium</td>
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<td>Swimming</td>
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<td>27 Jul 2021</td>
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<td>Judo</td>
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*The schedule is subject to amendments up until the conclusion of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.*

**Note:**
- *Surfing Festival will be held from Day 2 to Day 9. Starting from 26 July, the schedule will be dependent on the wave conditions.*