

# The Invictus Games

The Invictus Games is a sporting competition which started in London in 2014. It was started by Prince Harry after he had seen something similar in America called The Warrior Games. The special thing about the Invictus Games is that all the competitors are men and women who have been injured or disabled in some way as a result of being in the armed forces (army, navy or air force).

## What is 'Invictus'?

The word 'Invictus' means 'unconquered'. This title was chosen because the competitors have faced life-changing injuries but they have not let these injuries hold them back. In fact, many of these competitors have achieved fantastic things at the games. The aims behind the Invictus Games is to shine a light on the spirit of these people, not to feel sorry for them and to recognise what they have given to us when they were serving their country.

## What Happens at the Games?

The first Invictus Games was in London in September 2014. Over four days, 400 competitors from 13 countries took part. This was only two years after the London Olympics thousands of people came to watch at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The Invictus Games are very much like the Paralympics and include events such as: athletics (running, jumping and throwing), archery, indoor rowing, golf, sledge hockey, powerlifting, road cycling, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and a driving challenge.

Also, very much like the Olympics and Paralympics, there are opening and closing ceremonies as well as gold, silver and bronze medals for winners and runners up. And...of course Prince Harry is there to make a speech and oversee the games.

## What about the Future?

There is a group called 'The Invictus Foundation' who are in charge of making sure the games grow, develop and continue. There have already been two Games – London 2014 and Orlando 2016. The next Invictus Games will be in Toronto, Canada in 2017 and there are already plans to take it to other countries after that. The Invictus Games has already grown and developed since Prince Harry's idea in 2013, London 2014 was a success and 2017's games will see 600 competitors from 16 countries. Long may the games continue to grow and thrive.

You can find out more at: <https://invictusgamesfoundation.org> and [www.invictusgames2017.com](http://www.invictusgames2017.com)

### Fact File

- The motto for the Games is "I AM," which shows that a person can be ill or injured but still be undefeatable.
- In 2013 Prince Harry walked across Antarctica to also raise awareness for wounded soldiers.
- Harry was in the British Army himself for ten years including being in Afghanistan.

The logo for the Invictus Games, featuring the words "INVICTUS" and "GAMES" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters "I", "A", and "M" in "GAMES" are highlighted in yellow, while the rest of the text is grey. The logo is set against a black background.

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## Questions

1. What does the word 'Invictus' mean?
2. Which people compete in the games?
3. What is the motto for the games?
4. Why has the author used brackets in paragraph one?
5. What gave Prince Harry the idea to start the games?
6. What is the name of the group in charge of the games and making it grow?
7. What does the word 'thrive' mean in the final paragraph?
8. Why do you think Prince Harry want to help these people who compete?
9. Name three sports that are in the games?
10. Should we feel sorry for the competitors? And why?

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# The Invictus Games Answers

## Questions

1. What does the word 'Invictus' mean?

It means 'unconquered'.

2. Which people compete in the games?

Injured service men and women.

3. What is the motto for the games?

I AM.

4. Why has the author used brackets in paragraph one?

To explain which organisations are in the armed forces in case you don't know.

5. What gave Prince Harry the idea to start the games?

He saw the Warrior Games (in America).

6. What is the name of the group in charge of the games and making it grow?

The Invictus Foundation

7. What does the word 'thrive' mean in the final paragraph?

It means: flourish or to grow or develop well.

8. Why do you think Prince Harry want to help these people who compete?

He was in the armed forces himself and has been close to people like this.

9. Name three sports that are in the games?

Any three from: Athletics (running, jumping and throwing), Archery, Indoor rowing, golf, sledge hockey, Powerlifting, Road cycling, Sitting volleyball, Swimming, Wheelchair basketball, Wheelchair rugby.

10. Should we feel sorry for the competitors? And why?

Discuss: No. The games are about overcoming injuries and not letting them conquer you.