

# The Invictus Games

The Invictus Games is a competition with different sports events which started in London in 2014. It was started by Prince Harry (The Queen's grandson) after he had seen something similar in America called 'The Warrior Games'. The special thing about the Invictus Games is that all the people who take part 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' which means something that has not been beaten. This title was chosen because the people who take part 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 really show 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. It lasted for four days and 400 competitors from 13 countries took part. This was only two years after the London Olympics, so 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. Prince Harry will be there to make a speech at the games.

## What about the Future?

There is a group called 'The Invictus Foundation' who are in charge of making sure the games grow 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. 2017's games will see 600 competitors from 16 countries. Long may the games continue.

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 for ten years including being in Afghanistan.

The logo for the Invictus Games, featuring the word 'INVICTUS' in a large, bold, grey sans-serif font above the word 'GAMES' in a similar font. The letters 'I', 'A', and 'M' in 'GAMES' are highlighted in a bright yellow color.

# The Invictus Games

## 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 is Prince Harry's link with the army?
8. What events are included when we talk about 'athletics'.
9. Name two 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 is Prince Harry's link with the army?

He was in the army for ten years / he walked across Antarctica with injured soldiers.

8. What events are included when we talk about 'athletics'?

Running, jumping and throwing.

9. Name two sports that are in the games?

Any two 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.