



Snapshot on every sport Australia will compete in at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games



Aquatics: Diving – At Athens 2004 Australia was the second most powerful diving nation with a record six medals (1 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze), behind China with nine medals.

Aquatics: Swimming – Grant Hackett, in the 1500m freestyle, will attempt to be the first man to win the same swimming event at three consecutive Games.

Aquatics: Synchronised Swimming – For the first time in synchronised swimming history, Australia has qualified for an offshore Olympic Games in the Teams event.

Aquatics: Water Polo - Australian women are one of the favourites for gold along with the United States. Australia's men will be looking for a best-ever result of a top-four finish.

Archery – Aiming for third consecutive medal in Beijing, following Simon Fairweather's gold in Sydney and Tim Cuddihy's bronze in Athens. Sky Kim won the 2007 Beijing test event.

Badminton - Australia has never won a medal in badminton at an Olympic Games. A third round appearance would be an outstanding effort.

Baseball – Did not qualify

Basketball – The Australian women's team finished second behind the USA at the last two Olympic Games. They are the current World Champions. The men's best Olympic result was fourth in Sydney 2000, Barcelona 1992 and Seoul 1988.

Boxing – Australia has not won an Olympic boxing medal since Grahame 'Spike' Cheney won silver at Seoul 1988.

Canoe/Kayak – Clint Robinson has qualified for his fifth Olympic Games and he has won a medal of every colour. Robin Bell is aiming to be the first Australian man to win an Olympic medal in slalom.

Cycling - BMX will debut as the new Olympic cycling discipline, at the expense of the 500m time trial for women and 1000m time trial for men. Athens 2004 saw a "gold-rush" for Australia with a record six gold medals. Australia's best mountain bike results have been a sixth to Mary Grigson and seventh to Cadel Evans at Sydney 2000. In Beijing, Cadel hopes to be the first Australian male to win a medal on the road.

Equestrian – Australia has qualified a team in all three disciplines for the first time ever. Events will be held in Hong Kong.

Fencing – Australia is yet to win a medal in Olympic fencing.

Football – The men's fourth place in Barcelona 1992 is Australia's best result. Australia did not qualify a women's football team. Football games will be played in five cities.

Gymnastics – Australia is yet to win an artistic or rhythmic medal. Australia did not qualify a men's artistic team.

Handball – Did not qualify

Hockey – Australian men are the defending champions. Australian women first competed at Los Angeles 1984 and have won the Olympic title at Seoul 1988, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000. After missing out on a podium position in Athens, they are hungry to claim back their Olympic crown.

Judo – Australia has competed in every Olympic judo competition. Maria Pekli who won bronze for Australia at Sydney 2000 is competing at her fifth Games (third for Australia).

Modern Pentathlon – Angie Darby is Australia's third female Olympian in modern pentathlon.

Rowing – Australia has qualified a boat in all 14 classes for the first time. Australia's best Games performance was in Atlanta 1996 with two gold, one silver and three bronze. James Tomkins is heading to his sixth consecutive Olympic Games.

Sailing – The 17 Australian sailors will compete at Qingdao some 550kms from Beijing. Australia failed to win any medals at Athens 2004 after a record two gold, one silver and one bronze in Sydney 2000.

Shooting – Michael Diamond and Russell Mark will compete at their fifth Olympic Games. No Australian has ever won a medal in rifle or skeet.

Softball – Australia has won medals at all three Olympic softball tournaments but never won gold. Softball has been dropped from the London 2012 program so this may be the sport's last appearance.

Table Tennis – Australia has never won a table tennis medal.

Taekwondo – Daniel Trenton, two-time Olympian and silver medallist from Athens 2004 is the head coach of the 2008 team.

Tennis – No Australian male has ever won a singles medal and no woman has won back-to-back medals.

Triathlon – Three-time world champion Emma Snowsill is well placed to win Australia's first triathlon gold medal. Michellie Jones and Loretta Harrop won silver at the last two Games. Greg Bennett's fourth in Athens is the best result by an Australian male.

Volleyball - Natalie Cook has competed at every Games since beach volleyball was introduced in Atlanta 1996. From three Games she has a gold, bronze and fourth. Australia did not qualify in the indoor volleyball tournaments.

Weightlifting – The last time Australia won a medal in weightlifting was in Atlanta 1996 when Stefan Botev won bronze.

Wrestling – Kyla Bremner will be Australia's first female Olympic wrestler.