



# THE SPORTS POLITICAL POWER INDEX 2021 - 2023

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**Report title**

The Sports Political Power Index

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**Publisher**

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## **BACKGROUND**

The 2023 publication is the sixth edition of the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark's (NOC Denmark) Sports Political Power Index. It has previously been published in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021, which means the database now holds information for a whole 10-year period.

It ranks the political influence that nations have in the field of sports. The database has registered the executive committee members of 136 international and European sports federations.

This was originally done in 2013 to provide a baseline for the comparison of international influence, allowing NOC Denmark to measure the results of its international advocacy work, as outlined in the committee's international strategy from 2013.

It was later decided to continue its publication on a bi-annual basis. After the baseline was published in October 2013, a digital and interactive version followed using Tableau data analysis software that provides a digital approach to counting positions and calculating points using automatic weighting. Countries can use the digital version available on the NOC Denmark website to check their ranking.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Sports Political Power Index for NOC Denmark is to:

- 1.** Provide an overview of Denmark's position in international sports politics and to gain the ability to assess our relative strengths compared to other countries.
- 2.** Identify which countries hold the greatest political influence in sports in the international arena, to improve the decision making of NOC Denmark and to identify countries that would be advantageous to form alliances with.
- 3.** Improve and strengthen the position of NOC Denmark when engaging in discussions on how to seek international influence in sports; and
- 4.** Identify changes in the balance of sports political power between countries over time.
- 5.** Analyse different variables and topics relevant to the current sport political discussion.

## **METHODOLOGY**

NOC Denmark strives to ensure that the findings in the current edition of the Sports Political Power Index is comparable to the previous reports. The same methodology has therefore been applied both to the collection of data and the calculation of individual country scores.

Below is a description of the international sports federations that have been selected for inclusion in the index. After that, a definition of executive committees and what the criteria are for the counting of members. Lastly, the background for weighting and its application is also explained.

## WHICH INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS ARE INCLUDED?

The Sports Political Power Index measures the international influence of countries based on their positions in 136 associations and organisations using the following criteria<sup>1</sup>:

- International and European federations that the 62 federations in NOC Denmark are members of
- International and European federations representing an Olympic sport at the International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- Members of the Association of IOC Recognised International Sport Federation (ARISF)
- IOC, the European Olympic Committee (EOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC)

The idea for the index arose from the interest of NOC Denmark and its 62 national sports federations, but every effort has been made to avoid a Denmark-centric approach. Every Olympic sport is represented, as are all members of ARISF, which represents 42 sports, and has achieved a sustained dialogue with the IOC through membership. Their members also constitute a meaningful representation of the major international sports.

In addition to international sports federations, the index also includes IOC members and the executive boards of the IOC, EOC, IPC and ANOC. The Olympic Games are by far the largest sporting event, which is why the IOC plays a defining role in shaping the framework for international sports activities, including funding, media exposure and political impact. Consequently, the IOC is included in this index despite its lack of a federal structure.

The following sports are organized in the Danish NOC but are not on the Olympic program or members of ARISF: Workers and Amateurs Sports, Dart, Ninepin bowling, Christian Sports for young men, Military Sports, Minigolf and Powerlifting.

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<sup>1</sup> A full list of the 135 federations can be found in the appendix.

Although their presence is reason for methodical reservations with regard to the report's relevance to other countries, they have nevertheless been included because Danish sports politicians can be elected to their executive boards.

## EXECUTIVE BOARDS

Executive boards hold the basic power in international and European federations, making them a relevant factor when measuring a country's political power in sports. This report lists the Nationality of board members and weights their influence, as explained below. The two criteria used to select them were that they had to be: 1) a member of the executive board or highest governing body of the federation and 2) entitled to vote in said body.

IOC members are assumed to have the ability to influence international sports policy and their nationalities are listed in the ranking. Likewise, the nationality of executive board members and the presidents are also shown.

Most of the boards selected for the federations concerned are denoted as *executive boards* or *executive committees*. When official documents on a federation's website do not clearly state this information, e.g., if honorary members or the secretary general is entitled to vote, some of the federations have been contacted. Minor deviations may exist due to the lack of clarity in the rules of some federations.

Data for this addition reflects on the month of September and October 2023, which is being compared to December in 2021, September and October in 2019, September and October 2017, August to October in 2015 and May to July in 2013 for the first report.

It is therefore possible that some federations have held a general assembly and chosen a new board in 2023 after the data has been collected.

## WEIGHTING OF INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE BASED ON INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

To create a realistic picture of the relative power of a country in international sports, this report recognises that having an IOC member is of greater value than having an executive board member in a small European sports federation. To produce a relevant ranking of the influence of countries, the Sports Political Power Index operates with a weighting scale for international positions, but the exact weighting will always be open to judgment. A more accurate assessment requires qualitative studies of all federations and an analysis of their supposed influence.

However, in preparing this study, NOC Denmark decided to use the following weighting system to analyse the data collected:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Weighting (1-10)</b>
President of the IOC	Factor 10
Member of the IOC	Factor 6
<i>Member of the IOC Executive Board</i>	<i>Extra factor 2</i>
President of the EOC	Factor 7
Member of the EOC	Factor 5
President of ANOC	Factor 7
Member of ANOC	Factor 6
President of FIFA	Factor 9
Member of FIFA	Factor 7
President UEFA	Factor 6
Member of UEFA	Factor 4
President of an international Olympic federation	Factor 8
Member of an international Olympic federation	Factor 6
President of a European Olympic federation	Factor 5
Member of a European Olympic federation	Factor 3



President of an international non-Olympic federation	Factor 4
Member of an international non-Olympic federation	Factor 2
President of a European non-Olympic federation	Factor 2
Member of a European non-Olympic federation	Factor 1

The following criteria were applied to the weighting process:

1. Due to the assumption that federations with Olympic status have more power than non-Olympic federations in terms of funding and media exposure, the former are weighted higher.
2. Due to the assumption that the greater the economic turnover, the more the influence gained, international federations are weighted higher than European federations.
3. Due to the assumption that media-related interest is greater in international federations than European federations, and that more media interest indicates greater power, international federations are weighted higher.
4. As international federations represent more active members than European federations, the former are weighted higher; and
5. Due to the assumption that international federations have a greater political impact than European federations, the former are weighted higher.
6. Since soccer is widely regarded as the most popular sport in the world, FIFA and UEFA are rated higher than similar international and European federations.

Readers are encouraged to actively debate the weighting, which should not be seen as infallible, but rather as a tool that allows the estimation of a country's power, providing a quantitative basis to qualify the discussion of political power in sports.

## **METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

A precise repetition of the data collection process used in 2013 is complicated by the fact that the rules applied at that time is difficult to follow primarily due to two circumstances:

- The number of members in some federations' executive committee can change.
- The structure of the Olympic sports program can change, and the number and structure of the Olympic Federations also changes accordingly. For example, breaking, sport climbing, skateboarding, and surfing have been added to the 2024 Olympics in Paris, and their federations are therefore included in this power index.

It is therefore not accurate to compare a single country's point differential from previous reports. A such comparison is more accurate comparing the country's change in overall position compared to the other countries and will therefore be used in this reports analysis.

## THE INTERNATIONAL POWER INDEX

The International Power Index is calculated by every country's position in international federations. European countries position in the European federations are not included in this calculation.

<b>1</b>	United States (324) (1)	<b>55</b>	Cuba (27) (35)	<b>108</b>	Georgia (8) (100)
<b>2</b>	Australia (236) (3)	-	Philippines (27) (56)	-	Iraq (8) (113)
<b>3</b>	France (234) (2)	-	Uruguay (27) (48)	-	Malta (8) (113)
<b>4</b>	Italy (222) (5)	<b>58</b>	Chile (26) (57)	-	Mozambique (8) (113)
<b>5</b>	Great Britain (189) (4)	-	Fiji (26) (46)	-	Niger (8) (113)
<b>6</b>	Japan (185) (6)	-	Kazakhstan (26) (44)	-	Panama (8) (64)
<b>7</b>	Canada (177) (10)	-	Puerto Rico (26) (46)	-	Syria (8) (94)
<b>8</b>	China (162) (7)	-	Taiwan (26) (66)	<b>115</b>	Laos (7) (-)
<b>9</b>	Germany (157) (8)	<b>63</b>	Israel (25) (69)	-	Sierra Leone (7) (107)
<b>10</b>	Spain (146) (11)	<b>64</b>	Belarus (24) (75)	-	Turks and Caicos Islands (7) (107)
<b>11</b>	South Korea (126) (17)	-	Kuwait (24) (53)	-	Vanuatu (7) (107)
<b>12</b>	New Zealand (121) (12)	<b>66</b>	Peru (22) (63)	<b>119</b>	Andorra (6) (-)
<b>13</b>	Sweden (116) (15)	-	Senegal (22) (66)	-	Bangladesh (6) (98)
<b>14</b>	Brazil (99) (23)	<b>68</b>	Mali (21) (52)	-	Barbados (6) (113)
-	South Africa (99) (20)	<b>69</b>	Cameroon (20) (57)	-	Bermuda (6) (-)
<b>16</b>	Russia (96) (9)	-	Kenya (20) (69)	-	Bhutan (6) (113)
<b>17</b>	Switzerland (94) (12)	-	Lithuania (20) (84)	-	Bolivia (6) (113)
<b>18</b>	Egypt (89) (14)	-	Tunisia (20) (57)	-	Burkina Faso (6) (113)
<b>19</b>	Argentina (82) (18)	-	Uganda (20) (69)	-	Burundi (6) (113)
<b>20</b>	Finland (78) (18)	-	Zimbabwe (20) (78)	-	Cabo Verde (6) (100)
<b>21</b>	Hungary (75) (28)	<b>75</b>	Afghanistan (18) (84)	-	Cayman Islands (6) (-)
<b>22</b>	Czech Republic (74) (26)	-	Guatemala (18) (78)	-	Djibouti (6) (84)
<b>23</b>	Austria (72) (31)	-	Indonesia (18) (57)	-	Estonia (6) (146)
-	Netherlands (72) (15)	-	Palau (18) (84)	-	Ethiopia (6) (100)
<b>25</b>	Qatar (67) (33)	-	Venezuela (18) (78)	-	Gambia (6) (94)
<b>26</b>	Norway (66) (24)	<b>80</b>	Cyprus (17) (78)	-	Gibraltar (6) (-)

-	United Arab Emirates (66) (36)	<b>81</b>	Ghana (16) (69)	-	Guam (6) (113)
<b>28</b>	Mexico (65) (24)	-	Montenegro (16) (107)	-	Honduras (6) (-)
<b>29</b>	Poland (64) (30)	<b>83</b>	Aruba (14) (113)	-	Iceland (6) (149)
-	Turkey (64) (26)	-	Azerbaijan (14) (78)	-	Kyrgyzstan (6) (113)
<b>31</b>	Greece (62) (22)	-	Côte d'Ivoire (14) (113)	-	Liechtenstein (6) (113)
<b>32</b>	Belgium (56) (31)	-	Jordan (14) (84)	-	Madagascar (6) (113)
<b>33</b>	Romania (55) (39)	-	Monaco (14) (78)	-	Malawi (6) (-)
<b>34</b>	Thailand (54) (41)	-	Mongolia (14) (75)	-	Micronesia (6) (-)
<b>35</b>	Morocco (51) (28)	-	Pakistan (14) (78)	-	Nauru (6) (113)
<b>36</b>	Denmark (48) (34)	-	Slovakia (14) (149)	-	Oman (6) (113)
<b>37</b>	India (46) (21)	-	Trinidad and Tobago (14) (84)	-	South Sudan (6) (-)
-	Ireland (46) (49)	-	Uzbekistan (14) (69)	-	Rwanda (6) (100)
<b>39</b>	Colombia (41) (42)	<b>93</b>	Bahamas (12) (84)	-	Seychelles (6) (113)
<b>40</b>	Algeria (40) (38)	-	Cook Islands (12) (-)	-	Sudan (6) (113)
<b>41</b>	Malaysia (39) (53)	-	Hong Kong (12) (94)	-	St. Vincent and the Grenadines (6) (113)
<b>42</b>	Serbia (36) (57)	-	Jamaica (12) (100)	-	Zambia (6) (113)
<b>43</b>	Costa Rica (35) (66)	-	Lesotho (12) (113)	<b>151</b>	Iran (4) (113)
-	Nigeria (35) (39)	-	Papua New Guinea (12) (113)	-	North Macedonia (4) (-)
-	Saudi Arabia (35) (100)	-	Sao Tome and Principe (12) (84)	<b>153</b>	Faroe Islands (3) (-)
<b>46</b>	Ukraine (32) (45)	<b>100</b>	Lebanon (10) (94)	<b>154</b>	Botswana (2) (-)
<b>47</b>	Paraguay (31) (43)	-	Luxembourg (10) (84)	-	Central African Republic (2) (146)
-	Portugal (31) (49)	-	Mauritius (10) (146)	-	Congo (2) (-)
<b>49</b>	Bulgaria (30) (37)	-	Moldova (10) (-)	-	Namibia (2) (149)
-	Singapore (30) (75)	<b>104</b>	Bahrain (9) (107)	-	Nepal (2) (-)
<b>51</b>	Slovenia (29) (64)	-	Benin (9) (107)	-	Sri Lanka (2) (113)
<b>52</b>	Croatia (28) (49)	-	Ecuador (9) (62)	-	Virgin Islands (US) (2) (113)
-	Dominican Republic (28) (69)	-	San Marino (9) (100)		
-	Latvia (28) (84)				

First bracket is the total points in the 2023 index, second bracket is the countries position in the 2021 index.

**THE UNITED STATES STILL IN 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

The United States is ranked as the number one country in this year's International Power Index for the fifth consecutive time. The USA has widened its lead over the second position, increasing from 45 points in 2021 to 75 points in 2019 and 88 points in 2023. Consequently the USA maintains a strong grip on the top position as it moves towards the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028.

The gap between USA and Australia in the second place is equivalent to the total points of Egypt, which ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the Power Index. It is worth noticing that the top three countries in the index will host the next three Olympic Games (Paris; 2024, Los Angeles 2028; Brisbane 2032).

**NOTABLE MOVEMENTS IN TOP 30**

The most significant movement in the top 10 is Canada, which has climbed three places from 10<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. No other country in the top 10 has moved more than one spot up or down.

Qatar and United Arab Emirates has made the most substantial jumps from 2021 to 2023, moving up 10 and 8 places. Qatar has risen from 33<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>rd</sup> while United Arab Emirates has jumped from 36<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>.

Brazil is a close third moving up 9 places from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

India has experienced the most significant decrease in positioning, dropping from 21<sup>st</sup> to 37<sup>th</sup>, losing a total of 16 positions. The Netherlands has also seen a significant decrease in positioning going from 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in this year's index. Russia has also experienced a notable decrease dropping 7 places going from 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

Switzerland has moved down 5 places from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, and Egypt, Mexico and Turkey have all lost 4 places.

**MOVEMENTS IN THE TOP 10 OVER A 10 YEAR PERIOD**

With this year's report marking the 10-year anniversary of NOC Denmark's Sports Political Power Index, we have examined the movements in top 10 over a 10-year period to have a closer look at interesting developments during that time.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>1</b>	USA	USA	USA	USA	USA	USA
<b>2</b>	Australia	France	France	Italy	Italy	Italy
<b>3</b>	France	Australia	Great Britain	Russia (2)	France	France
<b>4</b>	Italy	Great Britain	Italy	France	Great Britain	Great Britain
<b>5</b>	Great Britain	Italy	Germany	Great Britain	Germany	Australia
<b>6</b>	Japan	Japan	Australia	Germany	Canada	Spain
<b>7</b>	Canada	China	Russia	Japan	Spain	Switzerland
<b>8</b>	China	Germany	Japan	Canada	Russia	Russia
<b>9</b>	Germany	Russia	Canada	Australia	China	Germany
<b>10</b>	Spain	Canada	China	China	Australia	China
<b>11</b>	South Korea	Spain	Spain	Spain	Japan	Canada
<b>12</b>	New Zealand	New Zealand	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Japan
<b>13</b>	Sweden	Switzerland (12)*	Netherlands (12)	New Zealand	New Zealand	Sweden
<b>14</b>	Brazil	Egypt	New Zealand	Netherlands	Egypt	Egypt
<b>15</b>	South Africa	Netherlands	Egypt	South Korea	Turkey (14)	South Korea
<b>16</b>	Russia	Sweden (15)	Argentina	Argentina	Sweden	Brazil
<b>17</b>	Switzerland	South Korea	South Korea	Egypt	South Korea	New Zealand
<b>18</b>	Egypt	Argentina	Sweden (17)	Sweden	Belgium	Argentina
<b>19</b>	Argentina	Finland (18)	Brazil	Finland	Brazil (18)	Mexico
<b>20</b>	Finland	South Africa	Finland	Brazil	Mexico	Hungary

<b>21</b>	Hungary	India	Denmark	Mexico	Netherlands (20)	Netherlands (20)
<b>22</b>	Czech Republic	Greece	Thailand (21)	Hungary	Hungary	Finland
<b>23</b>	Austria	Brazil	South Africa	Belgium	Finland	Turkey
<b>24</b>	Netherlands (23)	Mexico	India	Denmark (23)	Greece (23)	Belgium
<b>25</b>	Qatar	Norway (24)	Norway	Norway (23)	Denmark	Thailand
<b>26</b>	Norway	Czech Republic	Belgium	Morocco	Kuwait (25)	Poland
<b>27</b>	UAE (26)	Turkey (26)	Mexico (26)	South Africa (26)	Poland (25)	Norway
<b>28</b>	Mexico	Hungary	Hungary	India	Qatar (25)	Kuwait
<b>29</b>	Poland	Morocco (28)	Qatar (28)	Turkey (28)	Argentina	Austria
<b>30</b>	Turkey (29)	Poland	Colombia	Colombia	Malaysia	Qatar (29)
	**[36] Denmark	[34] Denmark				[33] Denmark

\*Number next to country represents equality in points with country above

\*\*Denmark's ranking is included in 2023, 2021 and 2013 where they were placed outside top 30

Only 12 countries have placed in the top 10 in 6 indexes over the 10-year period. With Switzerland making the top 10 only once in 2013, the international sports political top consistently features the same countries. A total of 7 countries have made the top 10 in all 6 indexes (United States, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and Australia).

Canada has consistently been in the top 10 since 2015, peaking in 2015 with a 6<sup>th</sup> place. The only year Canada didn't make the top 10 was in 2013 when they placed 11<sup>th</sup>.

Russia has also made the index 5 times, reaching its highest rank in 2017 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Russia's only placement outside top 10 is in this year's index with a position at number 16. This represents a drop of 7 places, which may be explained by some federations suspending Russians from their executive boards after the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Japan has consistently secured 8<sup>th</sup> in the last four indexes while placing 11<sup>th</sup> in 2015 and 12<sup>th</sup> in 2013.

Spain has placed in the top 10 in 2023, 2015 and 2013 peaking with an 8<sup>th</sup> place in 2013. In 2021, 2019 and 2017 Spain was placed 11<sup>th</sup>.

In conclusion, the same 11 countries have dominated the international power index. If you exclude Russia's 16<sup>th</sup> place in this year's index, Australia, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, United States, Canada, Russia, Japan, and Spain have consistently occupied the top spots in every index over the past 10 years.



## THE EUROPEAN POWER INDEX

The European Power Index is calculated on the position of each European country in both international and European federations. Therefore, it is incorrect to directly compare the points and rankings from these datasets to the international power index.

<b>1</b>	France (317)	<b>26</b>	Bulgaria (51)
<b>2</b>	Italy (298)	<b>27</b>	Ukraine (43)
<b>3</b>	Germany (238)	<b>28</b>	Latvia (35)
<b>4</b>	Great Britain (236)	<b>29</b>	Iceland (32)
<b>5</b>	Spain (197)	<b>30</b>	Lithuania (30)
<b>6</b>	Sweden (163)	-	Cyprus (30)
<b>7</b>	Russia (129)	<b>32</b>	Slovakia (27)
<b>8</b>	Netherlands (127)	-	Belarus (27)
<b>9</b>	Switzerland (124)	<b>34</b>	Kazakhstan (26)
<b>10</b>	Hungary (110)	<b>35</b>	Georgia (24)
<b>11</b>	Norway (102)	<b>36</b>	Luxembourg (19)
<b>12</b>	Austria (101)	<b>37</b>	Malta (17)
<b>13</b>	Greece (97)	<b>38</b>	Montenegro (16)
<b>14</b>	Czech Republic (96)	<b>39</b>	Estonia (15)
-	Finland (96)	<b>40</b>	Monaco (14)
-	Turkey (96)	<b>41</b>	Andorra (11)
<b>17</b>	Belgium (93)	<b>42</b>	Moldova (10)
<b>18</b>	Portugal (90)	<b>43</b>	Gibraltar (6)
<b>19</b>	Romania (88)	-	Grenada (6)
<b>20</b>	Poland (84)	-	Liechtenstein (6)
<b>21</b>	Denmark (83)	<b>46</b>	Albania (4)
<b>22</b>	Ireland (67)	-	North Macedonia (4)
-	Croatia (67)	<b>48</b>	Faroe Islands (3)
<b>24</b>	Serbia (65)	<b>49</b>	Armenia (1)
<b>25</b>	Slovenia (63)		

As we include both international and European federations in this European ranking in the report, the data found on our website [www.dif.dk/idraetten-i-tal/magtbarometer](http://www.dif.dk/idraetten-i-tal/magtbarometer) will differ. The presented European data on the website is calculated only with European federations. Therefore, it is inaccurate to use data from the website when comparing rankings from year to year.

The comparison below is made by comparing this year's data to the data in the 2021 report.

<b>Rank 2023</b>	<b>Countries</b>	<b>Rank 2021</b>	<b>Countries</b>
<b>1</b>	France	<b>1</b>	France
<b>2</b>	Italy	<b>2</b>	Italy
<b>3</b>	Germany	<b>3</b>	Great Britain
<b>4</b>	Great Britain	<b>4</b>	Germany
<b>5</b>	Spain	<b>5</b>	Russia
<b>6</b>	Sweden	<b>6</b>	Spain
<b>7</b>	Russia	<b>7</b>	Netherlands
<b>8</b>	Netherlands	<b>8</b>	Sweden
<b>9</b>	Switzerland	<b>9</b>	Switzerland
<b>10</b>	Hungary	<b>10</b>	Greece
<b>11</b>	Norway	<b>11</b>	Turkey
<b>12</b>	Austria	<b>12</b>	Finland
<b>13</b>	Greece	<b>13</b>	Hungary
<b>14</b>	Czech Republic	<b>14</b>	Denmark
<b>14</b>	Finland	<b>15</b>	Poland
<b>14</b>	Turkey	<b>16</b>	Norway
<b>17</b>	Belgium	<b>17</b>	Austria
<b>18</b>	Portugal	<b>18</b>	Czech Republic
<b>19</b>	Romania	<b>19</b>	Belgium
<b>20</b>	Poland	<b>19</b>	Romania

## TOP POSITIONS

France and Italy have maintained their top positions in this year's European rankings. The two countries are firmly placed at the top with a significant gap of 79 and 60 points to Germany in the third spot.

Russia, much like in the international power index, has dropped a few places in this year's rankings. In the European ranking, they have managed to only drop 2 spots, but it is still enough to exit the top 5.

The top 5 consist of France, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, and Spain. All 5 countries are, as previously noted, part of the 11 most powerful countries in the international power index.

## LARGEST GROWTH IN EUROPEAN TOP

Norway and Austria have made the most significant improvements in positions in this year's index. They both jump 5 places, placing Norway at number 11 and Austria at number 12.

Czech Republic has increased its positioning with 4 places, coming in at 14<sup>th</sup> in this year's index. Hungary has entered the top 10 with an improvement of 3 places, and Sweden has positioned itself just outside the top 5, gaining 2 places up to number 6. There is still a considerable gap between Sweden in 6<sup>th</sup> and Spain in 5<sup>th</sup> at 33 points.

## NOTABLE LOSSES IN POSITIONS

Denmark has experienced the most significant decrease in overall positioning. Denmark was placed 14<sup>th</sup> in the last European Index and falls out of the top 20 in this year's index, landing at 21.

Poland has lost 5 places, going from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, while Turkey, Finland, and Greece all lost 3 places.

**REGIONAL EUROPEAN RANKING**

To map out the distribution between the different countries in Europe, we have divided the countries into four regions and mapped out the total points. The data uses the points from the International Power index.

<b>South Europe</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>East Europe</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>West Europe</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>North Europe</b>	<b>Points</b>
Portugal	90	Belarus	27	Austria	101	Denmark	83
Spain	197	Bulgaria	51	Belgium	95	Estonia	15
Gibraltar	6	Czech Republic	96	France	318	Faroe Islands	3
Andorra	11	Hungary	110	Germany	238	Finland	96
Italy	298	Poland	84	Liechtenstein	6	Iceland	32
Slovenia	63	Moldova	10	Luxembourg	19	Ireland	68
Croatia	67	Romania	88	Monaco	14	Latvia	35
Serbia	65	Russia	129	Netherlands	127	Lithuania	31
Montenegro	16	Slovakia	28	Switzerland	124	Norway	103
North Macedonia	4	Ukraine	43			Sweden	164
Albania	4	Armenia	1			Great Britain	236
Grenada	6	Georgia	24				
Greece	97	Kazakhstan	26				
Turkey	96						
Malta	17						
Cyprus	30						
<b>Total</b>	1067	<b>Total</b>	716	<b>Total</b>	1039	<b>Total</b>	863
<b>Per country</b>	67	<b>Per country</b>	51	<b>Per country</b>	115	<b>Per country</b>	78

It is clear that Western Europe holds the most points in all of Europe. Even though it has the fewest number of countries, it still has the second-highest total amount of points. Its average point per country is also significantly higher than in the other regions of Europe.

The same principle has been applied to only the Scandinavian countries:

<b>Scandinavia</b>	<b>Points</b>
Denmark	83
Faroe Islands	3
Finland	96
Iceland	32
Norway	102
Sweden	163
<b>Total</b>	479
<b>Per country</b>	80

Scandinavia as a group ranks second in points per country compared to all the regions in Europe.

## DENMARK

Denmark has consistently experienced a decline in its overall position in European and International positions since 2017. Denmark held a total of 34 positions in 2017, 29 in 2019, and 22 in 2021. Denmark has once again lost positions landing at 21 for this year's index.

The most significant loss is the loss of an IOC member, as Poul Erik Høyer decided to end his 8-year period in the beginning of 2022 due to personal reasons.

Denmark's position as number 36 in this year's International Power index is the lowest in the 10-year period the data has been collected. Denmark's position in the past 6 indexes was:

2013: 33

2015: 25

2017: 23

2019: 21

2021: 34

2023: 36

Denmark also experienced a significant drop in positions in the European index, going from 14<sup>th</sup> in 2021 to 21<sup>st</sup> in this year's index. On the positive side, Denmark, as a part of Scandinavia, appears to be a strong factor among the European regions.

Denmark highest scoring position in the Power Index is the presidency in the International Badminton Federation, gaining 8 points. Additionally, Denmark holds the presidency in the International Minigolf Federation and the European ESY Federation.

Denmark positions are:

<b>European Olympic federation members:</b>	8
<b>European non-Olympic federation members:</b>	1
<b>European non-Olympic federation presidents:</b>	1
<b>International Olympic federation members:</b>	5
<b>International non-Olympic federation members:</b>	3
<b>International Olympic federation presidents:</b>	1
<b>International non-Olympic federation presidents:</b>	1
<b>UEFA Executive Committee members:</b>	1

## INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN PRESIDENTS

This report includes data from 133 federations, divided between 88 international federations and 45 European federations. The distribution between countries and presidents is quite balanced, with a total of 41 countries having at least one international presidential position. Great Britain tops the list with 7 total. Only 4 countries have 5 or more presidents (France (6), Italy (6), Germany (5)).

Number of presidents (INT)	Countries
7	Great Britain
6	France, Italy,
5	Germany
4	Brazil, Sweden, Switzerland, United States
3	China, Russia
2	Argentina, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Qatar, South Korea, Spain
1	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Iraq, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates

If you distribute the presidents based on the continent they are located in, it is clear that Europe has the vast majority of the presidents.

Continent	Number of presidents (INT)
Africa	1
Asia	15
Europe	54
North America	8
Oceania	3
South America	7

An interesting point is that four of the top five countries in the international power index have 4 or more presidents except Australia, which has only 1.

In the European federations, the 45 presidents are split among 24 countries, with Italy topping the list with 6. Netherlands is the only other country with 4 or more presidents.



<b>Number of presidents (EU)</b>	<b>Countries</b>
6	Italy
4	Netherlands
3	Belgium, Portugal, Spain
2	France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia,
1	Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan*, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Moldova, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Sweden

\*NOC Denmark recognize Azerbaijan as a part of the Asian continent, but they are included in this section because of their president in the European Gymnastic Federation.

## **EQUALITY IN MEMBERS AND PRESIDENTS**

The data includes the positions of 133 international and European federations, totalling 1.736 individuals in elected positions.

Out of the 133 presidents in both the international and European federations, only 9 of them are female. That means that 93,2 % of all the presidents are male, while only 6,8 % are female. Two of the female presidents are in the 45 European federations making 95,6 % of the European presidents male. In the international federations the percentage is 8% to 92%.

This data is not unique when compared to the previous years; 94/6 % in 2017, 95/5 % in 2019 and 92,6/7,4 % in 2021. The data in 2013 and 2015 did not include gender.

The difference between genders in all the positions is slightly more balanced, with 24,8 % of the total positions being held by females. This number has consistently increased from 17% in 2017, to 20 % in 2019, and 23 % in 2021.

## IMPACT FROM OIL COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar have played significant roles in international sports politics over the past years. Therefore, it was deemed relevant in this year's power index to examine the countries' elected positions in international federations.

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
<b>Qatar</b>	29	25	34	28	33	25
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	81	92	76	79	100	43
<b>UAE</b>	48	61	40	39	36	26

*Each country's position in the given year.*

All three countries have experienced a significant increase in overall ranking from 2021 to 2023.

Saudi Arabia has seen the most substantial increase in overall positioning, jumping up 57 places in the standings from 2021 to 2023. This jump is mostly caused by Saudi Arabia having a new IOC member in Princess Reema Bander Al-Saud and a FIFA-member in Yasser El Mesehal, giving a total of 13 points. Saudi Arabia have also increased the total amount of positions from 2 to 7.

Qatar and UAE have also made a significant increase in ranking from 2021 to 2023. Both countries have entered the top 30, with Qatar moving up 8 places up to number 25, and UAE moving up 7 places up to number 26.

Qatar has increased its total elected positions from 11 to 14, while UAE has increased from 10 to 18.

The following tables shows the three countries positions in the power index:

<b>Saudi Arabia:</b>				
FIFA	Member	Yasser Al Mesehal	Olympic	7 points
IOC	Member	Princess Reema Bander Al-Saud	Olympic	6 points
International Equestrian Federation	Member	Sami Alduhami	Olympic	6 points
World Triathlon	Member	Prince Fahad Bin Jalawi Al Saud	Olympic	6 points
International Weightlifting Federation	Member	Mohammed Ahmed Alharbi	Olympic	6 points
World Karate Federation	Member	Ibrahim Al Gannas	Non-Olympic	2 points
International Federation of Muaythai Associations	Member	Prince Fahad Bin Mansour bin Saad Bin Saud al Saud	Non-Olympic	2 points

<b>Qatar:</b>				
FIBA Basketball	President	Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani	Olympic	8 points
FIFA	Member	Sheik Hamad Khalifa Al Thani	Olympic	7 points
IOC	Member	Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamas Al-Thani	Olympic	6 points
ANOC Executive Council	Member	H. E. Sheikh Joaan Al Thani	Olympic	6 points
World Athletics	Member	Jumaan Al Hamad	Olympic	6 points
International Table Tennis Federation	Member	Khalil Al-Mohannadi	Olympic	6 points
International Gymnastics Federation	Member	Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamas Al-Thani	Olympic	6 points
World Aquatics	Member	Khaleel Al Jabir	Olympic	6 points
World Confederation of Billiards Sports	President	Mubarak Al-Khayarin	Non-Olympic	4 points
UEFA	Member	Nasser Al-Khelaifi	Olympic	4 points
International School Sport Federation	Member	Abdulrahman Al-Muftah	Non-Olympic	2 points
International Military Sports Council	Member	Rashid Mahboob Al-Dosari	Non-Olympic	2 points
Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme	Member	Abdulrahman Al Mannai	Non-Olympic	2 points
International Chess Federation	Member	Chen Zhu	Non-Olympic	2 points

<b>United Arab Emirates:</b>				
Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)	Member	Osama Ahmed Abdullah Al Shafar	Olympic	6 points
International Fencing Federation	Member	H. H. Engr. Sheik Salem Bin Sultan Alqasimi	Olympic	6 points
International Paralympic Committee	Member	Mohammed Mohammed Fadel Al Hameli	Olympic	6 points
International Paralympic Committee	Member	Majid Rashed	Olympic	6 points
International Judo Federation	Member	Naser Al Tamimi	Olympic	6 points
World Taekwondo	Member	Ahmed Hamdan Alzeyoudi	Olympic	6 points
World Taekwondo	Member	H. H. Sheika Jameela Al Qasimi	Olympic	6 points
Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile	President	Mohammed Ben Sulayem	Non-Olympic	4 points
World Karate Federation	Member	Nasser Alrazooqi	Non-Olympic	2 points
World Karate Federation	Member	Rashid Al Ali	Non-Olympic	2 points
World Association of Kickboxing Organizations	Member	Ali Ali Haji Mohamed Khoori	Non-Olympic	2 points
International Chess Federation	Member	Sheikh Saud Bin Abdulaziz Al Mualla	Non-Olympic	2 points
International Chess Federation	Member	Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Nehyan	Non-Olympic	2 points
International Federation of Muaythai Associations	Member	Abdullah Saeed Amer Al Neyadi	Non-Olympic	2 points
International Federation of Muaythai Associations	Member	Tareq Almhairi	Non-Olympic	2 points
International University Sports Federation	Member	Ali Massari Al Dhaheri	Non-Olympic	2 points
Ju-jitsu International Federation	Member	Faisal Alkitbe	Non-Olympic	2 points
Ju-jitsu International Federation	Member	Abdulmunem Al-sayed M. Al Hashmi	Non-Olympic	2 points

## POLITICAL INFLUENCE ON SUMMER OLYMPIC HOSTING AND PERFORMANCE

There has been a total of 29 summer Olympics held in the modern Olympic era. The next three host cities have also been announced, meaning that we now have a total of 32 host cities from 2032 back to 1896.

We have mapped out which summer Olympic games have been held in one of 11 most politically powerful countries as mentioned in the previous section.

<b>Country:</b>	<b>Olympic games:</b>	<b>Total:</b>
Australia	2032 (Brisbane), 2000 (Sydney), 1956 (Melbourne)	3
Canada	1976 (Montreal)	1
China	2008 (Beijing)	1
France	2024 (Paris), 1924 (Paris), 1900 (Paris)	3
Germany	1972 (München), 1936 (Berlin)	2
Great Britain	2021 (London), 1948 (London), 1908 (London)	3
Italy	1960 (Rome)	1
Japan	2020 (Tokyo), 1964 (Tokyo)	2
Russia	1980 (Moscow)	1
Spain	1992 (Barcelona)	1
United States	2028 (LA), 1996 (Atlanta), 1984 (LA), 1932 (LA), 1904 (St. Louis)	5

23 of the 32 known host cities has been in one of the 11 countries, which corresponds to 72 %. The only other country to have held the Summer Olympics more than once is Greece (Athens 1896 and 2004).

The remaining games are; Rio 2016, Seoul 1988, 1968 Mexico City, 1952 Helsinki, 1928 Amsterdam, 1920 Antwerp and 1912 Stockholm.

We have also looked at the total amount of medals at each of the past three Summer Olympics to compare them with the data in the closest previous Sport Political Power Index made. We have compared the 2012 games to the 2013 Power Index, as it is the earliest available data. We have included countries that have won more than 11 medals total, which corresponds to about top 20 countries in the games.

**2012 Olympics: London - Compared to the 2013 Power Index**

<b>Medal rank:</b>	<b>Country:</b>	<b>Power Index rank:</b>
<b>1 (104)</b>	United States*	<b>1</b>
<b>2 (92)</b>	China*	<b>10</b>
<b>3 (66)</b>	Russia*	<b>8</b>
<b>4 (65)</b>	Great Britain*	<b>3</b>
<b>5 (44)</b>	Germany*	<b>9</b>
<b>6 (38)</b>	Japan*	<b>12</b>
<b>7 (35)</b>	France*	<b>3</b>
<b>7 (35)</b>	Australia*	<b>5</b>
<b>9 (30)</b>	South Korea	<b>15</b>
<b>10 (28)</b>	Italy*	<b>2</b>
<b>11 (20)</b>	Netherlands	<b>20</b>
<b>11 (20)</b>	Spain*	<b>6</b>
<b>13 (19)</b>	Ukraine	<b>36</b>
<b>14 (18)</b>	Hungary	<b>20</b>
<b>14 (18)</b>	Canada*	<b>11</b>
<b>16 (17)</b>	Brazil	<b>16</b>
<b>17 (15)</b>	Cuba	<b>42</b>
<b>18 (13)</b>	Iran	<b>81</b>
<b>18 (13)</b>	New Zealand	<b>17</b>
<b>18 (13)</b>	Jamaica	<b>91</b>
<b>18 (13)</b>	Kenya	<b>63</b>

*\*One of the 11 most powerful countries over the last 10 years.*

**2016 Olympics: Rio - Compared to 2015 Power Index**

<b>Medal rank:</b>	<b>Country:</b>	<b>Power Index rank:</b>
<b>1 (121)</b>	United States*	<b>1</b>
<b>2 (70)</b>	China*	<b>9</b>
<b>3 (67)</b>	Great Britain*	<b>4</b>
<b>4 (56)</b>	Russia*	<b>8</b>
<b>5 (42)</b>	Germany*	<b>5</b>
<b>5 (42)</b>	France*	<b>3</b>
<b>7 (41)</b>	Japan*	<b>11</b>
<b>8 (29)</b>	Australia*	<b>10</b>
<b>9 (28)</b>	Italy*	<b>2</b>
<b>10 (22)</b>	Canada*	<b>6</b>
<b>11 (21)</b>	South Korea	<b>17</b>
<b>12 (19)</b>	Netherlands	<b>20</b>
<b>12 (19)</b>	Brazil	<b>18</b>
<b>14 (18)</b>	New Zealand	<b>13</b>
<b>14 (18)</b>	Azerbaijan	<b>66</b>
<b>16 (17)</b>	Spain*	<b>7</b>
<b>16 (17)</b>	Kazakhstan	<b>36</b>
<b>18 (15)</b>	Hungary	<b>22</b>
<b>18 (15)</b>	Denmark	<b>25</b>
<b>20 (13)</b>	Kenya	<b>47</b>
<b>20 (13)</b>	Uzbekistan	<b>80</b>

*\*One of the 11 most powerful countries over the last 10 years.*



**2020 Olympics: Tokyo - Compared to 2019 Power Index**

<b>Medal rank:</b>	<b>Country:</b>	<b>Power Index rank:</b>
<b>1 (113)</b>	United States*	<b>1</b>
<b>2 (89)</b>	China*	<b>10</b>
<b>3 (71)</b>	Russia*	<b>7</b>
<b>4 (64)</b>	Great Britain*	<b>3</b>
<b>5 (58)</b>	Japan*	<b>8</b>
<b>5 (46)</b>	Australia*	<b>6</b>
<b>6 (40)</b>	Italy*	<b>4</b>
<b>7 (37)</b>	Germany*	<b>5</b>
<b>9 (36)</b>	Netherlands	<b>13</b>
<b>10 (33)</b>	France*	<b>2</b>
<b>11 (24)</b>	Canada*	<b>9</b>
<b>12 (21)</b>	Brazil	<b>19</b>
<b>13 (20)</b>	New Zealand	<b>14</b>
<b>13 (20)</b>	Hungary	<b>28</b>
<b>13 (20)</b>	South Korea	<b>17</b>
<b>16 (19)</b>	Ukraine	<b>53</b>
<b>17 (17)</b>	Spain*	<b>11</b>
<b>18 (15)</b>	Cuba	<b>36</b>
<b>19 (14)</b>	Poland	<b>45</b>
<b>20 (13)</b>	Switzerland	<b>12</b>
<b>20 (13)</b>	Turkey	<b>31</b>
<b>22 (12)</b>	Taiwan	<b>51</b>

*\*One of the 11 most powerful countries over the last 10 years.*

These tables show that the 11 most powerful countries in the Power Index over the last 10 years also performs well in the Olympics. South Korea and Netherlands are the only two countries to enter the top 10 in most medals without being one of 11 powerful countries. South Korea did it in 2012, where they placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the 2013 Power Index, and Netherlands did it in 2020, where they placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the 2019 Power Index.

Spain is the only country among the 11 to not make the top 10 in total medals in one of the previous three Olympic games, while Canada only made it in the 2016 games in Rio.

Spain and Canada also placed the lowest of the 11 countries in all three games, with Canada being 14<sup>th</sup> in 2012, Spain being 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 and 17<sup>th</sup> in 2020.

When you look outside the top 10 there, are no correlation between the medal ranking and the Power Index ranking. The further down the medal rankings you go, the more mixed the corresponding Power Index ranking gets.

## CONCLUSION

- USA remains the most powerful country for the sixth time in a row.
- Russia has experienced a significant decline in both international and European rankings.
- Australia, Canada, Cina, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain, and USA have dominated the international index over the past 10 years.
- Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE have all increased their positions internationally.
- France and Italy remain strong at the top of the European index.
- Western Europe is the most powerful region in Europe, both in total points and points per country, while Scandinavia places second in points per country.
- Denmark has seen a continuous drop in positions since 2019, reaching its lowest ranking ever in this year's international index.
- There is a significant inequality in male-to-female ratio among the elected members, especially in the presidencies.
- No country dominates the presidencies, with Great Britain topping the list with 7.
- 72 % of the modern Summer Olympic games have been held in one of the 11 most powerful countries.
- There is a tendency for the most powerful countries in the giving index to win the most medals in the closest Summer Olympic.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- This year's data was collected from September to December 2023. It is therefore possible that some federations held their general assembly after their data was collected.
- Due to withdrawal of recognition to IBA as the International Boxing federation by IOC, no boxing federation data was included in the data.
- The international data from the previous year's was collected from [www.dif.dk/id-raetten-i-tal/magtbarometer](http://www.dif.dk/id-raetten-i-tal/magtbarometer), as it is more updated than previous reports.
- The European data from the previous year was collected from previous Sport Political Power Index reports, as the European data on the website excludes points from international federations.
- The weighting system assigns points to the individual person elected to the federation and not to the federation as a whole. A European federation with 10 executive members will therefore be worth more total points than a federation with 5 total members.

## APPENDIX

A total of 133 federations are included in this year's index. The sports are represented with their international and European federations. For some sports only the international federation qualify for the index cf. the methodology. Some sports do not have a European federation even though the methodology qualifies for inclusion.

No International or European boxing federation have been included because IOC for now doesn't recognize any federations.

The included federations are:

American Football (INT), Athletics/Running/Walking (INT & EU), Automobile (INT), Badminton (INT & EU), Bandy (INT), Baseball/Softball (INT & EU), Basque Pelota (INT), Billard (INT & EU), Mountaineering (INT), Bob and Skeleton (INT), Table Tennis (INT & EU), Bowling (INT & EU), Bridge (INT), Olympic Wrestling (INT), Archery (INT & EU), Cheerleading (INT), Cricket (INT), Curling (INT), Cycling (INT & EU), Dance Sport (INT & EU), Dart (INT & EU), EOC, ANOC, Parachuting (INT & EU), Floorball (INT), Soccer (INT & EU), Fencing (INT & EU), Golf (INT & EU), Gymnastics (INT & EU), IPC (INT & EU), Hockey (INT & EU), Handball (INT & EU), IOC, Ice hockey (INT), Icestocksport (INT), Judo (INT & EU), Ju-jitsu (INT & EU), Canoe/Kajak (INT & EU), Karate (INT & EU), Ninepin (INT), Kickboxing (INT & EU), Korfbal (INT & EU), Luge (INT), Lacrosse (INT & EU), Lifesaving (INT), Many Sports – Workers and Amateurs (INT), Many Sports – ISF (INT & EU), Many Sports – Military (INT), Minigolf (INT & EU), Modern Pentathlon (INT), Motorcycling (EU), Motorsport (2 wheel/BMX) (INT), Netball (INT), Orienteering (INT), Pétanque (INT & EU), Polo (INT), Racquetball (INT), Rafting (INT), Equestrian (INT & EU), Rowing (INT), Rugby (INT & EU), Roller Skating (INT & EU), Sambo (INT), Sailing (INT & EU), Ski Mountaineering (INT), Skiing (INT), Biathlon (INT), Shooting (INT & EU), Skatin (INT), Powerboating (INT), Diving (INT & EU), Sports Climbing (INT), Squash (INT & EU), Powerlifting (INT & EU), Sumo (INT), Surfing/SUP (INT & EU), Water Sports (INT & EU), Taekwondo (INT & EU), Chess (INT), Tennis (INT & EU),

Muay Thai (INT), Tug of War (INT), Triathlon (INT & EU), University Sports (INT), Water-ski/Wakeboard (INT), Volleyball (INT & EU), Weightlifting (INT & EU), Wushu (INT)

The following 21 federations are new inclusions to the 2023 index:

Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (Automobile, INT), World Baseball Softball Confederation Europe (Baseball/Softball, EU), International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation (Bob and Skeleton, INT), International Cheer Union (Cheerleading, INT), International Cricket Council (Cricket, INT), Dance Sport Europe (Dance Sport, EU), World Air Sport Federation (Parachuting, EU), International Golf Federation (Golf, INT), International Federation Icestocksport (Icestocksport, INT), European Kickboxing Organization (Kickboxing, EU), International Luge Federation (Luge, INT), World Lacrosse (Lacrosse, INT), European Lacrosse (Lacrosse, EU), European Motorcycling Union, (Motorcycling, EU), International Rafting Federation (Rafting, INT), International Sambo Federation (Sambo, INT), International Ski Mountaineering Federation (Ski Mountaineering, INT), International Biathlon Federation (Biathlon, INT), European Surfing Federation (Surfing/SUP, EU), International Federation of Muaythai Associations (Muay Thai, INT), International University Sports Federation (University Sports, INT).