

Scandal-plagued Olympics finally open

A subdued opening ceremony for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games has taken place, with around 1,000 spectators – mostly dignitaries, including fewer than 20 global leaders – in attendance

Performer emotes
loss of life to
Covid-19
during Tokyo
Olympic
Games
opening
ceremony



Happier days:
Prime Minister of
Japan **Shinzō
Abe** doffs his
Super Mario
cap during Rio
closing ceremony
in 2016



■ **Mar 24, 2020:** As coronavirus pandemic spreads, Prime Minister **Shinzō Abe** and IOC President **Thomas Bach** postpone Olympics until 2021

■ **Feb 12, 2021:** Tokyo 2020 President **Yoshiro Mori** resigns after sexist remarks that women talk too much

■ **Mar 18:** Creative head **Hiroshi Sasaki** quits after making derogatory “Olympig” comment about actress, **Naomi Watanabe**

■ **Jul 8:** Spectators banned from venues due to Covid-19

■ **Jul 19:** Opening ceremony composer **Keigo Oyamada** steps down after old reports of bullying and abusive behaviour resurface

■ Major sponsor of Games, **Toyota**, pulls all Olympic-themed TV advertising in Japan. Other sponsors assess reputational damage of remaining attached

■ **Jul 21:** Public broadcaster **NHK** reports that strong advocate of Tokyo Olympics, former Prime Minister Shinzō Abe (*above*), will not be attending opening ceremony

■ **Jul 22:** Opening ceremony director, **Kentaro Kobayashi**, fired over Holocaust joke he made during 1990s comedy routine

■ **Jul 23:** Olympics-related cases of Covid-19 rise by 19, bringing total to **106**