



SKATE AT MOUNT OLYMPUS

Abstract – We are about to witness the entry of action and adventure sports at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, with Sports Climbing, Skate Street, Skate Park, BMX Park and Surfing, thanks to the desire of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to rejuvenate its audience and give new impetus to the interest of the new generations by the Olympic Games. But why has the IOC been waiting for this moment in history to include sports once considered marginal, although today fully consolidated, in the program of the summer Olympic Games? Guided by this question, the article has as its object the Brazilian and international skateboarding community and aims to analyze the inclusion of skateboarding in the Olympic program prior to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The project also intends to understand the importance of skateboarding as a field of physical activity to promote leisure and to present, from the inclusion of this sport in the Olympic Games, the practice of this modality based on the positive aspects of Olympism. As methodological procedures, a bibliographical and documentary review on skateboarding was carried out as a sport, organization and lifestyle, as well as semi structured interviews with athletes and leaders of the sport. Through the analysis of the information obtained through the bibliographical survey and the interviews undertaken, it can be said that the inclusion of skateboarding in the Olympic program has great possibilities not only to rejuvenate its audience, but also to reaffirm Olympic values.

Keywords: Water Sports; Leisure Activities; Life Style; Olympism; Skate.

SKATE NO MONTE OLIMPO

Resumo - Estamos prestes a testemunhar a entrada dos esportes de ação e aventura nos Jogos Olímpicos de Tóquio 2020, com modalidades como Escalada Esportiva, Skate Street, Skate Park, BMX Park e Surfe, graças ao desejo do Comitê Olímpico Internacional (COI) por rejuvenescer seu público e dar novo impulso ao interesse das novas gerações pelos Jogos Olímpicos. Mas por que o COI aguardou por esse momento na história para incluir esportes outrora considerados marginais, embora hoje plenamente consolidados, no programa dos Jogos Olímpicos de verão? Norteado por esta questão, o artigo tem como objeto a comunidade brasileira e internacional do skate e visa analisar a inclusão desta prática nos Jogos Olímpicos de Tóquio 2020. O projeto também pretende compreender a importância do skate como campo de atividade física para promover o lazer e apresentar, a partir da inclusão desse esporte nos Jogos Olímpicos, a prática dessa modalidade baseada nos aspectos positivos do Olimpismo. Como categorias teóricas, foram estabelecidas relações entre a prática, o esporte e o tempo em que vivemos. Como procedimentos metodológicos, foi realizada uma revisão bibliográfica e documental sobre o skate como esporte, organização e estilo de vida, além de entrevistas semiestruturadas com atletas e dirigentes do esporte. Com a análise das informações obtidas através do levantamento bibliográfico e das entrevistas realizadas, pode-se dizer que a inclusão do skate no programa olímpico tem grandes possibilidades não apenas de rejuvenescer seu público, mas também de reafirmar seus valores olímpicos.

Palavras-chave: Esportes Aquáticos; Atividades de lazer; Estilo de vida; Olimpismo; Skate.

SKATE EN EL MONTE OLIMPO

Resumen - Estamos a punto de testigos de la entrada de los deportes de acción y aventura en los Juegos Olímpicos de Tokio 2020, con modalidades como Escalada Deportiva, Skate Street, Skate Park, BMX Park y Surfe, gracias al deseo del Comité Olímpico Internacional (COI) por rejuvenecer su público y dar un nuevo impulso al interés de las nuevas generaciones por los Juegos Olímpicos. Pero ¿por qué el COI aguardó por ese momento en la historia para incluir deportes otrora considerados marginales, aunque hoy plenamente consolidados, en el programa de los Juegos Olímpicos de verano? El artículo tiene como objeto la comunidad brasileña e internacional del skate y pretende analizar la inclusión de esta práctica en los Juegos Olímpicos de Tokio 2020. El proyecto también pretende comprender la importancia del skate como campo de actividad física para promover el ocio y presentar, a partir de la inclusión de ese deporte en los Juegos Olímpicos, la práctica de esa modalidad basada en los aspectos positivos del Olimpismo. Como procedimientos metodológicos, se realizó una revisión bibliográfica y documental sobre el skate como deporte, organización y estilo de vida, además de entrevistas semiestruturadas con atletas y dirigentes del deporte. Con el análisis de las informaciones obtenidas a través del levantamiento bibliográfico y de las entrevistas realizadas, se puede decir que la inclusión del skate en el programa olímpico tiene grandes posibilidades no sólo de rejuvenecer a su público, sino también de reafirmar sus valores olímpicos.

Palabras-clave: Deportes acuáticos; Actividades de ocio; Estilo de vida; Olimpismo; Skate.

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Introduction

The Olympics Games Tokyo - 2020 will mark the rise of so-called action sports, or Californian sports as defined by Christian Pociello¹, to the Olympic pantheon. These sports, including skateboarding and BMX Park, were born in the US state of California to evolve and spread globally during the 1970s and 1980s, marked by a strong "cultural revolution," according to Eric Hobsbawn², triggered by an emerging youth culture. "Young culture became the matrix of the cultural revolution, in the broadest sense, of a revolution in manners and customs, in the means of enjoying leisure and in the commercial arts, which increasingly formed the atmosphere breathed by urban men and women"² (p. 323). Skateboarding, as an example, is a young and celebrated sport that has a strong anti-establishment history and an engaged community that rejected the Olympic movement until recent years.

Becoming Olympian

At a meeting held on October 3, 2016, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, which had just held the Rio 2016 Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) unanimously admitted five new sports to the Tokyo Olympics program: Skate, Surfing, Climbing, Baseball (Softball for women) and Karate. Such sports had already obtained the endorsement of the entity's Executive Committee and needed only the approval of the assembly members of the International Olympic Committee for 2020.

The IOC used two criteria to justify the decision to include the modalities in the Olympic program: those that are extremely popular in Japan (baseball / softball and karate) and those that will attract young people's attention (surfing, climbing and skateboarding). "Baseball is the national sport of Japan. Karate was born in the country. Others will inspire youngsters to enjoy the Olympic sport," said Yoshiro Mori, a member of the Tokyo Games executive committee³

Although the inclusion does not mean the permanence of these modalities in future Olympic programs, we will see the debut of four modalities of action in Tokyo 2020, referring to surfing, skateboarding, bmx park and sports climbing, which signals the desire of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to remain relevant in the cultural identity of postmodernity as portrayed by Stuart Hall⁴. According to Hall⁴, the

old identities are in decline, giving rise to new identities in the fragmented modern individual.

The author himself warns that "identity" is too complex a concept and that, therefore, it would be impossible to make conclusive statements about the subject. Hall proposed to "explore some of the questions about cultural identity in late modernity and assess whether there is an 'identity crisis', what that crisis is, and in what direction it is going"⁴ (p. 274).

In the case of the IOC, such an identity crisis was evident from the 2000s, with the increasing rise of professionalism in sport and a multitude of commercial interests overlapping the Olympic spirit⁵. According to the author (p. 26), "those responsible for this regulation, which led to the professionalism of the athletes and the sporting spectacle, were Juan Antonio Samaranch, for the IOC, and João Havelange, for FIFA."

The Olympic Movement has come to suffer recurrent public opposition from European citizens and countries, once proud to host Olympic events, now worried about the high cost of money and other negative implications in hosting mega-events such as the Olympic Games. Part of this opposition refers to widespread discontent with the blatant ethical and moral contradiction represented by the holding of the Summer Olympics in Beijing 2008 and the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi 2014, taking into account the negative record of China and Russia in regard to human rights, so widely advocated by the Olympic Movement⁶. Another sign of rejection to the Games could be seen in the growing wave of refusal or withdrawal from candidatures to host the Games, including popular referendums against the participation in the bidding process to host the 2022 Winter Olympics, culminating by enshrining a particular dispute between Almaty, Kazakhstan and Beijing, China, with the latter's victory, after the withdrawals of Davos, Switzerland; Munich, Germany; Stockholm, Sweden; Lviv, Ukraine; Krakow, Poland and finally Oslo, Norway, in October 2014, by plebiscite.

Thinking about these and other issues, such as combating corruption in the Olympic environment, gender equality, doping control, athlete empowerment and control over the Olympic Games⁷, Thomas Bach, recently elected president of the IOC in 2013, commissioned a consultation among members of the organization, which brought 1,200 proposals to the 127th session of the IOC in December 2014, resulting in

40 recommendations, known as Agenda 20 + 20, considered strategic for the future of the Olympic Movement and, consequently, the Olympic Games.

The implementation of the recommendations of the IOC Agenda 20 + 20 indicates not only a change of course for the Olympic Movement, but also a transformation in the social role of the athlete, who ceases to be only an executor of skillful gestures valuable to the sporting spectacle and passes to be a central figure within the Olympic Movement. This change of position by the IOC points to an attempt to rescue the Olympic values, desired virtues, but lost along the Olympic Movement transformation process and unrecognizable to the current society⁵ (p. 27)

New modalities, more identified with modern society and their ideals of life and consumption, are part of the recommendations by the 20 + 20 Agenda, indicating a less tortuous path to maintain interest in the Olympic Games and to bring new impetus to the strengthening of the Olympic philosophy of life represented by Olympism.

Is it what they really want?

The entrance of Skateboarding on the Olympic program of Tokyo 2020 represents a shift for both the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and for the skateboarding fans who so far remained outside the system, often proud of this fact, as they consider skate not a sport, but a lifestyle.

It seems that some people are radically opposed to inclusion in the Olympic Games. Born in Belgium, but son of a Moroccan father, Youness Amrani, who was voted the best European skater of 2014 by the specialized website Kingpin, is one of them. *"I do not think I have to go to the Olympics. It has nothing to do. I do not think skateboarding is a sport. I skate for skateboarding, I skateboard for myself, even to impress my mother and my brothers - he guaranteed reflecting the opinion of many practitioners, who consider skateboarding just a lifestyle."*⁷ (our emphasis)

Considered by Thomas Bach, president of the IOC, as a historic proposal, Skateboarding and Surfing, as well as Climbing and BMX Park, will become Olympic in 2020, promoting a rejuvenation of the Olympic audience and, at the same time, provoking a significant change in the perception of the conservative public in relation to

these sports. These modalities, besides being modern and adored by the young public, suggest a desire of the Olympic Committee for renovation, openness and youth.

We want to take the sport to youth. With the many options young people have, we can not expect them to come to us. We have to go to them. This is part of the recommendations of the 2020 Olympic Agenda. The five sports are an innovative combination of established and emerging, youth-friendly events that are popular in Japan, which will add a legacy to the Tokyo Games, said IOC President Thomas Bach⁹.

The basic premise is that action sports have the mission of rescuing the interest of the youth by the Olympic Games, provoking the formulation of a central question for this article: what will be the impact of the inclusion of skateboarding in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Program? This question suggests a roadmap to delimit the object of this study, centered on the inclusion of skateboarding in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Way now?

The phenomenon of the appearance and growth of action sports in Brazil and in the world corresponds to the period of history known as postmodernity, which begun in the middle of the twentieth century. It became commonplace to speak of our time as that of high speed, almost relegating to oblivion a time not too distant, in which life seemed like an unhurried walk on safe trails. To understand this high speed is necessary to observe the contemporary society. Compared to the society of the nineteenth and part of the twentieth century, ours has subverted old ways of life. The new styles feed on continuous technological and scientific innovations and also on sociocultural values and patterns inspired by the affirmation of new identities. Thus, the discontinuity of traditions is an important mark of postmodernity, “the historical cycle in which we find ourselves is wholly taken up by accelerated, uninterrupted and cumulative change. In it, technological innovations and sociocultural modifications that permeate all the plans and sectors of social life are intertwined”⁹ (p. 107).

There is no single expression to designate our time and the societies in it. Postmodernity, late modernity, control society, society of the norm and net society are some of the designations attributed to it by contemporary scholars. We live in a complex and multifaceted society. A global society that, on the one hand, keeps its

citizens strongly interconnected and, on the other hand, extremely vulnerable in its relational ties of inclusion and belonging.

The emergence of individuality signaled a progressive weakening, disintegration or destruction of the dense network of social bonds that tightly tied the whole of life's activities. It also pointed out that the community was losing the power - and/or interest - to normatively regulate the lives of its members¹⁰ (p. 31).

In post modernity, the individual becomes the reference itself. In this stock, the present and not the future, the immediate rather than the mediate, become the meaning of individual projects, of particular groups, of minorities, and not of collective ones expressed in social classes, in the majorities. Political action is therefore tainted by the fragmentation of interests. Through various identity micro-groups, civil society places in the background the traditional channels of representation and mediation of collective interests (parties, parliaments, unions). It came in this emerging movement of ecological defense, defense of minorities and consumer protection, among others, expressing plural features, but fragmented and individuals, own of contemporary society. The same movement happens in the media, making society replace, at first slowly and later, in an accelerated way, traditional media vehicles such as newspapers, magazines, television and radio, all in the unidirectional format, from publisher to public, to a digital, multidirectional and shareable model made possible by the Internet, as are the so-called social media¹¹. Today, everything is instantaneous and totalitarian unanimity is no longer a possibility, opening space for an infinite diversity of styles and preferences, bringing to light niche cultures once relegated to a lower plane, such as skateboarding.

Biossociability

Biossociability emerges in this contemporary society as the strongest mediation of sociability. It is no longer a sociability arising from the relations of groups linked to a collective project: those originating from consanguineous, communitarian relations, collective parties and movements, pastoral or other traditional groupings marked by race, class, political or religious orientation. The cult of private interests guides the sociability of the present day. It expresses the desire of individuals to remain connected,

but without bonds that would threaten individuality. The emergent sociability is apolitical, secular and individual.

Francisco Ortega¹² is one of the leading scholars of emerging biosociabilities, a striking feature of contemporary society. According to the author, the cult of the body induced by the emphasis on bodily, medical, hygienic and aesthetic care leads contemporary individuals, “to the formation of somatic identities, bioidentities, which has shifted to externality the internalist and intimate model of construction and description of themselves” (p. 42).

The new conceptions and practices of medicine based on the prevention and guarantee of health have become a strong inducer of new lifestyles and also of new subjectivities, much like the tribes dedicated to surfing and beach life. There is an intolerance and a rejection of lifestyles that do not value the healthy body, and, on the other hand, a compulsion in the pursuit of ideal performance. It is in this context that there is an exponential increase in the demand for physical exercises, academies, sports practices and, for skateboarders, asphalt streets and public parks of any city, on the coast or in the interior of Brazil.

One can understand the great popularity of skateboarding and other action sports, looking at the individualism and solitude of many urban individuals. In addition to being individual, they are democratic and low-cost activities: they depend on their self-interest and effort, and there is a good availability of places for their practice. Thus, paradoxically, these sports become a possibility of connection, of sociability and guarantee of ties, a fertile field for the practice and development of human values that find symmetry in the so-called Olympic values of respect, friendship and excellence.

Skate, the rebel son of surfing

Urban sport and only dependent on the quality of the surface on which its wheels slide, for the american historian Rhyn Noll¹³ (2000), in his book *Skateboard Retrospective*, the first patent of the skate occurred in 1939, whereas Michael Brooke¹⁴, affirms that its origin refers to the so-called scooters, orange boxes fixed on a wooden board, with shafts and wheels, in the United States of the beginning of the last century, which denotes an even older origin for what was supposed to be only an adaptation of surfboards for asphalt use in the late 1960s.

The skateboard, or “little surf”, as it was called in its introduction in Brazil, had inspiration in the surf and was initially known as surfing in the asphalt, with maneuvers and attitudes proper to the surf and the surfers, except that it happened out of the water and, preferably, in slopes that resembled the act of descending waves. As stated in *The Hard Wave: 3 Decades of Skate in Brazil* by César Augusto Diniz Chaves Filho¹⁵ (2000), “skateboarding came to Brazil through some Rio surfers in the late 1960s who discovered it in ads of an american magazine called “Surfer”. In addition to the influence of surfing, “skateboarding carries the rebellion and transgression of the punk movement as well”, affirms Brazilian researcher Leonardo Brandão¹⁶ (p. 15)

All this spirit of contestation, irreverence and rebellion (against everything and everyone!) That came with the punk culture imported from European countries, mainly from England - but also from the United States - set the tone and rhythm of the practice of skateboarding in the years 1980. Possibly, the interweaving between both cultures gave strength and courage so that the skaters would stop venturing only by places like streets, hills or squares and pass, in an appropriation that carries a good tone of transgression, to use other urban apparatuses, such as handrails, stairs and benches. What is sought, therefore, is that there is a similarity between the skater's attitude of wandering through places not designed for his practice with the attitude of the punk movement to deny any kind of social imposition. In their new representations of urban spaces, the skaters also carried a bit of the utopian spirit of this movement, for both saw reality as something that could be questioned, denied, and redone to their own will.

As a result of a period of contestation and even transformation of society in the late 1960s, such a behavioral trait, rebellion, was always part of the lifestyle that accompanies the practice of skateboarding and was often used as an argument for non-inclusion of skateboarding among the more traditional modalities, recognized as Olympic, as evidenced by the publication of the Brazilian magazine specialized in skateboard *cemporcentoSKATE*¹⁷ (p. 22).

Some things make me believe that 2012 will be a very interesting year for Skate. The first reason to be celebrated: it is Olympic year [London], and once again the Skate is out of this. As we do not know how long resistance lasts, we are celebrating the maintenance of our freedom and independence every time we have reason to do so.

In the next Olympics, this type of celebration will not make any sense, as, like surfing, in Tokyo 2020, skateboarding will enter the program of the Summer Olympics and the sport practice, hitherto considered by its most radical adepts as a challenge to the system, will be incorporated into the system itself.

Olympic values

Before becoming a business, one has to understand, as Baron Pierre de Coubertin well preaches, that physical activity and sport are essential for the physical, mental and social development of every human being. More than sports practice itself, what matters are the values and ideals involved. Based on an understanding of the intrinsic aspects of sports, including physical and mental preparation, dedication, discipline, commitment, self-improvement, health, leisure, nutrition and the motivation that leads to sports practice, besides the social circle that is formed around the activity, it is possible to determine the importance of the sport in the formation of the human being. Sport often functions as a simulacrum of life, offering countless opportunities for reflection and learning through experiences during sports practice. Training and competition form people committed to their ideals, perfecting methods and strategies essential to success in life's struggles.

Realizing the importance of sport for the formation of mankind, including the healthy antagonism implicit in sporting disputes, Baron Pierre de Coubertin reissued the Olympic Games of Antiquity in 1896 to make them a celebration of sport and life. In a phrase that would become famous in later years, exemplifying the Olympic spirit, the Baron would have said “What matters in the Olympic Games is not winning but participating. What matters in life is not the triumph, but the struggle.” (Coubertin¹⁸ apud Cousineau, 2004, p.37).

More than the struggle required to learn how to skate, balance is another essential part of the sport, which means just the art of standing on the skateboard as it slides and maneuvers on any surface available. This ritual includes intuition, subtle movements, sensitivity and reading of the external environment, composed mainly of the surface in which the skate rolls, the skateboard itself and the omnipresent force of gravity. In addition to the relative control over these external elements, the balance between mind, body and spirit is also needed, which is at the heart of Olympism,

according to Baron Pierre de Coubertin himself¹⁹. It is an intrinsic code that ultimately seeks the development and harmonious evolution of the human being, with the aim of promoting a peaceful society and the preservation of human dignity²⁰.

Education, cultural integration and the pursuit of excellence through sport are ideals to be achieved. Olympism is based on friendship, mutual understanding, equality, solidarity and fair play. More than a sports philosophy, Olympism is a philosophy of life. The idea is that the practice of these values surpasses the borders of sports arenas and influences the life of all²¹.

Olympism is therefore an instrument of education for life, based on the joy of the effort, on the educational value of good example and on respect for universal fundamental ethical principles²⁰, in full harmony with the implicit code of conduct to skateboarding.

The Summer Olympics are the main sporting competition on the planet, attracting the attention of billions of people for approximately two weeks, every four years, arousing enormous passion and presenting to the general public new idols of the world sport with each edition realized. Being Olympic, therefore, represents a gigantic window of opportunity for a sporting discipline to gain popularity on a global scale, increasing the visibility and commercial value of sponsorship, something that sports leaders have always longed for.

Always recognized as young, alternative and against the establishment, many fans of skateboarding are still reluctant to admit their sport in the Olympics, while their leaders understand the inclusion in the Games as a positive for growth and popularization. For many practitioners, action sports are not even considered competitive sports. The sport practice is mainly a personal expression, involving maneuvers and challenges that matter more to the practitioner than to the spectator. They are sports widely practiced during the free time of their enthusiasts, who in these moments are independent of scoreboards, notes or opponents. For these reasons, skateboarding, surfing, BMX park and climbing, debutants at the 2020 Olympics, are close to the definition of leisure proposed by Dumazedier²² (p. 34).

A set of occupations in which the individual can surrender freely, whether to rest, to amuse himself, to recreate himself and to entertain

himself or to develop his disinterested formation, his voluntary social participation, or his free creative capacity, after getting rid of or disengaging from their professional, family and social obligations.

Despite the aforementioned youth, action sports have reached maturity in various aspects, such as the organization of national and international leagues, high performance and professionalism, accrediting them to the highest spheres of world sport, such as the Olympic Games, arousing interest in the general public and, thus, transforming athletes into idols in a society lacking good references²³.

Sometimes the senses of the sport are made up of the athlete who, as a hero or demigod, is a source of inspiration. One can see a true veneration for the figure of the sportsman who, because they have stood out in their respective modalities, become the object of attention²³ (p. 669)

Closing remarks

Through the practice of skateboarding, human beings establish intense relationships with themselves, with the elements of the city and also with their peers in the social process that results from the experience. In addition to the school-stimulated cognitive development, it is essential to offer the child and adolescent a practice of outdoor sports as part of their education for life. Although not valued in this respect, nature-related sports and skate, for example, are great instruments for the promotion of physical and mental health, especially in socially vulnerable populations, without access to basic health and education conditions, as we observe on a large scale in the Brazilian territory.

Although adventure, as a subjective experience of the search for emotions in front of the unusual, is perhaps an anthropological constant, it is in the contemporary times that one experiences a diversification of adventure activities, from the perspective of leisure. In theory, they are linked to sensations of risk and vertigo, controlled exacerbations of emotions and, in many cases, ingratitude to nature and other sensitive dimensions, whose search for revaluation points to a differential of these practices in relation to conventional sports²⁴ (p. 688)

That is why the positive influence of entering a modern and popular modality, such as skateboarding, in a mega-sport event such as the Olympic Games is so

important as regards the promotion of physical activity and leisure in all communities, including the least favored. There are many examples of athletes who positively influence a society by simply divulging their personal examples, inspiring young people of all classes, such as our world champions Pedro Barros and Kelvin Hoefler, who achieved personal and professional success through sports, even before they see their sport elevated to the Olympic sphere. As Pedro Barros, the park skater, exposes

It's a totally different experience for us skaters. We come from a lifestyle that ended up not having much of this competition model in mind, so it's a stage of adaptation, but that can also be very positive for skateboarding and mainly for Brazilian skateboarding which is still in need of support and structure. (Pedro Barros, oral communication, 20/11/2018)

Kelvin Hoefler, the street skater, has a similar opinion.

I never imagined that I would be an Olympic athlete, I do not think any skater ever imagined, even of another generation. It's a very new thing for us and, maybe, it's a good thing, as people expect us to be inspiration for others and other generations. (Kelvin Hoefler, oral communication, 20 nov 2018)

Robert Dean Silva Burnquist, Brazilian skateboarding legend and actual president of the Brazilian Skate Federation (CBSK), owner of 30 X Games medals (most of all time), among other titles, is leading Brazilian skateboarding through these new times.

We never imagined skateboarding in the Olympics, because we were not thinking about it. We were thinking of skating, learning new maneuvers, evolving, filming, which continues in thought, but there is a new reality now. Over the years, when talking about the Olympics, there was not much of a reality because the organization inside the skateboard was not there yet. Obviously the CBSK was created 18 years ago and time was passing, but I think the biggest concern was of us not having the rein, not having the power of certain decisions. Championships we always ran, all tough there are people in the middle who do not think competitions are cool either, because they think that skateboarding is done in the backyard, in the streets and it's much more art. It fits in the culture, it fits in the sport, but our identity is a lifestyle. I fought to be in the confederation presidency, to resolve this situation of representation before the COB and the IOC. Then we got public investment and that was an achievement. We never imagined that we would get here, but since we arrived and we are in

control of the situation, then it is good. Nothing prevents skateboarding from being skateboarding, from coming and going, living your lifestyle, living your art. Nothing prevents this. The reality is that there is an opportunity for those who want to compete Olympic level, high performance, now they can do it. (Robert Dean Silva Burnquist, oral communication, 20 nov 2018)

For COB officials, the entry of action sports into the Olympic pantheon marks an opening and renewal phase for the IOC, as Bernardo Otero, a COB member responsible for the Olympic modalities of surfing and skateboarding, explains.

The entrance of these sports to the Olympic movement is very good. It rejuvenates the sport. They are extreme sports, sports connected to the youth. They are new sports in terms of age, the kids like to watch, and so bringing those youth into the Olympic movement, that at one point could be a little distant, is very interesting. At some point it seems that they are more concerned about making video parts, than even competing or having this competition climate, so much that they are all friends, one cheers for the other in the competition, and that's sensational. Nothing more Olympic than that, the Olympic spirit there is primordial. (Bernardo Otero, oral communication, 20 nov 2018)

Those words carry a powerful message, which must be taken seriously, for it could restore the Olympic Spirit lost with the rise of sports professionalism in recent times, considering the entrance of action sports such as skateboarding at the Olympic Games. The inclusion of Sports Climbing, Surfing and Skateboarding in the Olympic program of Tokyo 2020 has great possibilities not only to rejuvenate its audience, exactly what the IOC wishes, but also, and most important, to reaffirm Olympic values.

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