

《2020年东京奥运会将推迟至2021年》



Well let's bring you more that breaking news in the past 15 minutes or thereabout.

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So it seems now all but certain that the 2020 Olympics in Japan will be postponed.

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The Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said in the past few minutes,

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that the International Olympic Committee's president Thomas Bach,

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has agreed to a proposal of a postponement for about a year.

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Sky's Rebecca Williams joins us from the newsroom.

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Rebecca, to some degree this was starting to feel inevitable, wasn't it?

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The Canadians and in particularly Australian said they would have nothing to do with the 2020 Olympics.

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Yeah, last week they said that they wouldn't send teams to the Olympics.

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And so pressure was certainly mounting on the International Olympic Committee to make a decision.

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They have said for months now that it would go ahead on the 24th of July,

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as planned 11,000 athletes from all over the world were due to attend the Olympics in Tokyo.

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And now they have made this decision.

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It seems that it will instead be held next summer.

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It's going to be postponed and that is really really significant.

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They've only been three cancellations of Olympics in modern history.

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And that was down to the First World War and the Second World War.

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Now obviously the spread of coronavirus is the primary focus here,

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the health of the athletes, of fans heading out there,

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and so clearly this decision has been made.

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It was a request as you say from the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who called for it to be postponed until next summer.

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We're also hearing now from the Olympics Minister that postponement won't go on past next summer.

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So it seems inevitable that it will be one years' postponement.

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This was all decided this afternoon on a conference call between the IOC, the Japanese government and the organizing committee.

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And like you say a number of governing bodies have started to pile on the pressure.

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So we heard that the Australian team wouldn't attend,

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that the Canadians wouldn't attend,

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and certainly the British Olympic Association were in favor of this postponement.

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We started to hear from athletes as well,

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who said that they were unable to train.

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The whole point of the Olympic Games is that everyone starts on a level playing field.

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They all get the equal amount of training and certainly for countries locked down over the coronavirus,

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we've heard that they have found that very difficult.

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We heard from the heptathlete Katarina Johnson Thompson last week,

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she said she was struggling to train in Montpellier which is where she's based in France.

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We've also heard from Dina Asher-Smith who of course is one of the key hopefuls for Team GB in this Olympics.

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And she says she was having to balance the priority of training and keeping her family safe.

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And I interviewed the swimmer Adam Peaty a couple of weeks ago,

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and he said the postponement was the most likely option.

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He said competing behind closed doors would be incredibly difficult,

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because it's very hard for athletes to motivate themselves.

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But yet it now seems 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo has been postponed,

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and it will instead be held next summer.

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Hopefully a time for everyone to get together,

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when the coronavirus you would hope has subsided,

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and that threat is now over and people can celebrate.

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