**CEREMONIES IN SPORT EDUCATION**

Part of sport’s festive nature is the use of specific ceremonies and rituals. The ceremonies described below can be used as a starting point for planning ceremonies within Sport Education.

# Opening Ceremony

***TYPICAL ORDER OF EVENTS***

Parade of Nations: Greece first, host city last, others in alphabetical order.

Speeches by the President of the Organizing Committee and the President of the International Olympic Committee.

Head of State officially declares the Games open.

Olympic Flag is raised as the Olympic Hymn is played.

Olympic Torch is used to light the Olympic flame.

Doves are released as a symbol of peace.

Olympic Oath is taken by an athlete and an official.

Cultural entertainment is provided by the Organizing Committee of the host city/Country.

**Closing Ceremony**

***ORDER OF EVENTS***

To symbolize the unity and friendship of the Games, Olympic athletes are not separated into national teams as they enter the stadium.

Three flags are raised to the National Anthems: Greece, host country, and next Olympics host country.

Olympic Flag passed to the Mayor of the next host city.

President of the International Olympic Committee pronounces the Games closed.

Olympic Flame is extinguished.

Olympic Flag is lowered as the Olympic Hymn is played.

Cultural entertainment is provided by the Organizing Committee of the host city.

**Closing Statement**

**The president of the IOC pronounces the Games closed with the following statement:**

"I declare the Games of the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(current) Olympiad closed, and in accordance with tradition, I call upon the youth of the world to assemble four years from now at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(the site of the next Olympics), to celebrate with us there the Games of the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (next) Olympiad."

# The Victory Ceremony

At the Ancient Games, winners were presented with a simple olive tree branch, which was cut with a gold-handled knife from a wild olive tree. The Greeks believed that the vitality of the sacred tree was transmitted to the recipient through the branch.

At the Modern Games, Olympic medals are presented to the winning athletes who stand on a dais at the completion of their event. A GOLD medal is presented for first place, SILVER for second, and BRONZE for third. The host city is responsible for designing the medals within the guidelines set by the IOC.

The national anthem of the winner is played as each medallist's national flag is raised.

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