



#OlympicFlyIn2024



## FROM THE ICARUS MYTH...TO PARIS

Humans have always dreamed of being able to fly like birds as the ancient Greek myth of Icarus reminds us. Without any doubt, if the Greeks had been able to realise this dream, skydiving would have been part of the ancient Olympic Games. Again, fascinated by new technologies, and in particular aeronautics, Indoor Skydiving would probably have been included in the first modern games as this sport enables man to fly, with no special equipment, in an upward flow of air.

The first ever parachute jump was carried out in Paris by André-Jacques Garnerin on October 22nd 1797. Garnerin jumped from a hot air balloon from an altitude of 680m over Parc Monceau. His student and future wife, Jeanne-Geneviève La Brosse, in 1799 became the first female parachutist.

After water and earth, air, as the Greeks had dreamed, became the third element in which people of all nations could practise sport and achieve top level performances.

This is an exceptional opportunity for skydiving to become an Olympic sport and we must not miss it.

See you in #Paris2024  
For the #OlympicFlyIn2024 !

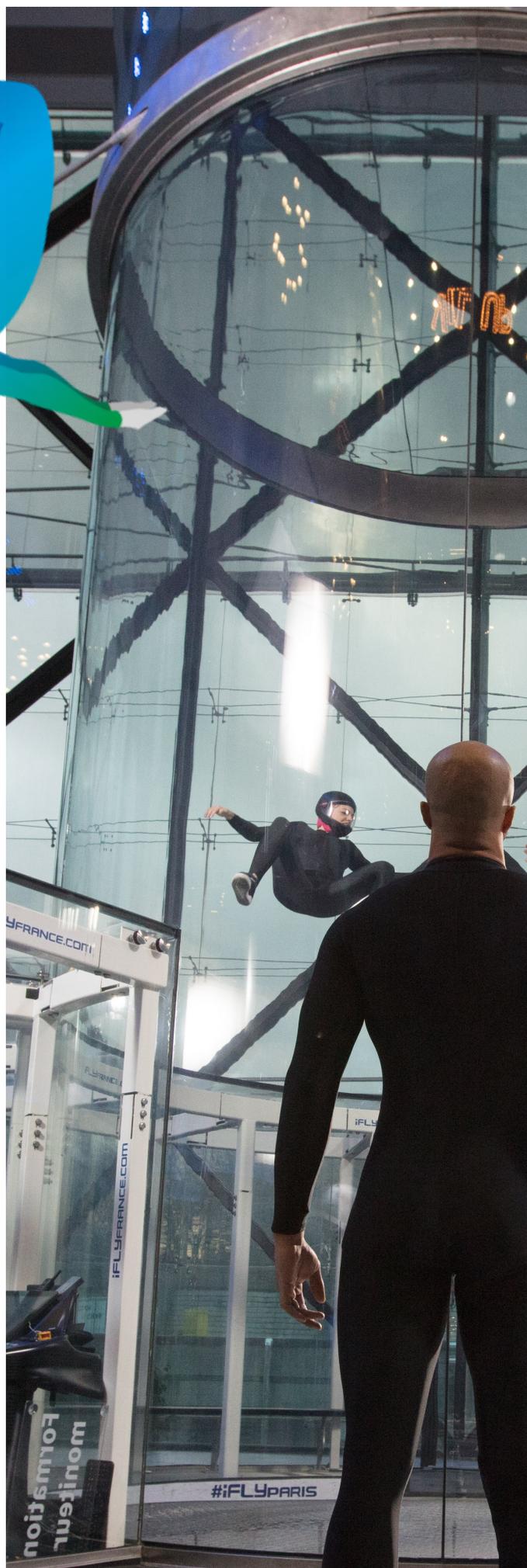
## OLYMPIC SPORT?

To become part of the Olympic Games, a sport must not be elitist and must be widely practised by a number of people from whom top level athletes will emerge.

Indoor Skydiving being accessible to almost anyone from an early age (5 years old in many countries), whether valid or disabled and, depending on the ambition of the athlete, allowing for progression in performance, is perfectly in line with this requirement. As a leisure sport, it does not require any particular physical condition.

Although a relatively new, this is a fast developing world-wide sport that is already well structured at all levels including competition rules with national and international championships. It is important to highlight one of the key actions initiated, amongst others, by the French Parachute Federation which have allowed disabled to practise this sport. The 1st HandiFly Euro Challenge in 2016 was a major founding step in this direction during which sports people, some very severely disabled, participated from 13 countries and were able to discover Indoor Skydiving.

As a sport, Indoor Skydiving has many specific disciplines such as flying to music, head-on battles between teams, matches, speed, etc. and is perfectly adaptable to an Olympic format.





## THE TUNNEL

Tunnels are a circular space of varying diameter made with transparent vertical walls in which a strong vertical airflow is produced by electric motors.

The general public can watch the skydivers evolve inside the tunnel, which brings the added value of sharing the competition with the spectators. Initially used by the military, the first tunnel reserved for sport or leisure was opened in Las Vegas in 1982.

Today there are more than 100 mobile or permanent wind tunnels throughout the world and more than a dozen alone opened in the first quarter of 2016.

The development of Indoor Skydiving has accelerated throughout the world in the last few years with wind

tunnels usually being set up in outlying suburbs.

Regular participants or outdoor skydivers usually have their own special outfit but for occasional or novice participants they can borrow or rent an outfit on site. Thanks to the qualified technical staff and secure environment, progression in the sport is usually quite rapid especially amongst the younger participants who are quickly able to fly and perform various manoeuvres.

The ease with which this progression is possible together with the friendly atmosphere amongst beginners and top level athletes alike makes this sport attractive and explains why it has experienced such a rapid development over the past decade.

## OLYMPIC SPORT IN 2024

Indoor Skydiving is spreading like wildfire! Both national and international championships are attracting more and more teams and many countries have expressed their enthusiasm to see this discipline become part of the Olympic Games.

In Bye-Law to Rule 45 of the Olympic Charter, in paragraph 3.1 it is stated *“The OCOG of a specific edition of the Olympic games may propose to the IOC the inclusion, for such edition only, of one or more additional events; all decisions regulating thereto shall be taken in full compliance with this Rule 45 and its bye-law and with any further specific conditions set forth by the IOC”*.

The Paris 2024 Organisation Committee therefore has the opportunity to propose Indoor Skydiving as an additional event to the IOC as part of the 2024 Olympics. This would give recognition to Indoor Skydiving as an Olympic sport.

There are already two wind tunnels in the greater Paris area (Ile de France) that are capable of hosting international competitions and in particular, iFly located inside the Olympic Park.

The French Parachute Federation has sent participants to many European and World Championships but, more importantly, has organised numerous national Championships and World Championships and consequently has more than enough experience to be able to accompany the Organisation Committee to ensure the event is conducted successfully. In advance of the event and with the support of the International Air Sport Federation (FAI) and the Aeroclub de France, the FFP will set up numerous partnerships with other international federations to forward this application in the coming months.

**DAVID ROTH**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH PARACHUTING FEDERATION**

*For all skydivers in France and elsewhere in the world, it has been a decades long ambition to enter the Olympic family. United and mobilised behind this unique opportunity for our sport, our skydivers, our star athletes and our hard-working volunteers will put all their energy and commitment to make this dream happen.*

*The French Parachute Federation athletes already enhance the reputation of France throughout the year by their participation in international competitions so it only logical for them to support the Federation in this quest for Olympic recognition through Indoor Skydiving which being an innovative technology can also be a motor for economic development across the land.*

*2024, 230 years after the first parachute jump, will be an especially symbolic year and the long history of Paris and parachuting will be glorified when it becomes an Olympic sport.*

*The engagement of the French Parachute Federation beside #Paris2024 fits perfectly with its sporting ambitions, acknowledgement of excellence and the mobilisation of its members.*

*It is extremely exciting to support this Olympic application challenge and everyone is welcome to join us. This dream will only become reality with the full mobilisation and support of the world-wide skydiving community.*

*Together let us add to the history of parachuting and enable it to enter into the Pantheon of Sport.*



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CONTACT PRESSE : **Marie-Luce Bozom** : +33 (0)6 15 15 63 20 [phoebus-communication@orange.fr](mailto:phoebus-communication@orange.fr)