

What we can learn from the Olympic Games

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1–2

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Dear readers, authors, reviewers and associate editors of Simulation and Gaming,

Writing this editorial the day after the Olympic Games closing ceremony closed (our editorial deadline for the S&G Journal runs early), we simply couldn't resist to flag this editorial 'what we can learn from the Olympic Games'. For what greater evidence is there that Gaming inspires, bonds, evokes a variety of emotions and build relations? Gaming is real life, as we are all born 'homo ludens' and none of us lose this capacity spontaneously. It is just that we sometimes fail to recognize this very important innate ability and need, overwhelmed in our daily chores and tasks. Then how delightful it is to be reminded of the joy of gaming watching the Olympic Games (oh how we wish we were still a bit younger and more eager to excel in sports...). For sport is one of the oldest forms of (game-) play. And to win, one must master tactics and set the mind as well. And research progress! What works, what not. That is what all great Olympians are doing, and not only after their match. Especially in their preparation phase, building their muscle, their memory and their neurons the best way they can. Watch, evaluate, contemplate and learn. And have fun along the way!

In addition, the Olympic Games reminded us of the importance of following rules during the game-play and the spirit of fair play. Like athletes of the Olympic, we are players in our daily lives as well. Although we are not always conscious about the fact that we are playing with rules in our societies, the COVID-19 situation made this very explicit. In current times, we find ourselves trapped in a new, fast evolving situation. Much resembling a new battlefield, with unknown levels, playfield and rules. New assets and props, e.g., a mask mandates, vaccine passports, have been introduced to us. Adapting to these new rules is sometimes hard and yes, the battle is painful in many aspects. Yet we have hope that we evolve in this wicked game, by being good players with a fair spirit, sharing commodities and insights the right way, with hopefully a pandemic ending soon. So, we can look forward again to better times, excelling in keeping the spirit high striving for the best- as our athletes did.

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