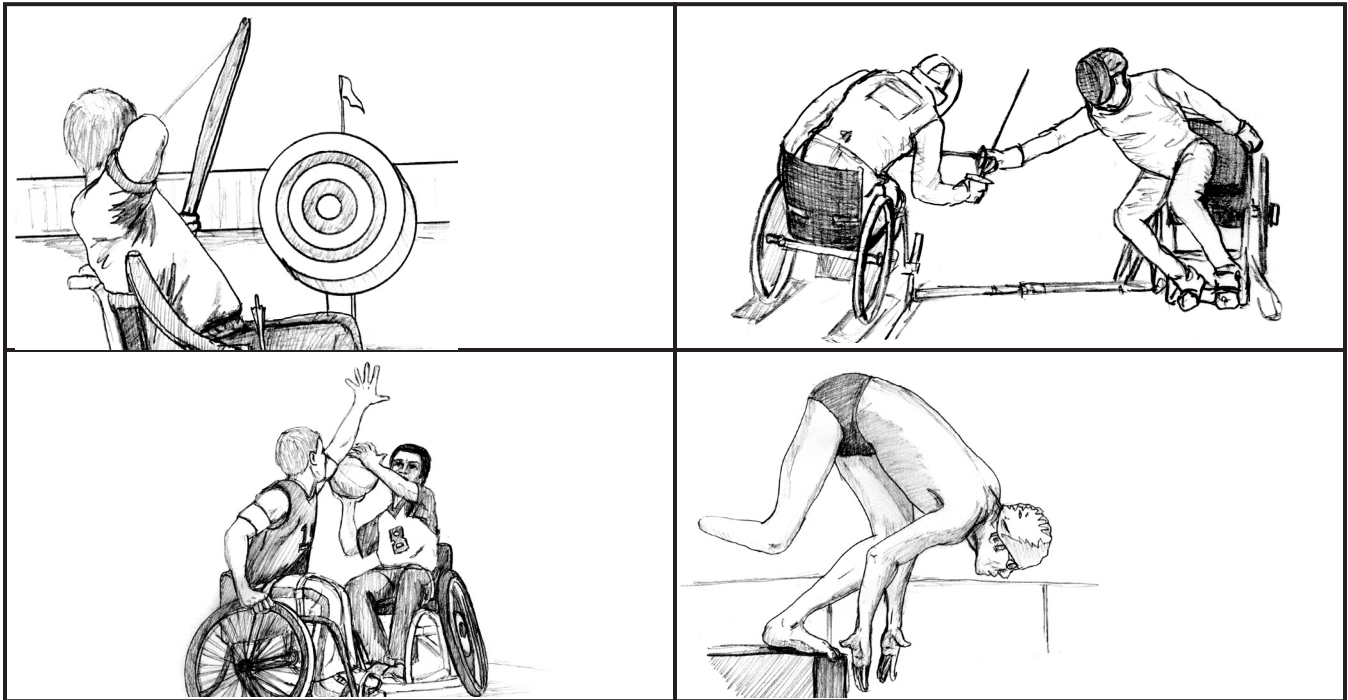


The first Paralympics took place in 1960. The event was held in Rome. It took place one week after the Rome Summer Olympics. 400 athletes came. They were from 23 countries. The events were: snooker, fencing, field events, basketball, swimming, table tennis, archery, and the pentathlon.



In 1964, the Paralympics and the Olympics were in Tokyo. From 1968 until 1988, the Paralympics and Olympics were held in different places. Since 1988, the two events have always been in the same place. Cities who want to host the Olympics must also host the Paralympics.

The Paralympics has its own flag. It has three shapes. One shape is red. One shape is blue. One shape is green. The shapes look like they are moving. The Paralympics motto is, "Spirit in Motion." This stands for the strong will of every athlete.

www.paralympic.org

