Who's the Best?

July 2016
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To work out which countries have the most naturally athletic populations I will use the medal data along with a scoring system that gives each type of medal a different score (Gold-50, Silver-20, Bronze-5) and also the population of each country. I thought that this give a good representation of how naturally athletic the populations of these countries are.

To calculate the number of points for each country I multiplied the number of gold medals by 50, the number of silver medals by 20 and the number of bronze medals by 5 before adding this all together. I then calculated the points per million by multiplying the number of points by 1,000,000 and the dividing it by the population of the country, the reason that I chose points per million is because it gave numbers that were neither too small nor too big to easily work with. Then, I added in a column with medals per million so I could compare another indicator of how naturally athletic the population of these countries was. Below is great Britain as an example to show all of the data I used to compare the countries.

Position	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Points	Population	Points per million	Medals per million
3	Great Britain	29	17	19	65	1885	64,100,000	29.40717629	1.014040562

The bars go from 0 (at the left of each cell) to the highest value in that category (at the right of each cell) so provide a good indication of where that country ranks in the category. For the position column the colours range from green (top of the table) to red (bottom of the table) with the topped bottom ten having green and red text as with the colours. This means it is easy to track where the top and bottom countries go when the countries are sorted by different statistics.

When I sorted the countries by points per million in descending order to look because I thought that those with the most naturally athletic populations would come to the top but Grenada and Bahamas who had each won one gold medal came to the top because they had very small populations(Grenada-105,897 and Bahamas-377,374.) I then decided only look at the top 30 ranked countries as I thought that this would provide a good balance between countries that did well in the standings as well as those who may not have done so well yet have a very athletic population. I think that this was a much better way of doing it than looking at every country that had won medals. The image below shows this table.

Position	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Points	Population	Points per million	Medals per million
18	Jamaica	4	4	4	12	300	2,715,000	110.4972376	4.419889503
15	New Zealand	6	2	5	13	365	4,471,000	81.63721762	2.907626929
9	Hungary	8	4	6	18	510	9,897,000	51.5307669	1.818732949
25	Croatia	3	1	2	6	180	4,253,000	42.32306607	1.410768869
29	Denmark	2	4	3	9	195	5,614,000	34.73459209	1.60313502
10	Australia	7	16	12	35	730	23,130,000	31.56074362	1.513186338
16	Cuba	5	3	7	15	345	11,270,000	30.6122449	1.330967169
3	Great Britain	29	17	19	65	1885	64,100,000	29.40717629	1.014040562
13	Netherlands	6	6	8	20	460	16,800,000	27.38095238	1.19047619
19	Czech Republic	4	3	3	10	275	10,520,000	26.14068441	0.950570342
26	Belarus	2	5	5	12	225	9,466,000	23.76927953	1.267694908
12	Kazakhstan	7	1	5	13	395	17,040,000	23.18075117	0.762910798
30	Azerbaijan	2	2	6	10	170	9,417,000	18.05245832	1.061909313
5	South Korea	13	8	7	28	845	50,220,000	16.82596575	0.557546794
4	Russia	24	25	32	81	1860	143,500,000	12.96167247	0.56445993
7	France	11	11	12	34	830	66,030,000	12.57004392	0.514917462
6	Germany	11	19	14	44	1000	80,620,000	12.40387001	0.54577028
8	Italy	8	9	11	28	635	59,830,000	10.61340465	0.467992646
27	Romania	2	5	2	9	210	19,960,000	10.52104208	0.450901804
14	Ukraine	6	5	9	20	445	45,490,000	9.782369752	0.439657067
1	United States	46	28	29	103	3005	318,900,000	9.42301662	0.322985262
20	North Korea	4	0	2	6	210	24,900,000	8.43373494	0.240963855
21	Spain	3	10	4	17	370	46,770,000	7.911054095	0.363480864
11	Japan	7	14	17	38	715	127,300,000	5.616653574	0.298507463
28	Kenya	2	4	5	11	205	44,350,000	4.622322435	0.248027057
17	Iran	4	5	3	12	315	77,450,000	4.06714009	0.15493867
23	South Africa	3	2	1	6	195	52,980,000	3.680634202	0.113250283
24	Ethiopia	3	1	3	7	185	94,100,000	1.965993624	0.074388948
2	China	38	28	22	88	2570	1,357,000,000	1.893883567	0.064848931
22	Brazil	3	5	9	17	295	200,400,000	1.472055888	0.084830339

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I then created another excel sheet and put in the results from the 2008 Olympic games instead if I would get similar results. I have put a picture below, of the top 30 sorted by points per million (the same way of sorting I used in the image on the page before.)

Position	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Points	Population	Points per	Medals pe
14	Jamaica	6	3	2	11	370	2,715,000	136.2799263	4.051565378
22	Norway	3	5	1	9	255	5,084,000	50.15735641	1.770259638
25	New Zealand	3	2	4	9	210	4,471,000	46.96935809	2.012972489
6	Australia	14	15	17	46	1085	23,130,000	46.90877648	1.988759187
27	Georgia	3	0	3	6	165	4,477,000	36.85503686	1.340183158
16	Belarus	4	5	9	18	345	9,466,000	36.44622861	1.901542362
26	Slovakia	3	2	1	6	195	5,414,000	36.01773181	1.108237902
28	Cuba	2	11	11	24	375	11,270,000	33.27417924	2.129547471
12	Netherlands	7	5	4	16	470	16,800,000	27.97619048	0.952380952
30	Denmark	2	2	3	7	155	5,614,000	27.60954756	1.246882793
21	Hungary	3	5	2	10	260	9,897,000	26.27058705	1.010407194
4	Great Britain	19	13	15	47	1285	64,100,000	20.04680187	0.733229329
24	Czech Republic	3	3	0	6	210	10,520,000	19.96197719	0.570342205
7	South Korea	13	10	8	31	890	50,220,000	17.7220231	0.617283951
5	Germany	16	10	15	41	1075	80,620,000	13.33416026	0.50855867
29	Kazakhstan	2	4	7	13	215	17,040,000	12.61737089	0.762910798
3	Russia	23	21	29	73	1715	143,500,000	11.95121951	0.508710801
17	Romania	4	1	3	8	235	19,960,000	11.77354709	0.400801603
11	Ukraine	7	5	15	27	525	45,490,000	11.54099802	0.593537041
10	France	7	16	18	41	760	66,030,000	11.50991973	0.62092988
9	Italy	8	9	10	27	630	59,830,000	10.52983453	0.451278623
19	Canada	3	9	7	19	365	35,160,000	10.3811149	0.540386803
15	Spain	5	10	3	18	465	46,770,000	9.942270686	0.384862091
13	Kenya	6	4	4	14	400	44,350,000	9.019165727	0.3156708
2	United States	36	38	36	110	2740	318,900,000	8.592035121	0.344935717
20	Poland	3	6	1	10	275	38,530,000	7.137295614	0.259538022
7	Japan	9	6	10	25	620	127,300,000	4.870384918	0.196386489
18	Ethiopia	4	1	2	7	230	94,100,000	2.444208289	0.074388948
1	China	51	21	28	100	3110	1,357,000,000	2.291820192	0.073691968
23	Brazil	3	4	8	15	270	200,400,000	1.347305389	0.074850299

2008:

14	Jamaica
22	Norway
25	New Zealand
6	Australia
27	Georgia
16	Belarus
26	Slovakia
28	Cuba
12	Netherlands
30	Denmark
21	Hungary
4	Great Britain
24	Czech Republic
7	South Korea
5	Germany
29	Kazakhstan
3	Russia
17	Romania
11	Ukraine
10	France
9	Italy
19	Canada
15	Spain
13	Kenya
2	United States
20	Poland
7	Japan
18	Ethiopia
1	China
23	Brazil

2012:

18	Jamaica
15	New Zealand
9	Hungary
25	Croatia
29	Denmark
10	Australia
16	Cuba
3	Great Britain
13	Netherlands
19	Czech Republic
26	Belarus
12	Kazakhstan
30	Azerbaijan
5	South Korea
4	Russia
7	France
6	Germany
8	Italy
27	Romania
14	Ukraine
1	United States
20	North Korea
21	Spain
11	Japan
28	Kenya
17	Iran
23	South Africa
24	Ethiopia
2	China
22	Brazil

When I compared the order of the countries in these tables I noticed that Jamaica was top in both 2008 and 2012 as well as New Zealand being 3rd in 2008 and 2nd in 2012. Australia were also fairly good coming 4th in 2008 and 6th in 2012 on the medals per million in the top 30 placed countries. At the other end of the table Brazil were bottom with China then Ethiopia above it both times.

In conclusion, I believe that Jamaica are the most naturally athletic population because despite having only 2.7 million people they consistently manage to win lots of medals at the Olympics .