

Tokyo 2020 scrap Olympics logo after plagiarism claims

Japan officials act after Belgian theatre alleges their logo had been stolen

Tokyo 2020 have scrapped their logo (left) after being accused of plagiarism by Belgium's Theatre de Liege

By Telegraph Sport

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The organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics have been forced to scrap a controversial logo design amid allegations the design had been plagiarised.

It is claimed Kenjiro Sano, a Tokyo-based designer, had copied the logo of a Belgian theatre.

Kenjiro Sano is under fire for his Olympic logo design

Olivier Debie, the designer behind the logo for the Théâtre de Liège, first accused Sano of stealing the design in July and has sought legal action. Sano says his work is original.

The Games organisers will hold a meeting to discuss how to select a new one, according to state broadcaster NHK.

The scrapping of the design is another setback for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as the Games now not only lack a logo, but also a stadium.

Belgian designer Olivier Debie in his office in Liege

The original futuristic design for the centerpiece venue by British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid, was also ditched after public criticism over soaring costs.

Sano has become a target of criticism on social media over the Olympic logo, as well as other works.

Sano recently removed tote bag designs from a promotional campaign for Suntory Beverage & Food Ltd. after members of his staff copied third-party designs without his knowledge. The award-winning designer also admitted to using images found online when he created portfolio materials to show his Olympic design during the logo contest, NHK reported.

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