



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

Research and Reference Service
Olympic Studies Centre

FOOTBALL: participation during the history of the Olympic Games

Reference document

Introduction, key stages and evolution in the number of events from this sport's beginnings to the present time.

September 2011



© IOC



Football

Introduction

Football appeared for the first time on the programme of the Games of the II Olympiad, [Paris 1900](#). It has been on the programme of each edition of the Games since, with the exception of [Los Angeles 1932](#), where it was removed owing to a disagreement between FIFA and the IOC on the issue of amateurism. Women's football made its debut on the programme of the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, [Atlanta 1996](#).

Key stages

First entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1894: At the Paris Congress in June, the desire was expressed that “athletics games (football, lawn tennis, real tennis, etc.)” feature on the Olympic programme.• 1924: At the 23rd IOC Session in Paris in June and July, the IOC drew up a list of obligatory and optional sports. Football was on the latter.
Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1928: At the 27th IOC Session in July in Amsterdam, it was decided, as it was “impossible for the International Association Football Association to come to an agreement with the IOC regarding the rules of amateurism”, that football would be excluded from the Olympic programme.
Return to the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1935: At the 34th IOC Session in March in Oslo, it was announced that a football tournament would be staged for the Berlin 1936 Games, as FIFA had accepted the IOC's rules concerning amateurism.
Women's football	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1993: At the Executive Board meeting in September in Monaco, it was decided to add women's football to the programme of the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, Atlanta 1996.

[Find out more](#)



Men's and women's events

Football	1896	1900	1904	1908	1912	1920	1924	1928	1932	1936	1948	1952	1956	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012	Total#
Men																												25
Women																												5
Number of events	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	25*

Number of times on the programme by event

* Number of times on the programme from 1896 to 2012