



INTERNATIONAL
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Olympic Studies Centre

SAILING: History of Sailing at the Olympic Games

Reference document

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

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Sailing

Introduction

Sailing was planned for the programme of the Games of the I Olympiad in [Athens in 1896](#), but the events were not staged owing to the bad weather. It was then staged for each edition of the Games with the exception of those in [St Louis in 1904](#). Women competed in the mixed sailing events as of [1900](#). Since the Games of the XXIV Olympiad in [Seoul in 1988](#), some events have been reserved only for them.

Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1894: At the Paris Congress held in June, the desire was expressed for nautical sports (rowing, sailing and swimming) to be on the Olympic programme.
Windsurfing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1980: At the 83rd IOC Session held in July and August in Moscow, it was decided to add a mixed windsurfing event (windglider) to the programme of the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1984.
Women's event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1984: At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in July and August in Los Angeles, it was decided to add the 470 dinghy event for women to the programme of the Games in Seoul in 1988.

Evolution in the number of events

- 1900: 8 events (mixed)
- 1908-1912: 4 events (mixed)
- 1920: 14 events (mixed)
- 1924-1928: 3 events (mixed)
- 1932-1936: 4 events (mixed)
- 1948-1968: 5 events (mixed)
- 1972-1980: 6 events (mixed)
- 1984: 7 events (mixed)
- 1988: 8 events (1 men's, 1 women's, 6 mixed)
- 1992-1996: 10 events (3 men's, 3 women's, 4 mixed)
- 2000: 11 events (3 men's, 3 women's, 5 mixed)
- 2004-2008: 11 events (4 men's, 4 women's, 3 mixed)
- 2012: 10 events (6 men's, 4 women's)
- 2016: 10 events (5 men's, 4 women's, 1 mixed)

[Find out more](#)



Mixed events

Sailing mixed	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	2016	Total	
0-1/2t																													1	
1/2-1t																														1
1-2t																														1
2-3t																														1
3-10t																														1
10-20t																														1
+20t																														1
Open class																														1
5.5m																														5
6m																														8
6m, rating 1907																														1
6m, rating 1919																														1
6.5m, rating 1919																														1
7m																														1
7m, rating 1907																														1
8m																														6
8m, rating 1907																														1
8m, rating 1919																														1
10m																														1
10m, rating 1907																														1
10m, rating 1919																														1
12m																														2
12m, rating 1907																														1
12m, rating 1919																														1
12 foot dinghy																														2
18 foot dinghy																														1
12m2 sharpie																														1
30m2																														1
40m2																														1
Olympic class monotype																														3
Swallow																														1
Firefly																														1
Finn																														11
Star																														15
Dragon																														7

Last update: March 2015



Mixed events, continued

Sailing mixed	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	2016	Total	
Flying dutchman																													9	
Tempest																														2
Soling																													8	
470																													3	
Tornado																													9	
Laser																													3	
49er																													3	
Board (Windglider)																													1	
Board (Division II)																													1	
Nacra 17																													1	
Number of events mixed	0	8	0	4	4	14	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	7	6	4	4	5	3	3	0	1	25	

* Sailing was included on the programme of the 1896 Games in Athens, but the events could not be held owing to the bad weather

Men's events

Sailing men	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	2016	Total
470 Two persons Dinghy																													8
Finn																													6
Star																													3
Laser																													3
Board (Lechner)																													1
Board (Mistral)																													3
Board RS:X																													3
Skiff																													2
Number of events men	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	3	4	4	6	5	8



Women's events

Sailing women	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	2016	Total	
470 Two persons Dinghy																														8
Europe																														4
Yngling																														2
Laser Radial																														3
Board (Lechner)																														1
Board (Mistral)																														3
Board RS:X																														3
Match Racing - Elliott 6m																														1
49er - Skiff																														1
Number of events women	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	8

Total

Sailing	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	2016	Total
Number of events	0	8	0	4	4	14	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	7	8	10	10	11	11	11	10	10	26

Grey column total = number of times on the programme