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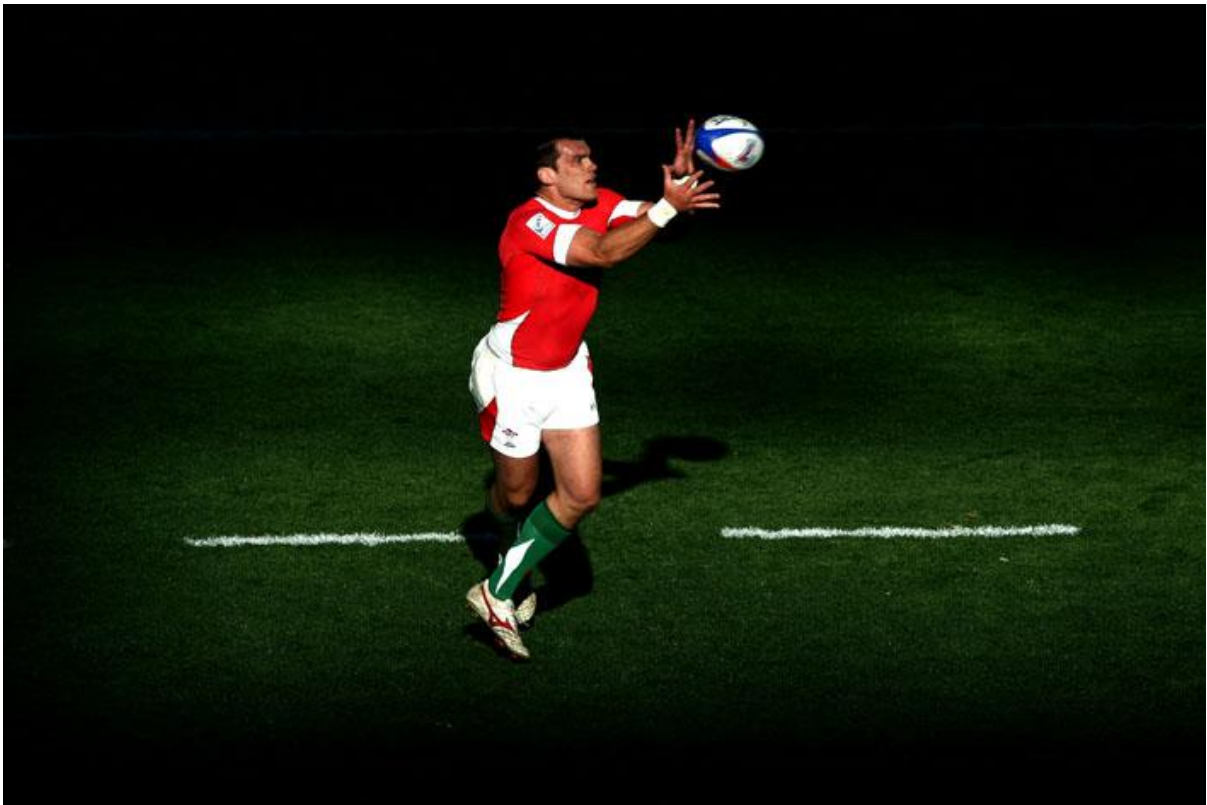
Research and Reference Service
Olympic Studies Centre

RUGBY: 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



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Rugby

Introduction

Rugby 15s appeared for the first time at the [Paris 1900](#) Games and was on the programme of the [1908](#), [1920](#) and [1924](#) Games. It subsequently did not feature on the programme, but will re-appear for the Olympic Games in [Rio in 2016](#).

Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1899: On 27 May, at the meeting of the Organising Committee for the 1900 Games, the group responsible for the Athletics Games included “rugby-football” in the list of sports on the programme of the Olympic Games in 1900 in Paris.
Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1924: The Olympic rugby tournament in Paris was held in May. In June, in the framework of the IOC Session, a list of sports for the Olympic programme was established, including two categories: obligatory and optional sports. “Rugby-football” was on the second list, which meant that it was up to the Organising Committee whether to include this sport.
Rio 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2009: At the 121st IOC Session held in Copenhagen in October, it was decided to re-include rugby in the Olympic programme. It will return in Rio in 2016, with a men’s and a women’s rugby 7s tournament, each with 12 teams.

Evolution in the number of teams

- 1900: 3 teams
- 1908: 2 teams
- 1920: 2 teams
- 1924: 3 teams
- 2016: 12 teams

[Find out more](#)



Men's and women's events

Rugby	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#
Men																													5
Women																													1
Number of events	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5*

number of times on the programme by event

*Number of times on the programme from 1896 to 2016