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SKIING – cross-country skiing: participation during the history of the Olympic Winter 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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Cross-country skiing

Introduction

Cross-country skiing was staged at the first Winter Games in [Chamonix in 1924](#). It has been on the programme ever since and has been expanded a great deal, now having 12 events (6 men's and 6 women's). The race distances and formats have changed considerably in order to make them more appealing and telegenic; particularly with the knockout sprint and mass start events. The relays appeared in [1936 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen](#) for men and in [1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo](#) for women.

Key stages

First appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1924: First appearance of cross-country skiing at the Chamonix Games.
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1950: In May, following the 45th IOC Session in Copenhagen, women's Nordic skiing was included on the programme for the Oslo 1952 Games.
30km and relay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1954: At the 50th IOC Session held in Athens in May, it was decided to add the men's 30km and the women's 3x5km relay to the programme of the 1956 Cortina d'Ampezzo Games.
Women's 5km	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1962: The women's 5km was added to the programme of the 1964 Games in Innsbruck at the 59th IOC Session in June in Moscow.
Women's 20km	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1980: The women's 20km was added on condition that there were no additional athletes or officials – a decision taken at the 83rd IOC Session in Moscow in July.
Pursuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1989: It was decided to replace the (men's) 15km and (women's) 10km with the pursuit at the 95th IOC Session in August in Puerto Rico.
Sprint and mass start	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2002: Appearance of sprint and mass start events in Salt Lake City



Evolution in the number of events

- 1924-1932: 2 events (men's only)
- 1936-1948: 3 events (men's only)
- 1952: 4 events (1 women's and 3 men's)
- 1956-1960: 6 events (2 women's and 4 men's)
- 1964-1980: 7 events (3 women's and 4 men's)
- 1984-1988: 8 events (4 women's and 4 men's)
- 1992-1998: 10 events (5 women's and 5 men's)
- 2002-2014: 12 events (6 women's and 6 men's)

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Men's events

Cross-country skiing, men	1924	1928	1932	1936	1948	1952	1956	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	Total#
10km																							3
15km*																							13
18km																							6
30km																							13
50km*																							22
Relay																							19
Pursuit																							7
Sprint*																							4
Team sprint*																							3
Number of men's events	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	22**

* It is normal for the styles (classic or freestyle) for a distance to change from one edition of the Games to the next. For example, the 50km classic (M) in 2010 became the 50km freestyle in 2014.

Women's events

Cross-country skiing, women	1924	1928	1932	1936	1948	1952	1956	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	Total#
5km																							10
10km*																							14
15km																							4
20km																							2
30km*																							7
Relay																							16
Pursuit																							7
Sprint*																							4
Team sprint*																							3
Number of women's events	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	17**

* It is normal for the styles (classic or freestyle) for a distance to change from one edition of the Games to the next. For example, the 50km classic (M) in 2010 became the 50km freestyle in 2014.

Total

Total	1924	1928	1932	1936	1948	1952	1956	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	Total#
	2	2	2	3	3	4	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	10	10	10	12	12	12	12	22**

Number of times on the programme by event

* Number of times on the programme from 1924 to 2014