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Olympic Studies Centre

## FOOTBALL: History of Football 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.

March 2015



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# Football

## Introduction

Football appeared for the first time on the programme of the Games of the II Olympiad in [Paris in 1900](#). It has been on the programme of each edition of the Games since, with the exception of the Games in [Los Angeles in 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 in [Atlanta in 1996](#).

## Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1894</b>: At the Paris Congress in June, the desire was expressed that “athletics games (football, lawn tennis, real tennis, etc.)” feature on the Olympic programme.</li><li>• <b>1924</b>: At the 23<sup>rd</sup> IOC Session in Paris in June and July, the IOC drew up a list of obligatory and optional sports. Football was on the latter.</li></ul>
Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1928</b>: At the 27<sup>th</sup> 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.</li></ul>
Re-entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1935</b>: At the 34<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in March in Oslo, it was announced that a football tournament would be staged for the Games in Berlin in 1936, as FIFA had accepted the IOC's rules concerning amateurism.</li></ul>
Women's football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1993</b>: 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 in Atlanta in 1996.</li></ul>

## Evolution in the number of events

- 1900-1928: 1 event (men's)
- 1936-1992: 1 event (men's tournament of 16 teams)
- 1996-2016: 2 events (men's tournament of 16 teams and women's tournament of 12 teams)

[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	2016	Total
Men																													26
Women																													6
<b>Number of events</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	

Grey column total = number of times on the programme