



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

Olympic Studies Centre

## TENNIS: History of Tennis 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



© IOC – John HUET



# Tennis

## Introduction

Tennis was on the Olympic programme from the Games of the I Olympiad in [Athens in 1896](#), until the Games of the VIII Olympiad in [Paris in 1924](#). It was then removed from the programme owing to a difference of opinion between the IOC and the International Tennis Federation. Tennis made its Olympic return as a demonstration sport in [1968](#) and [1984](#) and has featured on the Olympic programme since the Games of the XXIV Olympiad in [Seoul in 1988](#).

## Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1894</b>: At the Paris Congress held in June, the desire was expressed for “athletics games (football, lawn tennis, real tennis, etc.)” to feature on the Olympic programme.</li></ul>
Withdrawal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1928</b>: At the 27<sup>th</sup> IOC Session held in Amsterdam in July and August, the IOC Executive Board’s decision to remove tennis from the Olympic programme was approved. This decision was supported following the breakdown in negotiations between the IOC and the International Federation over the latter’s various demands (being able to apply its own definition of amateurism in particular).</li></ul>
Return to the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1981</b>: At the 84<sup>th</sup> IOC Session held in Baden-Baden in September and October, it was decided to add tennis to the programme of the Games of the XXIV Olympiad in Seoul in 1988.</li></ul>
Mixed doubles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>2009</b>: At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in Berlin in August, the addition of mixed doubles for the Games in London in 2012 was approved.</li></ul>

## Evolution in the number of events

- 1896: 2 events (men’s)
- 1900: 4 events (2 men’s, 1 women’s, 1 mixed)
- 1904: 2 events (men’s)
- 1908: 6 events (4 men’s, 2 women’s)
- 1912: 8 events (4 men’s, 2 women’s, 2 mixed)
- 1920-1924: 5 events (2 men’s, 2 women’s, 1 mixed)
- 1988-2008: 4 events (2 men’s, 2 women’s)
- 2012-2016: 5 events (2 men’s, 2 women’s, 1 mixed)

[Find out more](#)



## Men's events

Tennis 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
Singles																													15
Doubles																													15
Singles indoor																													2
Doubles indoor																													2
<b>Number of events men</b>	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	15

## Women's events

Tennis 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
Singles																													13
Doubles																													10
Singles indoor																													2
<b>Number of events women</b>	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	13

## Mixed events

Tennis 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
Doubles																													6
Doubles indoor																													1
<b>Number of events mixed</b>	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	6

## Total

Tennis	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
<b>Number of events</b>	2	4	2	6	8	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	15

Grey column total = number of times on the programme