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## BASKETBALL: History of Basketball 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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# Basketball

## Introduction

Basketball made its Olympic debut at the Games of the XI Olympiad in [Berlin in 1936](#), and has been on the programme at every edition since. It was included as a demonstration sport at the Games in [1904 in St Louis](#). Women's basketball was included on the Olympic programme for the first time in [1976 in Montreal](#).

## Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>1924:</b> At the 23<sup>rd</sup> IOC Session, which took place in Paris in June and July, the IOC established a list of optional sports. Basketball was among these.</li><li>● <b>1930:</b> At the Olympic Congress in Berlin, it was decided to add basketball to the "athletic games" (which included football, tennis, polo and hockey), from among which the Organising Committee could choose.</li></ul>
1936 programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>1935:</b> At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in Oslo in February, the programmes proposed by various federations (including the basketball federation) for the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936 were approved.</li><li>● <b>1949:</b> At the 44<sup>th</sup> IOC Session, which was held in Rome in April, it was proposed to include basketball on the list of obligatory sports. This proposal was rejected.</li></ul>
Women's basketball rejected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>1955:</b> A request to include women's basketball was rejected at the 51<sup>st</sup> IOC Session, which was held in Paris in June.</li><li>● <b>1965:</b> The request to include women's basketball was again rejected at the 64<sup>th</sup> IOC Session, held in October in Madrid.</li></ul>
Women's entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>1972:</b> The proposal by the Programme Commission to include women's basketball in the Games programme was approved at the 73<sup>rd</sup> IOC Session, which was held in Munich in August and September.</li></ul>



## Evolution in the number of teams

- 1936: 21 teams (men's)
- 1948: 23 teams (men's)
- 1952: 16 teams (men's)
- 1956: 15 teams (men's)
- 1960-1972: 16 teams (men's)
- 1976-1984: 18 teams (12 men's and 6 women's)
- 1988-1992: 20 teams (12 men's and 8 women's)
- 1996-2016: 24 teams (12 men's and 12 women's)

[Find out more](#)



## Men's and women's events

Basketball	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																													19
Women																													11
<b>Number of events</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	

Grey column total = number of times on the programme