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Olympic Studies Centre

## ROWING: History of Rowing 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.

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# Rowing

## Introduction

Rowing has been on the programme of every edition of the Olympic Summer Games, but the events planned for the Games of the I Olympiad in [Athens in 1896](#), did not take place due to bad weather. Women were included for the first time at the Games of the XXI Olympiad in [Montreal in 1976](#).

## Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1894:</b> At the Paris Congress in June, the desire for nautical sports (rowing, sailing and swimming) to be included on the Olympic programme was expressed.</li></ul>
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1972:</b> At the 73<sup>rd</sup> IOC Session, which was held in August and September in Munich, the Federation's proposal to add women's events to the Olympic programme was approved.</li></ul>
Lightweight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1993:</b> At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in March in Atlanta, the Federation's proposal to replace three events by three others for lightweights was approved.</li></ul>

## Evolution in the number of events

- 1900: 4 events (men's)
- 1904 : 5 events (men's)
- 1908-1912 : 4 events (men's)
- 1920: 5 events (men's)
- 1924-1972: 7 events (men's)
- 1976-2016: 14 events (8 men's and 6 women's)

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## Men's events

Rowing 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
Single scull																													27
Pair oared shell with coxswain																													18
Coxless pair																													24
Double sculls																													24
Lightweight double sculls																													6
Four-oared shell with coxswain																													19
Coxless four																													24
Coxed fours Jugriggers																													1
Lightweight coxless four																													6
Quadruple sculls																													11
Eight with coxswain																													27
<b>Number of events men</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>

\* The rowing events planned at the Games of the I Olympiad in Athens in 1896 could not be held because of bad weather

## Women's events

Rowing 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
Single sculls																													11
Coxless pair																													11
Double sculls																													11
Lightweight double sculls																													6
Four-oared shell with coxswain																													4
Coxless four																													1
Quadruple sculls with coxswain																													3
Quadruple sculls																													8
Eight with coxswain																													11
<b>Number of events women</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>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>



## Total

Rowing	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
Number of events	0	4	5	4	4	5	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	27	

Grey column total = number of times on the programme