AQUATICS
History of Water Polo at the Olympic Games
19.10.2017
INTRODUCTION
Water polo’s first appearance occurred at the Games of the II Olympiad in Paris in 1900 and this discipline has been on the programme ever since then. Women’s water polo made its Olympic debut 100 years after at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000.

KEY STAGES

**Entry**
1912: At the 15th IOC Session held in July in Stockholm, it was decided to divide the sports on the programme into three categories: indispensable, desirable and eligible. Water polo (included under swimming) was among the first category.

1924: At the 23rd IOC Session held in Paris in June and July, the IOC drew up a list of obligatory and optional sports. Water polo was on the second list.

**Women’s inclusion**
1997: At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in September, it was decided to add women’s water polo to the programme of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000.

EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF TEAMS
1900: 7 teams (men's)  
1904: 3 teams (men's)  
1908: 4 teams (men's)  
1912: 6 teams (men's)  
1920: 12 teams (men's)  
1924: 13 teams (men's)  
1928: 12 teams (men's)  
1932: 5 teams (men's)  
1936: 16 teams (men's)  
1948: 18 teams (men's)  
1952: 21 teams (men's)  
1956: 10 teams (men's)  
1960: 16 teams (men's)  
1964: 13 teams (men's)  
1968: 15 teams (men's)  
1972-1996: 12 teams (men's)  
2000: 18 teams (12 men's, 6 women's)  
2004-2016: 20 teams (12 men's, 8 women's)  
2020: 22 teams (12 men's, 10 women's)
### EVENTS PER GAMES EDITION

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Column “Total” on the right = number of times on the programme