BASEBALL
AND
SOFTBALL
History of Baseball and Softball at the Olympic Games

19.10.2017
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

INTRODUCTION
BASEBALL:
Baseball was presented as a demonstration sport at seven editions of the Olympic Games. It was included on the programme for the first time at the Games of the XXV Olympiad Barcelona 1992 and at subsequent Games editions until 2008. It did not feature on the programme at London 2012 or Rio 2016, but will make its return for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad Tokyo 2020. Baseball is practised only by men at the Olympic Games.

SOFTBALL:
Softball was included on the programme for the first time at the Games of the XXVI Olympiad Atlanta 1996 and at subsequent Games editions until 2008. It did not feature on the programme at London 2012 or Rio 2016, but will make its return for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad Tokyo 2020. Softball is practised only by women at the Olympic Games. The two main differences with baseball are the pitching style and the size of the field. The fact that the field is smaller is a particularly significant feature, as it adds to the speed with which the game is played.

KEY STAGES
BASEBALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>1986: At the 91st IOC Session held in Lausanne in October, the report by the Chairman of the Olympic Programme Commission, recommending that baseball be included on the programme, was approved.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Removal</td>
<td>2005: At the 117th IOC Session in Singapore in July, it was decided that baseball would not be on the programme of the Olympic Games in London in 2012.</td>
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<td>Re-entry rejected</td>
<td>2009: In August, baseball was one of seven sports seeking to be included on the programme for the Games in Rio in 2016 but it was not chosen by the IOC Executive Board.</td>
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Re-entry accepted

2016: At the 129th IOC Session that took place in Rio in August, it was decided that baseball/softball would be added to the programme for the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020. The inclusion of baseball/softball in the 2020 Olympic programme was proposed in 2015 by the Organising Committee for Tokyo 2020 in response to the new flexibility provided by Olympic Agenda 2020.

KEY STAGES

SOFTBALL

Entry

1991: At the 97th IOC Session held in Birmingham in June, it was decided to include softball, as an exceptional case, on the programme of the Games of the XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta in 1996.

Confirmed entry

2000: At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in December in Lausanne, it was decided to include the provisional sports of softball, taekwondo and triathlon on the Olympic programme.

Removal

2005: At the 117th IOC Session in Singapore in July, it was decided that softball would not be on the programme of the Olympic Games in London in 2012.

Re-entry rejected

2009: In August, softball was one of seven sports seeking to be included on the programme for the Games in Rio in 2016 but it was not chosen by the IOC Executive Board.

Re-entry accepted

2016: At the 129th IOC Session that took place in Rio in August, it was decided that baseball/softball would be added to the programme for the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020. The inclusion of baseball/softball in the 2020 Olympic programme was proposed in 2015 by the Organising Committee for Tokyo 2020 in response to the new flexibility provided by Olympic Agenda 2020.

BASEBALL

EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF TEAMS

1992-2008: 8 teams
2020: 6 teams

Find out more about baseball

SOFTBALL

EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF TEAMS

1996-2008: 8 teams
2020: 6 teams

Find out more about softball
## EVENTS PER GAMES EDITION

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