



THE OLYMPIC
> STUDIES
CENTRE

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

19.10.2017

> BASEBALL/SOFTBALL



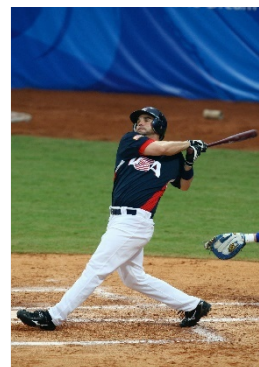
Atlanta 1996
Baseball (H)



Sydney 2000
Softball (W)



Athens 2004
Softball (W)



Beijing 2008
Baseball (H)

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

Entry	1986: At the 91 st 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.
Removal	2005: At the 117 th 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.
Re-entry rejected	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.

Re-entry accepted	2016: At the 129 th 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.
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KEY STAGES SOFTBALL

Entry	1991: At the 97 th 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 117 th 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 129 th 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

BASEBALL	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	2020	TOTAL	
Men																															6
Number of events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	6	

SOFTBALL	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	2020	TOTAL
Women																														5
Number of events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	5

TOTAL	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	2020	TOTAL
Number of events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	6

Column "Total" on the right = number of times on the programme

> CREDITS

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