



# HANDBALL

## History of Handball at the Olympic Games

19.10.2017

## > HANDBALL



Los Angeles 1984  
Handball (M)



Seoul 1988  
Handball (W)



Seoul 1988  
Handball (M)



Rio 2016  
Handball (W)

### INTRODUCTION

Handball made its Olympic debut at the Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin in 1936. This was a grass version with 11 players. The sport was then not included on the programme, except as a demonstration sport in Helsinki in 1952. It reappeared in its indoor version with seven players at the Games of the XX Olympiad in Munich in 1972. Women's handball made its appearance at the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal in 1976.

### KEY STAGES

Entry	<p>1927: At the 26<sup>th</sup> IOC Session held in Monaco in April, the IOC member in Ireland, John Joseph Keane, proposed that handball be included on the programme of the Olympic Games in 1932 but this did not happen.</p> <p>1930: At the Olympic Congress held in Berlin, it was decided to add handball to the "athletic games" (including football, polo and lawn hockey), from among which the Games Organising Committee could choose.</p> <p>1949: At the 44<sup>th</sup> IOC Session held in Rome in April, it was proposed that handball be on the list of obligatory sports at the Games. This proposal was rejected.</p>
Re-entry	<p>1965: At the 64<sup>th</sup> IOC Session held in Madrid in October, it was decided to increase the number of sports on the programme to 21 for the Games of the XX Olympiad in Munich in 1972. Handball was featured on this new list.</p>
Women's inclusion	<p>1972: At the 73<sup>rd</sup> IOC Session held in Munich in August and September, it was decided to introduce a women's tournament at the Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal in 1976.</p>

#### EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF TEAMS

1936: 6 teams (men's)

1972: 16 teams (men's)

1976: 17 teams (11 men's, 6 women's)

1980-1984: 18 teams (12 men's, 6 women's)

1988-1996: 20 teams (12 men's, 8 women's)

2000-2004: 22 teams (12 men's, 10 women's)

2008-2020: 24 teams (12 men's, 12 women's)

[Find out more about handball](#)

## > EVENTS PER GAMES EDITION

HANDBALL	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																														14
Women																														12
<b>Number of events</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>																			

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

## > CREDITS

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