HANDBALL
History of Handball at the Olympic Games

19.10.2017
HANDBALL

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
1927: At the 26th 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.
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.
1949: At the 44th 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.

Re-entry
1965: At the 64th 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.

Women’s inclusion
1972: At the 73rd 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.
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

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