



# BIATHLON: History of Biathlon at the Olympic Winter Games

Reference document

20.12.2016

## > BIATHLON



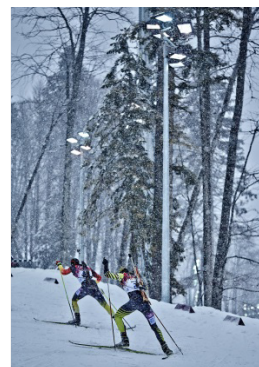
Sapporo 1972  
20km (M)



Nagano 1998  
Relay (W)



Vancouver 2010  
Pursuit (M)



Sochi 2014  
Mass start (M)

### INTRODUCTION

After some attempts to incorporate it into a winter pentathlon, this sport appeared at the Olympic Winter Games in its current form at Squaw Valley 1960. Since then, the Olympic biathlon has not stopped expanding, and now has 11 events. The latest addition is the mixed relay (women's 2 x 6km + men's 2 x 7.5km), which was introduced at the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014.

### KEY STAGES

Appearance	1924: First appearance of a form of biathlon: military patrol.
Entry	1960: Biathlon made its debut on the Olympic Winter Games programme with one event.
Men's relay	1965: The decision to add the men's relay to the programme of the Olympic Winter Games Grenoble 1968 was taken at the 64 <sup>th</sup> IOC Session in October in Lausanne.
Sprint	1977: The IOC Session gathered in Prague in June accepted the inclusion of a sprint 10km event to the programme of the Olympic Winter Games Lake Placid 1980.
Women's inclusion	1988: At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in Lausanne and Stockholm in April, it was decided that women's biathlon would be included on the programme for Albertville 1992.
Pursuit	1998: The pursuit was included on the programme for Salt Lake City 2002 – a decision taken following the IOC Executive Board meeting held in Seville in June.

Mass start	2002: The mass start events were added to the programme for Turin 2006, following the IOC Executive Board meeting held in Lausanne in August.
Mixed relay	2011: The mixed relay made its debut at Sochi 2014 – a decision that was taken during the IOC Executive Board meeting held in London in April.

#### EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF EVENTS

1960-1964: 1 event (men's)

1968-1976: 2 events (men's)

1980-1988: 3 events (men's)

1992-1998: 6 events (3 women's, 3 men's)

2002: 8 events (4 women's, 4 men's)

2006-2010: 10 events (5 women's, 5 men's)

2014-2018: 11 events (5 women's, 5 men's, 1 mixed)

[Find out more about biathlon](#)

## > EVENTS PER GAMES EDITION

BIATHLON MEN	1924	1928	1932	1936	1948	1952	1956	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	TOTAL		
20km																									16	
Relay																										14
Sprint																										11
Pursuit																										5
Mass start																										4
<b>Number of events</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	

BIATHLON WOMEN	1924	1928	1932	1936	1948	1952	1956	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	TOTAL		
15km																										8
Relay (1)																										8
Sprint																										8
Pursuit																										5
Mass start																										4
<b>Number of events</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	

(1) In the women's relay, the distances and number of athletes competing changed over different editions: the distance was reduced from 7.5km to 6km between 2002 and 2006 and the number of athletes increased from 3 to 4 between 1992 and 1994.

BIATHLON MIXED	1924	1928	1932	1936	1948	1952	1956	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	2018	TOTAL		
Mixed relay																										2
<b>Number of events</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	

BIATHLON: History of Biathlon at the Olympic Winter Games

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1924</b>	<b>1928</b>	<b>1932</b>	<b>1936</b>	<b>1948</b>	<b>1952</b>	<b>1956</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>1964</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Number of events</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	6	6	6	8	10	10	11	11	16

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

## > CREDITS

### ABOUT THE OSC

The IOC Olympic Studies Centre is the source of reference for Olympic knowledge. We share this knowledge with professionals and researchers through providing information, giving access to our unique collections, enabling research and stimulating intellectual exchange. As an integral part of the IOC, we are uniquely placed to provide the most accurate, relevant and up-to-date information on Olympism. Our collections cover all the key themes related to the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement and their place within society. Discover all our collections in the [Olympic World Library](#) (OWL), a library catalogue and information portal entirely dedicated to Olympic knowledge. Among the resources you can find the official documentation of the IOC and the Organising Committees of the Olympic Games as well as publications from internationally renowned researchers.

To learn more on the Olympic Studies Centre, consult our webpage [www.olympic.org/studies](http://www.olympic.org/studies) or write us at [studies.centre@olympic.org](mailto:studies.centre@olympic.org).

### IMAGES

- Cover: © 2014 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / GRAYTHEN, Chris.
- Page 2 (from left to right): © 1972 / IOC/United Archives. © 1998 / IOC / MUNDAY, Stephen. © 2010 / IOC / FURLONG, Christopher. © 2014 / IOC / HUET, John.

### LEGAL DISCLAIMER

"This content (the "Content") is made available to you ("You") by the International Olympic Committee (the "IOC") for non-commercial, educational, research, analysis, review or reporting purposes only. The Content shall not be re-distributed, as made available to you by the IOC, in part or in whole, except to the extent that such content is a derivative work created by You. Re-distribution of compilations of the Content made available to you is expressly excluded. You must give appropriate credit, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the IOC and its affiliated entities including The Olympic Studies Centre ("OSC") endorses you or your use. The IOC by means of the OSC endeavours to provide you with accurate and up-to-date information. The IOC and the OSC make no warranties or representations about and assumes no liability for the information included in the Content, neither its accuracy nor completeness."

© 2016 International Olympic Committee