



SKIING: History of Cross-country skiing at the Olympic Winter Games

Reference document

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> CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING



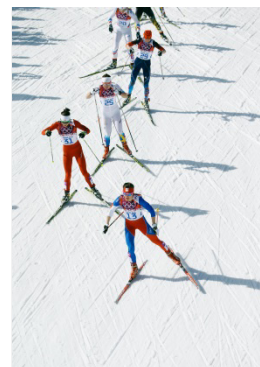
Sapporo 1972
10km (W)



Calgary 1988
20km (W)



Lillehammer 1994
10km (M)



Sochi 2014
Pursuit (W)

INTRODUCTION

Cross-country skiing was staged at the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix in 1924. It has been on the programme ever since and has been expanded a great deal, now having 12 events (6 men's and 6 women's). The race distances and formats have changed considerably in order to make them more appealing and telegenic; particularly with the knockout sprint and mass start events. The relays appeared at the Olympic Winter Games Garmisch-Partenkirchen 1936 for men and at the Olympic Winter Games Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956 for women.

KEY STAGES

Entry	1924: First appearance of cross-country skiing at the Olympic Winter Games.
Women's inclusion	1950: In May, following the 45 th IOC Session in Copenhagen, women's cross-country skiing was included on the programme for the Olympic Winter Games Oslo 1952.
30km and relay	1954: At the 50 th IOC Session held in Athens in May, it was decided to add the men's 30km and the women's 3x5km relay to the programme for the Olympic Winter Games Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956.
Women's 5km	1962: The women's 5km was added to the programme for Innsbruck 1964 at the 60 th IOC Session in June in Moscow.
Women's 20km	1980: The women's 20km was added on condition that there were no additional athletes or officials – a decision taken at the 83 rd IOC Session in Moscow in July.

Pursuit 1989: It was decided to replace the (men's) 15km and (women's) 10km with the pursuit at the 95th IOC Session in August in Puerto Rico.

Sprint and mass start 2002: Appearance of sprint and mass start events at the Olympic Winter Games Salt Lake City 2002.

EVOLUTION IN THE NUMBER OF EVENTS

1924-1932: 2 events (men's)

1936-1948: 3 events (men's)

1952: 4 events (1 women's, 3 men's)

1956-1960: 6 events (2 women's, 4 men's)

1964-1980: 7 events (3 women's, 4 men's)

1984-1988: 8 events (4 women's, 4 men's)

1992-1998: 10 events (5 women's, 5 men's)

2002-2018: 12 events (6 women's, 6 men's)

[Find out more about cross-country skiing](#)

> EVENTS PER GAMES EDITION

CROSS-COUNTRY

SKIING 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		
10km																									3	
15km (1)																										14
18km																										6
30km																										13
50km (1)																										23
Relay																										20
Pursuit																										8
Sprint (1)																										5
Team sprint (1)																										4
Number of events	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	23	

(1) It is normal for the styles (classic or freestyle) for a distance to change from one edition of the Games to the next. For example, the 50km classic (M) in 2010 became the 50km freestyle in 2014.

CROSS-COUNTRY

SKIING 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			
5km																										10	
10km (1)																											15
15km																											4
20km																											2
30km (1)																											8

> CREDITS

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