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Olympic Studies Centre

CYCLING: History of Cycling Track at the Olympic Games

Reference document

Introduction, key stages and evolution in the number of events from this discipline's beginnings to the present time.

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Cycling track

Introduction

Track cycling has always been on the Olympic programme, with the exception of the Games of the V Olympiad in [Stockholm in 1912](#), where only road cycling was staged. Women's track cycling appeared at the Games of the XXIV Olympiad in [Seoul in 1988](#).

Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1894: At the Paris Congress in June, the wish to have cycling as part of the Olympic programme was expressed.
Women's entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1984: At the 88th IOC Session in Los Angeles in July, it was decided to add a women's sprint event to the programme of the Games of the XXIV Olympiad in Seoul in 1988.
Reduction in the number of events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2003: the IOC Executive Board held in June-July in Prague accepted the proposal from the Union Cycliste Internationale to remove two track cycling events for the programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing in 2008 in order to introduce two BMX events.

Evolution in the number of events

- 1896: 5 events (men's)
- 1900: 3 events (men's)
- 1904-1908: 7 events (men's)
- 1920-1960: 4 events (men's)
- 1964-1972: 5 events (men's)
- 1976-1980: 4 events (men's)
- 1984: 5 events (men's)
- 1988: 6 events (5 men's and 1 women's)
- 1992: 7 events (5 men's and 2 women's)
- 1996: 8 events (5 men's and 3 women's)
- 2000-2004: 12 events (8 men's and 4 women's)
- 2008: 10 events (7 men's and 3 women's)
- 2012-2016: 10 events (5 men's and 5 women's)

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Men's events

Cycling track men	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	Total
Sprint (1)																													26
1km time trial																													18
One lap sprint (2)																													2
Team pursuit (4000m) (3)																													24
Individual pursuit (4000m)																													12
Points race																													7
Olympic sprint																													1
Team sprint																													4
Keirin																													5
Madison																													3
2000m tandem																													13
5000m																													1
10km																													1
20km																													1
25km																													1
50km																													2
100km																													2
12 hour race																													1
"Course de primes"																													1
1/4 mile (402.34m)																													1
1/3 mile (536.45m)																													1
1/2 mile (804.67m)																													1
1 mile (1609.34m)																													1
2 miles (3218.69m)																													1
5 miles (8046.72m)																													1
25 miles (40233.61m)																													1
Omnium																													2
Number of events men	5	3	7	7	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	8	8	7	5	5	27

- (1) The distance of the sprint event was 2000m in 1896 and 1900, and 1000m from 1908 onwards. In 1908, no medals were awarded for this event due to the time limit in the final being exceeded.
 (2) The distance of the one lap sprint event was 333.33m in 1896 and 603.49m (660 yards) in 1908
 (3) The distance of the team pursuit event was 1810.47m in 1908



Women's events

Cycling track women	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	Total	
Individual sprint																														8
Team sprint																														2
Teamp pursuit																														2
Individual pursuit (3000m)																														5
Points race																														4
500m time trial																														2
Keirin																														2
Omnium																														2
Number of events women	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	4	3	5	5	8

Total

Cycling track	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	Total
Number of events	5	3	7	7	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	5	6	7	8	12	12	10	10	10	27

Grey column total = number of times on the programme