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FENCING: History of Fencing at the Olympic Games

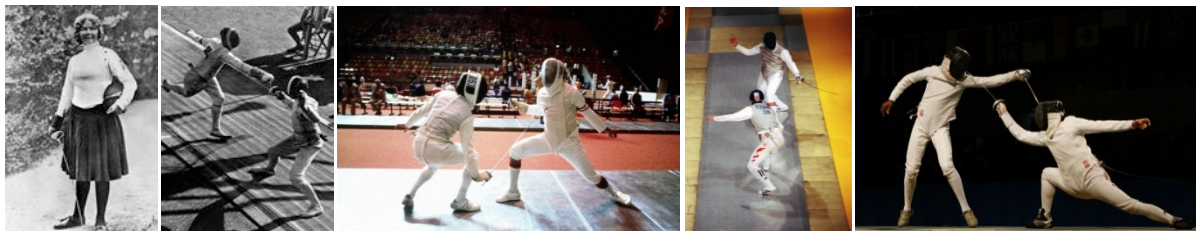
Reference document

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

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Fencing

Introduction

Fencing was on the programme of the Games of the I Olympiad in [Athens in 1896](#), and has been on the programme ever since. The different types of weapon used by men are the foil (since 1896), the sabre (since 1896) and the épée (since [1900](#)). Women competed for the first time at the Games of the VIII Olympiad in [Paris in 1924](#). The foil was the only weapon used by women until the 1996 Games in [Atlanta](#), which saw the introduction of the women's épée. The women's sabre featured on the programme for the first time at the Games in [Athens in 2004](#).

Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1894: At the Paris Congress in June, the desire was expressed to have fencing on the Olympic programme.
Discussion on including women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1921: At the Olympic Congress held in Lausanne in June, the issue of a fencing event for women was addressed. The Congress decided to pass this issue back to the International Fencing Federation. However, the general principle of women's participation was accepted.• 1924: At the 23rd IOC Session in Paris in June and July, the IOC established a list of obligatory and optional sports. Fencing was on the former.• 1958: At the 55th IOC Session in Tokyo in May, it was decided to add a second women's event (team foil).
Women's sabre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2002: The International Fencing Federation's request to add women's sabre to the Athens 2004 programme was approved at the IOC Executive Board meeting in August in Lausanne.



Evolution in the number of events

- 1896: 3 events (men's)
- 1900: 7 events (men's)
- 1904: 5 events (men's)
- 1908: 4 events (men's)
- 1912: 5 events (men's)
- 1920: 6 events (men's)
- 1924-1956: 7 events (6 men's and 1 women's)
- 1960-1992: 8 events (6 men's and 2 women's)
- 1996-2004: 10 events (6 men's and 4 women's)
- 2008-2016: 10 events (5 men's and 5 women's)

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Men's events

Fencing 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
Foil																													27
Foil team																													23
Foil masters																													2
Sabre																													28
Sabre team																													24
Sabre masters																													1
Epée																													27
Epée team																													24
Epée masters																													1
Epée masters/amateurs																													1
Stick																													1
Number of events men	3	7	5	4	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	28

Women's events

Fencing 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
Foil																													22
Foil team																													13
Epée																													6
Epée team																													5
Sabre																													4
Sabre team																													2
Number of events women	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	5	5	5	22

Total

Fencing	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	3	7	5	4	5	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	28

Grey column total = number of times on the programme