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Olympic Studies Centre

GYMNASTICS: History of Artistic Gymnastics 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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Artistic gymnastics

Introduction

Artistic gymnastics is one of the disciplines that have always featured on the Olympic programme. The men's programme stabilised at eight events as of the Games of the XI Olympiad in [Berlin in 1936](#). Women's gymnastics made its first appearance at the Games of the IX Olympiad in [Amsterdam in 1928](#), with a team event. It was not staged in [1932](#) and reappeared in [1936](#). It was only in [1952](#) that the women's programme was extended to seven events. Since the Games of the XVII Olympiad in [Rome in 1960](#), it has comprised six events.

Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1894: At the Paris Congress in June, the desire was expressed for gymnastics to be on the Olympic programme.• 1912: At the 15th IOC Session held in July in Stockholm, it was decided to divide the sports on the programme into three categories: indispensable, desirable and acceptable. Gymnastics was in the first category.
Women's inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1927: At the IOC Executive Board meeting in October in Lausanne, it was mentioned that the International Federation had considerably expanded its programme. This increase was due to the inclusion of women in gymnastics competitions.

Evolution in the number of events

- 1896: 8 events (men's)
- 1900: 1 event (men's)
- 1904: 12 events (men's)
- 1908: 2 events (men's)
- 1912-1920: 4 events (men's)
- 1924: 9 events (men's)
- 1928: 8 events (7 men's and 1 women's)
- 1932: 11 events (men's)
- 1936-1948: 9 events (8 men's and 1 women's)
- 1952-1956: 15 events (8 men's and 7 women's)
- 1960-2016: 14 events (8 men's and 6 women's)

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Men's events

Artistic gymnastics 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
Individual all-around (1)																													27
Vault																													24
Pommel horse																													24
rings																													24
Horizontal bar																													24
Parallel bars																													24
Floor exercises																													20
Rope climbing																													4
Sidehorse vault																													1
Club swinging																													2
Tumbling																													1
Team competition																													26
Team, Swedish system																													2
Team, free system																													2
Team, parralel bars																													1
Team, horizontal bar																													1
Combined 3 events																													1
Combined 4 events																													1
Triathlon (2)																													1
Number of events men	8	1	12	2	4	4	9	7	11	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	28

(1) In 1904, the individual all-around event included athletic events

(2) The triathlon event consisted of athletics events: long jump, shot put, 100 yards



Women's events

Artistic gymnastics 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 all-around																													17
Beam																													17
Uneven bars																													17
Vault																													17
Floor exercises																													17
Team competition																													20
Team, portable apparatus																													2
Number of events women	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	20

Total

Artistic gymnastics	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	8	1	12	2	4	4	9	8	11	9	9	15	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	28	

Grey column total = number of times on the programme