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Olympic Studies Centre

MODERN PENTATHLON: History of Modern Pentathlon 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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Modern pentathlon

Introduction

Modern pentathlon (sub-events: shooting, swimming, fencing, equestrian and running) made its first appearance on the programme of the Games of the V Olympiad in [Stockholm in 1912](#) and has stayed on the programme ever since. Since the Games in [Atlanta in 1996](#), the five sub-events take place on only one day. Women were accepted at the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in [Sydney in 2000](#). For the Games of the Olympiad, laser pistols were first used in [London in 2012](#). In 2012, the running and shooting were also combined in a sub-event that ended the competition.

Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1909: At the 12th IOC Session held in Berlin in May and June, different types of pentathlon were discussed. The decision for possible inclusion on the programme for 1912 was postponed.• 1911: At the 14th IOC Session held in May in Budapest, modern pentathlon was adopted for the programme for 1912.• 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 eligible. Modern pentathlon was in the first category.
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1998: At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in January and February in Nagano, it was decided to add women's modern pentathlon to the programme of the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000.

Evolution in the number of events

- 1912-1948: 1 event (men's)
- 1952-1992: 2 events (men's)
- 1996: 1 event (men's)
- 2000-2016: 2 events (1 men's and 1 women's)

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Men's events

Modern pentathlon 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																													24
Team																													11
Number of events men	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	24

Women's events

Modern pentathlon 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																													5
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	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	5

Total

Modern pentathlon	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	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	24	

Grey column total = number of times on the programme