



INTERNATIONAL  
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Olympic Studies Centre

## SAILING: History of Sailing 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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# Sailing

## Introduction

Sailing was planned for the programme of the Games of the I Olympiad in [Athens in 1896](#), but the events were not staged owing to the bad weather. It was then staged for each edition of the Games with the exception of those in [St Louis in 1904](#). Women competed in the mixed sailing events as of [1900](#). Since the Games of the XXIV Olympiad in [Seoul in 1988](#), some events have been reserved only for them.

## Key stages

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Entry         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1894:</b> At the Paris Congress held in June, the desire was expressed for nautical sports (rowing, sailing and swimming) to be on the Olympic programme.</li></ul>  |
| Windsurfing   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1980:</b> At the 83<sup>rd</sup> IOC Session held in July and August in Moscow, it was decided to add a mixed windsurfing event (windglider) to the programme of the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1984.</li></ul> |
| Women's event | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>1984:</b> At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in July and August in Los Angeles, it was decided to add the 470 dinghy event for women to the programme of the Games in Seoul in 1988.</li></ul>                                |

## Evolution in the number of events

- 1900: 13 events (mixed)
- 1908-1912: 4 events (mixed)
- 1920: 14 events (mixed)
- 1924-1928: 3 events (mixed)
- 1932-1936: 4 events (mixed)
- 1948-1968: 5 events (mixed)
- 1972-1980: 6 events (mixed)
- 1984: 7 events (mixed)
- 1988: 8 events (1 men's, 1 women's, 6 mixed)
- 1992-1996: 10 events (3 men's, 3 women's, 4 mixed)
- 2000: 11 events (3 men's, 3 women's, 5 mixed)
- 2004-2008: 11 events (4 men's, 4 women's, 3 mixed)
- 2012: 10 events (6 men's, 4 women's)
- 2016: 10 events (5 men's, 4 women's, 1 mixed)

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## Mixed events

| Sailing mixed          | 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 |
|------------------------|-------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 0-1/2t                 |       | 2      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2    |       |
| 1/2-1t                 |       | 2      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2     |
| 1-2t                   |       | 2      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2     |
| 2-3t                   |       | 2      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2     |
| 3-10t                  |       | 2      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2     |
| 10-20t                 |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| +20t                   |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| Open class             |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 5.5m                   |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 5     |
| 6m                     |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 8     |
| 6m, rating 1907        |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 6m, rating 1919        |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 6.5m, rating 1919      |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 7m                     |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 7m, rating 1907        |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 8m                     |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 6     |
| 8m, rating 1907        |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 8m, rating 1919        |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 10m                    |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 10m, rating 1907       |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 10m, rating 1919       |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 12m                    |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2     |
| 12m, rating 1907       |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 12m, rating 1919       |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 12 foot dinghy         |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2     |
| 18 foot dinghy         |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 12m2 sharpie           |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 30m2                   |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| 40m2                   |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| Olympic class monotype |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 3     |
| Swallow                |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| Firefly                |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 1     |
| Finn                   |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 11    |
| Star                   |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 15    |
| Dragon                 |       |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 7     |



## Mixed events, continued

| Sailing mixed                 | 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     |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Flying dutchman               |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 9         |
| Tempest                       |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 2         |
| Soling                        |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 8         |
| 470                           |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3         |
| Tornado                       |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 9         |
| Laser                         |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3         |
| 49er                          |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3         |
| Board (Windglider)            |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1         |
| Board (Division II)           |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1         |
| Nacra 17                      |          |           |          |          |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1         |
| <b>Number of events mixed</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>25</b> |

\* Sailing was included on the programme of the 1896 Games in Athens, but the events could not be held owing to the bad weather

\*\* In Paris in 1900, the 0-½t, ½-1t, 1-2t, 2-3t, 3-10t events are counted twice as two distinct races were held for each event

## Men's events

| Sailing 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    |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 470 Two persons Dinghy      |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 8        |          |
| Finn                        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 6        |          |
| Star                        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3        |          |
| Laser                       |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3        |          |
| Board (Lechner)             |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |
| Board (Mistral)             |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3        |          |
| Board RS:X                  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3        |          |
| Skiff                       |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 2        |          |
| <b>Number of events men</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>8</b> |



## Women's events

| Sailing 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    |   |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| 470 Two persons Dinghy        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 8        |   |
| Europe                        |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 4 |
| Yngling                       |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 2 |
| Laser Radial                  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3 |
| Board (Lechner)               |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1 |
| Board (Mistral)               |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3 |
| Board RS:X                    |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3 |
| Match Racing - Elliott 6m     |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1 |
| 49er - Skiff                  |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | 1 |
| <b>Number of events women</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>8</b> |   |

## Total

| Sailing                 | 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     |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Number of events</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>26</b> |

Grey column total = number of times on the programme