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Olympic Studies Centre

TABLE TENNIS: History of Table Tennis 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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Table tennis

Introduction

Table tennis made its Olympic debut at the Games of the XXIV Olympiad in [Seoul in 1988](#). Two men's and two women's events were included at that time and the number of events remains unchanged.

Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1981: At the 84th IOC Session held in September and October in Baden-Baden, it was decided to add table tennis to the programme of the Games of the XXIV Olympiad in Seoul in 1988.
Team events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2005: At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in October in Lausanne, the request by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) to replace the doubles event with the team event for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing in 2008 was accepted.

Evolution in the number of events

- 1988-2016: 4 events (2 men's and 2 women's)

[Find out more](#)



Men's events

Table tennis 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
Singles																													8
Doubles																													5
Team																												3	
Number of events men	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	8

Women's events

Table tennis 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
Singles																													8
Doubles																													5
Team																												3	
Number of events women	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	8

Total

Table tennis	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	

Grey column total = number of times on the programme