



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET

THE SPORTS ON THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME

REVISION OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME

According to the Olympic Charter, the programme should be reviewed after each edition of the Games. This rule is not a new one and has been part of the Charter for many years. To date, the IOC has not, in practice, systematically reviewed the Olympic Games programme after each edition.

In November 2002, the IOC decided at its Extraordinary Session in Mexico City, to curb the growth of the Olympic programme and limit the number of sports in the Games of the Olympiad to 28. At the same time, the number of events was limited to 301 and the number of athletes to 10,500.

The Mexico City Session also adopted the recommendations of the Olympic Programme Commission and approved the principle of a systematic review of the Games programme in order to ensure its relevance for each edition of the Games. IOC President Jacques Rogge entrusted the Olympic Programme Commission with the mission to define and put in a place a process for reviewing the Olympic programme.

THE WORK OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME COMMISSION

Since then, the Commission, composed of IOC members and representatives of International Federations and National Olympic Committees*, has drafted a series of specific criteria aimed at evaluating sports and drawing up a more clearly defined procedure for the review of the Olympic programme. The list of 33 evaluation criteria was ratified by the IOC Session in 2004. There are seven categories into which the 33 criteria are divided:

1. History and tradition

2. Universality
3. Popularity of the sport
4. Image
5. Athletes' health
6. Development of the IF
7. Costs.

COMPOSITION OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME COMMISSION

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SPORTS EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

These evaluation criteria formed the basis of a questionnaire that the 28 International Olympic Federations completed in October and November 2004. In order to broaden the analysis to include other sports that might enhance the quality and popularity of the programme, the IOC decided to study in further detail five Recognised Federations: those governing golf, karate, roller sports, rugby and squash. These Federations were also asked to fill in the questionnaire. The Olympic Programme Commission examined the answers to the questionnaire and used them to draft a



report. This was reviewed by the IOC Executive Board at its meeting in Berlin in April 2005, will be made public on 13 June 2005, and sent to all IOC members and partners. A final decision concerning the composition of the programme of the 2012 Olympic Games will be taken during the 117th IOC Session in Singapore in July 2005.

Programme of the Olympic Games

The components of the programme are sports, disciplines and events. A discipline is a branch of a sport comprising one or several events. An event is a competition in a sport or in one of its disciplines, resulting in a ranking and giving rise to the award of medals and diplomas. The choice of all sports for the programme, as well as the determination of the criteria and conditions for the inclusion of any sport in the programme, falls within the competence of the Session. Only sports that adopt and implement the World Anti-Doping Code can be included or remain in the programme.

The decision to include a discipline or event in the programme falls within the competence of the IOC Executive Board. After each edition of the Olympic Games, the IOC reviews the programme. The inclusion of any sport in the programme of any edition of any Olympic Games shall be decided not later than at the Session electing the host city of that edition of the Olympic Games. The inclusion of disciplines or events in the programme of any edition of an Olympic Games shall be decided by the IOC Executive Board not later than three years before the opening of the Olympic Games. The deadlines may be waived, in order to allow changes in the programme with the approval of the relevant IF, of the OCOG and of the competent organ of the IOC.

The sports included in the programme consist of core sports and additional sports. The core includes at least 25 sports chosen by the Session upon the proposal of the IOC Executive Board. Upon proposal of the IOC Executive Board, the Session may choose one or several additional sports, but the total number of sports shall not exceed 28.

The Session shall vote en bloc on the inclusion of the core, its decision being taken by a majority of the votes cast. In case such majority is not reached, there shall be additional rounds of votes by the Session as determined by the President. All sports included in the programme pursuant to such rounds of votes shall then constitute the core. Once the core has been constituted in accordance with this, the Session may vote on the inclusion of additional sports en bloc or through individual votes, its decision being taken by a majority of the votes cast. For the Olympic Winter Games the procedure to be followed will be the same as the procedure applicable to the Games of the Olympiad. Only the number of sports included in the core is different. Seven sports make up the core.

THE 117TH SESSION IN SINGAPORE

At the 117th IOC Session in Singapore, the Olympic Programme Commission saw its efforts successfully crowned, with the revision of the Olympic programme. The IOC members voted on each of the 28 sports on the programme of the Athens 2004 Games in order to decide if they would be on the programme of the London 2012 Games. This vote was historic as it was the first time in 70 years that the IOC had come down in favour of change. Twenty-six of the 28 sports on the Athens programme were retained for the London 2012 Games. Baseball and softball did not obtain the majority required to stay on the programme. These sports nevertheless remain on the list of Olympic sports and are therefore admissible for the programme of a future edition of the Games.

As baseball and softball were not retained for the 2012 Olympic Games, the IOC members voted to add two new sports to the Olympic programme, since it can contain up to 28. Five non-Olympic sports – roller sports, squash, golf, karate and rugby sevens – were examined by the Olympic Programme Commission as part of its study. After a first selection vote, out of these five sports, the IOC members chose two finalists: squash and karate. However, the majority of 2/3 of the Session was required for these to become Olympic sports. Neither squash nor karate obtained this majority. They were therefore not added to the programme of the London 2012 Olympic Games.



THE 119TH SESSION IN GUATEMALA CITY

During the 119th IOC Session in Guatemala City, a simplified voting process for the Olympic programme was approved. The choice of sports to be on the Olympic programme was simplified following a proposal of the IOC Executive Board. The number of core sports was increased from 15 to 25 from the Games of 2020 onwards. For the 2016 Games of the Olympiad, the 26 core sports from London 2012 will be proposed. The maximum number of sports included in the programme remains capped at 28.

Changes decided by the IOC Session in Guatemala City came after a long journey of evaluation and consultation, dating back to just after the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Time was taken to ensure thorough consultation with the International Federations (IFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs), Recognised Federations and the Athletes' Commission before proposals for change were put first to the IOC Executive Board and then subsequently to the Session.

THE SPORTS PROGRAMME OF THE BEIJING 2008 GAMES

Between 1896 and 2008, the Olympic programme has expanded considerably. From 43 medals in nine sports awarded at the first edition in Athens, the Games of the Olympiad will have 302 events in 28 sports in 2008: 165 men's, 127 women's and 10 mixed.

The latest decisions by the IOC Executive Board on the Summer Games programme were taken in October 2005 for the events, and in February 2006 for the athlete quotas and the number of teams entered.

Although in Beijing there is only one additional event compared to the previous Games in Athens, the programme of these Games has been slightly modified.

- In athletics, women will compete in the 3000m steeplechase.
- In cycling, a new discipline will be included for the first time on the Games programme:

BMX (Bicycle Moto Cross), with one women's and one men's event. The BMX races will take place on circuits of about 350 metres long, which will include jumps, bends and other obstacles. Each round (qualifications, quarter-final, semi-final, final) will see eight riders compete; the first four will go through to the next round

- In fencing, the team foil and team sabre events have been added to the women's programme.
- In swimming, a new type of event is also going to make its debut at the Games: a long-distance 10km freestyle swim, also called the marathon. Both sexes will compete in this event.
- In table tennis, the doubles event will be replaced by team events.

Other modifications have been made to reduce the gap between the participation of men and that of women in the Games. Thus, it has been decided to increase the number of teams participating in the women's hockey, handball and football tournaments



TABLE A: DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME (1896-2006)

Date of first inclusion in the programme of the Games		
Sport / Discipline	Men	Women
Athletics	1896	1928
Rowing ¹	1896	1976
Badminton	1992	1992
Baseball	1992	-
Basketball	1936	1976
Boxing	1904	-
Canoe/kayak - flatwater	1936	1948
Canoe/kayak – slalom ²	1972	1972
Cycling – track	1896	1988
Cycling – road	1896	1984
Mountain biking	1996	1996
BMX	2008	2008
Fencing	1896	1924
Football	1900	1996
Artistic gymnastics	1896	1928
Rhythmic gymnastics	-	1984
Trampoline	2000	2000
Weightlifting	1896	2000
Handball ³	1936	1976
Hockey	1908	1980
Judo	1964	1992
Greco-Roman wrestling ⁴	1896	-
Freestyle wrestling ⁴	1904	2004
Swimming	1896	1912
Diving	1904	1912
Water-polo	1900	2000
Synchronised swimming	-	1984
Modern Pentathlon	1912	2000
Softball	-	1996
Equestrian – dressage ⁵	1912	1952
Equestrian – jumping ⁵	1900	1952
Equestrian – eventing ⁵	1912	1952
Taekwondo	2000	2000
Tennis ⁵	1896	1900
Table Tennis	1988	1988
Shooting ⁷	1896	1968
Archery ⁸	1900	1904
Triathlon	2000	2000
Sailing ⁹	1900	1900
Volleyball	1964	1964
Beach volleyball	1996	1996



- 1- Rowing was on the programme of the 1896 Games, but the events were cancelled because of adverse weather conditions.
- 2- This discipline was included for the first time at the Munich Games in 1972. It was excluded from the Olympic programme between 1976 and 1988, but returned in 1992.
- 3- Handball was introduced (on grass) at the Berlin Games in 1936. It was then removed from the programme before reappearing in its current form (indoors) in Munich in 1972.
- 4- Since 1920, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling have been two separate competitions. Prior to that date (apart from 1908), only one style was included, usually Greco-Roman.
- 5- Before 1952, only men participated in equestrian events at the Olympic Games. All riders had to be military athletes, in fact officers. These restrictions were lifted in 1952, since

when men and women have competed against each other in the same events.

6- Tennis was included in the Olympic programme from 1896 to 1924. It was reintroduced in 1988.

7- Women participated in shooting events for the first time in 1968, in mixed events. It is only since the Atlanta Games in 1996 that the programme has included separate men's and women's events.

8- Archery was an Olympic sport several times between 1900 and 1920, before disappearing from the Olympic programme for more than 50 years. It was reintroduced at the Munich Games in 1972.

9- Women have always competed in the mixed Olympic sailing events, but separate women's events were introduced in 1988.

TABLE C: PREPARATION OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME

Name	Example	Conditions to be met for inclusion in the Olympic Games
Federation	<i>e.g. Fédération Internationale de Natation</i>	Administer one or several sports at world level and encompass organisations administering such sports at national level (national federations)
		Have statutes, practice and activities in conformity with the Olympic Charter
		Have adopted and implemented the World Anti-Doping Code
Sport	<i>e.g. aquatics</i>	For the Games of the Olympiad: be widely practised by men in at least 75 countries and on four continents and by women in at least 40 countries and on three continents
		For the Winter Games: be widely practised in at least 20 countries on three continents
		Have adopted and implemented the World Anti-Doping Code
		Be admitted to the programme seven years before the Olympic Games
Discipline	<i>e.g. diving</i>	Have a recognised international standing
		For the Games of the Olympiad: be widely practised by men in at least 75 countries and on four continents and by women in at least 40 countries and on three continents
		For the Winter Games: be widely practised in at least 25 countries on three continents
		Be admitted to the programme seven years before the Olympic Games
Event	<i>e.g. individual springboard</i>	Have a recognised international standing both numerically and geographically, and have been included at least twice in world or continental championships
		Be practised by men in at least 50 countries and on three continents and by women in at least 35 countries and on three continents
		Be admitted three years before the Olympic Games



TABLE C: PROGRAMME OF THE GAMES OF THE XXVIII OLYMPIAD, BEIJING 2008

Sports	Number of men's events	Number of women's events	Number of mixed events	Total
ATHLETICS	24	23		47
ROWING	8	6		14
BADMINTON	2	2	1	5
BASEBALL	1			1
BASKETBALL	1	1		2
BOXING	11			11
CANOE/KAYAK	12	4		16
<i>Flatwater</i>	9	3		12
<i>Slalom</i>	3	1		4
CYCLING	11	7		18
<i>Track</i>	7	3		10
<i>Road</i>	2	2		4
<i>Mountain bike</i>	1	1		2
<i>BMX</i>	1	1		2
EQUESTRIAN			6	6
<i>Jumping</i>			2	2
<i>Dressage</i>			2	2
<i>Eventing</i>			2	2
FENCING	5	5		10
FOOTBALL	1	1		2
GYMNASTICS	9	9		18
<i>Artistic</i>	8	6		14
<i>Rhythmic</i>		2		2
<i>Trampoline</i>	1	1		2
WEIGHTLIFTING	8	7		15
HANDBALL	1	1		2
HOCKEY	1	1		2
JUDO	7	7		14
WRESTLING	14	4		18
<i>Freestyle</i>	7	4		11
<i>Greco-roman</i>	7			4
Aquatics	22	24		46
<i>Swimming</i>	17	17		34
<i>Diving</i>	4	4		8
<i>Synchronised swimming</i>			2	2
<i>Water polo</i>	1	1		2
MODERN PENTATHLON	1	1		2
SOFTBALL		1		1
TAEKWONDO	4	4		8
TENNIS	2	2		4
TABLE TENNIS	2	2		4
SHOOTING	9	6		15
<i>Rifle</i>	3	2		5
<i>Pistol</i>	3	2		5
<i>Shotgun</i>	3	2		5
ARCHERY	2	2		4
TRIATHLON	1	1		2
SAILING	4	4	3	11
VOLLEYBALL	2	2		4
<i>Indoor</i>	1	1		2
<i>Beach</i>	1	1		2
TOTAL (28)	165	127	10	302



Table D: International Summer Sports Federations

Abbreviation	English Name	Year established	Number of affiliated NFs	Headquarter
IAAF	International Association of Athletics Federations	1912	212	Monaco
FISA	International Rowing Federation	1892	126	Switzerland
IBF	International Badminton Federation	1934	152	Malaysia
IBAF	International BAseball Federation	1938	115	Switzerland
FIBA	International Basketball Federation	1932	213	Switzerland
AIBA	International Boxing Association	1946	196	Switzerland
ICF	International Canoe Federation	1924	1938	Switzerland
UCI	International Cycling Union	1900	1963	Switzerland
FEI	Fédération Équestre Internationale	1921	133	Switzerland
FIE	Fédération Internationale d'Escrime	1913	121	Switzerland
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association	1904	207	Switzerland
FIG	International Gymnastics Federation	1881	130	Switzerland
IWF	International Weightlifting Federation	1905	176	Hungary
IHF	International Handball Federation	1946	155	Switzerland
FIH	International Hockey Federation	1924	117	Switzerland
IJF	International Judo Federation	1951	195	Korea
FILA	International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles	1912	154	Switzerland
FINA	Fédération Internationale de Natation	1908	191	Switzerland
UIPM	Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne	1948	102	Monaco
ISF	International Softball Federation	1952	127	United States
WTF	World Taekwondo Federation	1973	182	Korea
ITF	International Tennis Federation	1913	203	Great Britain
ITTF	International Tennis Table Federation	1926	202	Switzerland
ISSF	International Shooting Sport Federation	1907	154	Germany
FITA	International Archery Federation	1931	141	Switzerland
ITU	International Triathlon Union	1989	110	Canada
ISAF	International Sailing Federation	1907	121	Great Britain
FIVB	International Volleyball Federation	1947	218	Switzerland

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