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Research and Reference Service
Olympic Studies Centre

TENNIS: participation during the history of 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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Tennis

Introduction

Tennis was on the Olympic programme from the Games of the I Olympiad, [Athens 1896](#), until the Games of the VIII Olympiad, [Paris 1924](#). It was then removed from the programme owing to a difference of opinion between the IOC and the International Tennis Federation. Tennis made its Olympic return as a demonstration sport in [1968](#) and [1984](#) and has featured on the Olympic programme since the Games of the XXIV Olympiad, [Seoul 1988](#).

Key stages

Entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1894: At the Paris Congress held in June, the desire was expressed for “athletics games (football, lawn tennis, real tennis, etc.)” to feature on the Olympic programme.
Withdrawal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1928: At the 27th IOC Session held in Amsterdam in July and August, the Executive Board’s decision to remove tennis from the Olympic programme was approved. This decision was supported following the breakdown in negotiations between the IOC and the International Federation over the latter’s various demands (being able to apply its own definition of amateurism in particular).
Return to the programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1981: At the 84th IOC Session held in Baden-Baden in September and October, it was decided to add tennis to the programme of the Games of the XXIV Olympiad, Seoul 1988.
Mixed doubles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2009: At the IOC Executive Board meeting held in Berlin in August, the addition of mixed doubles for the London 2012 Games was approved.

Evolution in the number of events

- 1896: 2 events (men’s)
- 1900: 4 events (2 men’s, 1 women’s, 1 mixed)
- 1904: 2 events (men’s)
- 1908: 6 events (4 men’s, 2 women’s)
- 1912: 8 events (4 men’s, 2 women’s, 2 mixed)
- 1920-1924: 5 events (2 men’s, 2 women’s, 1 mixed)
- 1988-2008: 4 events (2 men’s, 2 women’s)
- 2012: 5 events (2 men’s, 2 women’s, 1 mixed)

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Men's events

Men's 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	Total#
Singles																												14
Doubles																												14
Singles indoor																												2
Doubles indoor																												2
Number of men's events	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	14*

Women's events

Women's 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	Total#
Singles																												12
Doubles																												9
Singles indoor																												2
Number of women's events	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	12*

Mixed events

Mixed 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	Total#
Doubles																												5
Doubles indoor																												1
Number of mixed events	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5*

Total

Total	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	Total#
	2	4	2	6	8	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	14*

Number of times on the programme by event

* Number of times on the programme from 1896 to 2012