

Olympic statistics

It occurred to us that it may be a matter of interest to draw a list of sports which at one time or other figured on the Olympic Programme and to mention some events which have been dropped in the course of time.

Sports which figured on the programme or under the rubric of demonstrations and which were discontinued.

Tennis (1896-1924). — *Rugby* (1900-1908-1920-1924-1932). (In that last year, that event concerned chiefly American Football and was a demonstration between two teams from the U.S.A.). — *Racquets* (1908). — *Gliding* (1936). — *Motor Boat* (1908). — *Archery* (1908-1920). This sport figured again on the list of Olympic sports in 1957. — *Polo* (1900-1908-1920-1924-1936). — *Lacrosse* (1904-1908-1928-1932). — *Baseball* (1904-1912-1936). — *Finnish Baseball* (1952). — *Pelota* (1924). — *Golf* (1900-1904).

WINTER SPORTS

Skeleton (1928-1948). — *Curling* (1924-1932-1936). — *Winter Pentathlon* (1948). — *Military Patrols* (1924-1928-1936-1948). — *Bandy* (1952). — *Sledge-Dog Racing* (1932).

DISCONTINUED EVENTS

Without affirming for certain that this figure is exact, we reckon that approximately *hundred and sixty events* have been abolished from the Games programme in the various olympic sports from 1896 to 1960. We do not intend to enumerate them all but we will mention those which seem to us to have been the most peculiar. Here is a list of a few of them taken from each sport:

Athletism. (60 m. 100 m.; hurdles-1600 m., relays per team (100-200-400-800 m.). In steeple the following distances: 5000 m. (in 1900); 4 miles (1904); 8000 m. (1912); 10.650 m. (1924); then in addition to these the following distances: 2.590 m., 3.200 m., 4.000 m.

Jumping: high standing jump, broad standing jump, hop step and jump standing.

Javelin with two hands.

Discus with two hands.

Weight throwing with two hands.

Throwing the stone and hammer throwing of 25,5 kg. (This was performed by an American in 1920 at a distance of 11,26m.)

Tug of war.

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In 1960, 24 events remained on the programme whereas throughout the previous years, we listed sixty-two (62).

Weight-lifting. With one arm.

Boxing. There were five categories of weight in those days, in our present time there are only ten in 1960.

Fencing. Quarter staff fencing. In 1896 master of arms (Professionals) competed in the Games. It also happened in 1900, when events in foil, sword and sabre were reserved for the professionals. In that same year, a sword fencing event was contested between amateurs and professionals...

Shooting. Fifty-four (54) events figured on the programme at the various Olympics. In the 1960 Games only six events figured on the programme. Let us mention: running wild boar and deer shooting as well as shooting live pigeons. There was a rifle shooting contest by team of five men, each man was to fire forty shots. There was even a rifle shooting team event contested over distances of 200-500-800-900 and 1000 yards.

Cyclism. Pursuit 333,33 m. - 12 hours - marathon cycling race of 87,43 km. Team races 4 x 320 km. (1912) won by the Swedish team in... 44 h. 35' 33". The same race but individual of 300 km. was won by a South African in 10 h. 42' 39". These last races were run round the Lake Mälär in Sweden.

Time racing 603,5 m. etc.

Swimming. 100 m. (nautical). This event was reserved to seamen of the warships anchored in the Piraeus harbour. This event was not listed before the Games (1896) but put on the programme at the last moment. Needless to say Greeks contestants won the first three places.

60 m. swimming under water.

Equestrian Sports. Broad jump.

Rowing. Warships boat racing (3 pairs). This happened in 1906.

Yachting. Thirteen events have been abolished in the course of the years.

Gymnastics. Indian clubs events.

Ring lifting events. A team event of Heptathlon took place in 1908. These teams

consisted of a minimum number of 16 gymnasts and a maximum number of 60. Sweden won this event with 59 gymnasts and was followed by Norway with 32 gymnasts and Finland with 26. Twelve events were abolished in the course of years and only fourteen were listed in 1960.

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We shall now stop our narration of events discontinued since 1896 but some of them were worth mentioning inasmuch that they are entirely outrun nowadays. Let us admit, however, in conclusion that one has succeeded in simplifying and lightening the programmes and yet the Rome Games were accused of gigantism. The trend of the public opinion is that still further reducing is necessary.