



OLYMPIC FENCING

Since 1896, the history of fencing and the Olympic Games have been intertwined. The first Olympic Games of the modern era took place in Athens. Nobility, Honour, Respect and Tradition are the key words governing fencing as these were reflected in the Olympic ideal. Thirteen fencers representing four countries participated in the foil and sabre events; epee was not yet an Olympic event. The discipline was entirely male.

1900: The Olympic Games were held in Paris within the context of the International World Fair. 156 fencers representing seven countries participated in this event. Epee became an Olympic discipline.

1908: Rome Olympic Games. Foil was removed from the Olympic programme that year since the French and Italians were not able to agree on the organisation of the event.

1912: The organisers of the Stockholm Games wanted to modify the rules relating to the foil target area. The dissatisfaction this caused highlighted the need to unify the rules in fencing.

1913: The International Fencing Federation was founded on 29 November

1924: Paris Olympic Games. Women's Individual Foil was included in the Olympic programme.

1936: Berlin Olympic Games. The epee electrical apparatus, which had been around since 1934, made its Olympic appearance. Metallic pistes replaced the old cork pistes.

1956: Melbourne Olympic Games. The electric foil, which appeared in 1954, became an Olympic weapon.

1960: Rome Olympic Games. Women's foil events were added.

1988: Seoul Olympic Games. The electric sabre was included; there had been electric sabres since 1986.

1996: Atlanta Olympic Games. First women's epee events, individual and team. Women epee fencers had already competed during the 1989 World Championships.

2004: Athens Olympic Games and first Women's Individual Sabre events.

Fencing became completely mixed, both men and women could compete in all three weapons, in individual and team events.

2008: Beijing Olympic Games. 212 fencers participated, twelve more than in Athens. There were five men's events (three individual and two team) and five women's events (three individual and two team). Thus, full gender parity was reached in Beijing.