**Women**

* The only way women could ‘take part’ in the Ancient Olympic Games was by owning (but not riding) a horse!

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=&url=http%3A%2F%2Fyouthvoices.net%2Fdiscussion%2Fno-place-women-found-poem&psig=AFQjCNEcP2jSK922udohm4CKE1dtjaAuXA&ust=1459797184939639)

* At the first modern Olympic Games, in 1896, no women competed. The founder, Pierre de Coubertin, felt that their inclusion would be "impractical, uninteresting, unaesthetic, and incorrect"!
* The first female Olympians competed in the 1900 in tennis, golf, sailing, horse-riding and croquet.



* The first medal-winner was Hélène de Pourtalès (sailing).
* Women from the USA were not allowed to compete in swimming events in **1912,** because they would have to have worn long skirts!
* Women were allowed to compete in running events for the first time in 1928.
* [](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjdzt2ImPPLAhWE8Q4KHWB3BXcQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.runjumpthrow.com%2Fnews%2F263-ramadan-observance-and-athletic-performance&psig=AFQjCNFWnwQVjTVr0QSjEE0gmat99Y9eOw&ust=1459797555088321)However, false news stories, about women ‘collapsing’ after the 800 m race led to it being banned until 1960. The first women’s marathon wasn’t held until 1984.
* The first time that all countries sent female athletes was in 2012. Prior to that, Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia did not allow women the same rights as men to take part in sports.
* 2012 was also the first time that women could compete in all the events that men compete in.
* In 2012, 44% of competitors were female.
* 2 sports remain women-only: synchronised swimming and rhythmic gymnastics)