

Year 5

Issues in Sport: Let Women Compete 2

Retrieval 2b

Athletics has always been one of the most popular sports at the Olympics, but the battle for women's inclusion in track and field has been long. Women's track and field was first allowed at the 1928 Games. Even then, only five women's events were offered, while for the men there were 22 athletics events.

In the 1928 Games, the longest women's running event was 800 metres. Afterwards, the runners appeared exhausted and were sweating – all of that is considered normal today. But in 1928 it caused an international sensation. Afterwards, the IOC cut the race out of the Olympic programme, and from 1932 until 1960 the longest women's race in the Olympics was 200 metres.

By the 1970s, women's rights had become a major issue and women wanted equality in all areas of their lives. That included equality for girls and women in sports.

Women's sports got a boost in other countries during the 1970s as well. Football was the world's most popular sport. The modern rules for football were invented in England, a country that has always been a leader in men's football. But the sport's organisers banned women from playing the sport in 1921, claiming that football was “quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged”. Other countries made similar rulings. The English ban was lifted in 1971, while West Germany lifted its ban one year earlier. But Brazil did not lift its ban on women players until 1979.

Women's football took off soon after the ban was lifted. The Women's World Cup debuted in 1991, and women's football was added to the Olympic Games in 1996. Both competitions have since grown into major events and professional leagues exist in the United States, United Kingdom and other countries, mostly in Europe.

Questions

1 Look in paragraph 1. **When** did women's **track and field** become included in the Olympic Games?

2 Look in the second paragraph below:

'In the 1928 Games, the longest women's running event was 800 metres. Afterwards, the runners appeared exhausted and were sweating – all of that is considered normal today. But in 1928 it caused an international sensation. Afterwards, the IOC cut the race out of the Olympic programme, and from 1932 until 1960 the longest women's race in the Olympics was 200 metres.'

Find **two** women's running distances that featured in the Olympics between 1928 and 1960.

1. _____

2. _____

3 Complete the table below with facts from the text.

How many women's events were allowed at the 1928 Games:	
How many men's events were allowed at the 1928 Games:	

4 Look at the extract from the fourth paragraph.

'But the sport's organisers banned women from playing the sport in 1921, claiming that football was "quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged". Other countries made similar rulings. The English ban was lifted in 1971, while West Germany lifted its ban one year earlier. But Brazil did not lift its ban on women players until 1979.'

Which **three countries** lifted their **ban** and allowed women to play football?

1. _____

2. _____

5 Choose the best group of words to fit the sentences.

Draw a circle around your choice.

'Women's track and field was first allowed at the 1928 Games. Even then, only five women's events were offered, while for the men there were 22 athletics events.'

(a) Athletic events...

have always been allowed for women to compete in

were fewer for women than men

included playing football

'In the 1928 Games, the longest women's running event was 800 metres. Afterwards, the runners appeared exhausted and were sweating – all of that is considered normal today.'

(b) At the 1928 Olympics,

women competed in the same events as men

women runners were tired after a race

women could run in the 1500m race

6 Look at the quotation below:

'But the sport's organisers banned women from playing the sport in 1921, claiming that football was "quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged".'

Who banned women from playing football?

7 Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The modern rules for football were invented in Brazil.		
Football was the world's most popular sport in the 1970s.		

Answers

1 Look in paragraph 1. **When** did women's **track and field** become included in the Olympic Games?

(In) 1928.

2 Look in the second paragraph below:

'In the 1928 Games, the longest women's running event was 800 metres. Afterwards, the runners appeared exhausted and were sweating – all of that is considered normal today. But in 1928 it caused an international sensation. Afterwards, the IOC cut the race out of the Olympic programme, and from 1932 until 1960 the longest women's race in the Olympics was 200 metres.'

Find **two** women's running distances that featured in the Olympics between 1928 and 1960.

800m.

200m.

3 Complete the table below with facts from the text.

How many women's events were allowed at the 1928 Games:	Five
How many men's events were allowed at the 1928 Games:	22

4 Look at the extract from the fourth paragraph.

'But the sport's organisers banned women from playing the sport in 1921, claiming that football was "quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged". Other countries made similar rulings. The English ban was lifted in 1971, while West Germany lifted its ban one year earlier. But Brazil did not lift its ban on women players until 1979.'

Which **three countries** lifted their **ban** and allowed women to play football?

England.

West Germany.

Brazil.

5 Choose the best group of words to fit the sentences.

Draw a circle around your choice.

'Women's track and field was first allowed at the 1928 Games. Even then, only five women's events were offered, while for the men there were 22 athletics events.'

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6 Look at the quotation below:

'But the sport's organisers banned women from playing the sport in 1921, claiming that football was "quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged".'

Who banned women from playing football?

The sport's organisers.

7 Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The modern rules for football were invented in Brazil.		✓
Football was the world's most popular sport in the 1970s.	✓	