

# SHOWJUMPING IN THE OLYMPICS

## Rio 2016: Equestrian events in review

A total of **222 athletes** from **43 countries** participated in the **6 equestrian events** at the Rio 2016 Olympics, held Aug. 6-19 at the National Equestrian Center in Deodoro. The six events included individual and team Jumping, Dressage, and Eventing.

Five nations made their Olympic debuts this summer: Chinese Taipei and Qatar fielded athletes for Jumping, the Dominican Republic and Palestine for Dressage, and Zimbabwe for Eventing.

To qualify for the Jumping events at the 2016 Olympic Games, riders had to be at least 18 years of age, and horses at least 9 years of age.

A total of **75** spaces were available for the Jumping competitions. **15 national** teams were selected, which could consist of **3-4 athletes**. Teams were decided as follows: host country, the five best-ranked teams from the 2014 World Equestrian Games, the three best-ranked teams at the 2015 European Jumping Championship, the two best-ranked teams from the 2015 Pan-American Games, the best-ranked team from Group F at the Group F FEI selected Olympic Qualification event and from Group C at the 2015 Group C FEI selected Olympic Qualification event, and the two best-ranked teams from Group G at the 2015 Group G FEI selected Olympic Qualification event.

Individual riders could only qualify if their country did not qualify as a team, and a total of 15 spaces were reserved for individual riders.





France won the team gold for Jumping, and veteran Nick Skelton brought home the individual gold for Great Britain.

### **2016 Olympic Games Trivia:**

Both the oldest and youngest competitors competed in Dressage: the oldest competitor was **Julie Brougham, 62**, from New Zealand, and the youngest was **Giovana Prado Pass, 18**, from Brazil.

Individual Jumping gold medalist **Nick Skelton** was part of the gold medal winning team in London 2012, and rode to the gold in both Games on his horse **Big Star**.

*Brazil's Pedro Veniss and the 12-year-old Selle Francis stallion Quabri de L'Isle*

## Interesting Facts:

*There are a few equestrian events that are no longer part of the Olympic Games. In 1900 there was Horse Long Jump and High Jump, and in 1920 there was Vaulting for teams and individuals. Also, Polo was part of the 1900, 1908, 1920, 1924, and 1936 Games.*

*In 1912, the Dressage competition included a jumping test of four obstacles of up to 1.10m in height (the last was a barrel that had to be jumped while rolling toward the horse), but no piaffe or passage. Riders could earn bonus points for riding with one hand.*

*In 1936 Austria's Arthur von Pongracz competed in the dressage at the age 72, becoming one of the oldest ever competitors at the Olympics.*

*Stroller, at 14.1hh, is the only pony to ever compete at an Olympic Games. By a thoroughbred out of a Connemara pony, he won the silver medal in individual showjumping at the 1968 Mexico Games, ridden by Marion Mould (Great Britain).*





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*The Jumping course at the 1932 Los Angeles Games was so difficult not one nation completed the course with three riders, so no team Jumping medal was awarded. Because of the Great Depression, only 35 entries from 6 countries even competed that year.*

*After two horses died during the Eventing competition at the 1968 Mexico City games, strict safety measures were put in place. No horses have died at the Olympic Games since.*

*At the 1936 Berlin Games, a Czechoslovakian rider Capt. Kawecki received 18,952 penalty points as it took nearly three hours to catch his horse after he fell off during the cross country! (Great Britain took home the bronze despite over 9,000 penalty points – also for a rider whose horse had to be caught after he fell off.)* 🏆