

Rugby 7's and the Olympics

On October 9th, 2009 at an International Olympic Committee Session in Copenhagen, the IOC voted 81-8 to recognize rugby sevens as an Olympic event at the 2016 Olympics in Brazil. Rugby was last played in the 1924 Olympic games in Paris, France and the United States is the current Olympic champion. One noticeable difference between the 1924 Paris games and those to be played in Brazil is that in 1924 the fifteen-a-sides version of rugby was played.

The IOC will vote on the composition of the sports program for the 2016 Olympic games as it seeks to modernize the Games. Most likely, rugby sevens will be organized into a four day seven-a-side tournament comprised of 12 to 16 countries playing men's and women's rugby.

This is an exciting time for rugby in the United States as youngsters currently playing the game will no doubt want a chance to represent their country on the World's largest stage for a chance at a gold medal. Rugby Sevens seems poised to capture the imagination and give other athletes playing traditional games reason to consider a switch to rugby!