

# The Sport of Eventing

The sport of Eventing originated in the military. The object of the competition was to test the fitness and suitability of Army cavalry officers and horses.

Eventing made its Olympic debut under the name "The Militaire" in 1912 in Stockholm, Sweden. In 1924, the 3 day format of the Olympic competition was established as a Dressage Test on the first day; an Endurance Test on the second day; the final day was the Show Jumping Test. There were also other phases that are no longer included in Olympic Trials.

In 1948 the military abandoned managing the sport. Noncommissioned Army officers were not allowed to take part in Olympic competition until 1956. Women riders were admitted in 1964.



Stockholm, Sweden - 1924

In 2004 a new format was introduced at the Olympic Games that shortened the cross country test by deleting the Roads and Track and Steeplechase phases. This short format is used at the present Olympic Games.

*" Show the rider's spirit, boldness and perfect knowledge of his/her horse's paces and their use across country, and to show the condition, handiness, courage, jumping ability, stamina, and speed of the well trained horse. "*

- Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)

## Levels of Competition

### Beginner Novice

*Designed to test green horses and riders at a recognized horse trial.*

### Novice

*For horses and riders with some experience at low level events or for experienced riders with horses that are new to the sport.*

### Training

*Further develops confidence and accuracy. Requirements for the Cross-Country course and show jumping raise the bar requiring precise pace, boldness & accuracy.*

## Long Format

**Dressage Test** – This test begins every competition. It requires performing required movements at precise points in an enclosed area.

**Endurance Test** – The object of this phase is to test the horses speed, endurance and jumping ability over varied terrain and obstacles.

**Phase A** - The Road and Track portion is a warm-up phase that occurs on tracks throughout the woods and along the sides of the course.

**Phase B** - Steeplechase requires a horse and rider to gallop over obstacles on an oval course.

**Phase C** - The Roads and Track is a cool-down phase that also occurs on tracks in the woods or along the fields.

**Phase D** – Cross Country is the final test of Endurance day encompassing boldness, speed and control over immovable jumps.

**Jumping Test** – The show jumping competition ends the event. Riders negotiate a course scattered with jumps with various heights, widths and appearances.