

## Jessica Ennis-Hill

### Childhood

Jessica Ennis-Hill was born 28 January 1986 in Sheffield, England. Jessica grew up in Sheffield with her father, her mother and her younger sister, Carmel. She came from a sporty background and started at a local sports camp during her school summer holidays. Shortly after, she joined a local athletics club, which she still competes for today. At the age of 13, she had her first coaching session with Toni Minichiello. They decided that she should take part in the heptathlon - seven events made up of the 100 metre hurdles, high jump, shot-put, 200 metres, long jump, javelin, and 800 metres. By 2004, Jessica was known as one of Britain's top junior athletes. Her trainer was extremely confident that she would go on to win a major event in the future.



### Achievements

In 2008, Jessica was chosen to represent Team GB at the Olympic Games in Beijing but she broke her foot before competing. Sadly, she had to miss these Games. In 2012, she competed in the London Olympics. At the end of the first day of competition, Jessica had scored her highest ever score. Then, on day two, she went on to win the 800 metres race, in front of thousands of cheering fans, to get her gold medal. The night she won later became known as 'Super Saturday'.

After London 2012, Jessica's gold medal was honoured in many ways including the placing of a gold post box in her hometown of Sheffield, being put on a special postage stamp and receiving an MBE from Her Majesty, The Queen.

### Did you know?

At just 1m 65 cm tall, Jessica is one of the smallest competitors ever in heptathlon. Her team-mate, Kelly Sotherton, nicknamed her 'tadpole' because she never grew!