INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

FACTSHEET
THE PROGRAMME OF THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES
UPDATE - OCTOBER 2013

HISTORY

According to the Olympic Charter, "*Only those sports which are practised on snow or ice are considered as winter sports"* (Olympic Charter 2013, Rule 6, paragraph 2). As such, they may therefore be included in the programme of the Olympic Winter Games.

The programme of the Olympic Winter Games has developed over a long period of time, with some sports or disciplines disappearing and others being added. Some, such as curling, which was an Olympic event in 1924, have recently returned. Others, including ski jumping and figure skating, have barely changed and remain part of the programme.

The programme of the early editions was something of a "mix-and-match" between the disciplines practised by the Scandinavians and those of the Anglo-Saxon and Alpine countries. After the Second World War, the programme became more structured and the events were standardised. Winter sports competitions became well established in the landscape of competitive sport. Between 1964 and 1984, the number of events in the Winter Games programme remained relatively stable, with five events added in six editions. Since the Sarajevo Games, the programme has almost doubled in size, with the introduction of new disciplines, as well as the addition of new distances and "skating" style in cross-country skiing.

It is interesting to note that two sports formed part of the Games of the Olympiad prior to the inaugural Olympic Winter Games in 1924: ice hockey was introduced for the first time at the Games of the Olympiad in Antwerp in 1920, while figure skating is the oldest winter discipline in the Olympic programme, having featured in the Games of the Olympiad in London in 1908 and Antwerp in 1920.

KEY DATES FOR THE WINTER GAMES PROGRAMME

1924: first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix.
1936: introduction of alpine skiing at the Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.
1952: first women's cross-country skiing event in Oslo.
1960: speed skating increases from 4 to 8 events when it is opened to women. The biathlon is included in the Games, while for the only time ever, bobsleigh is excluded from the programme due to insufficient entries.
1964: the luge is introduced at the Games in Innsbruck.
1988: alpine skiing increases from 6 to 10 events with the addition of the super giant slalom and the reintroduction of alpine combined. Team sports are introduced in Nordic combined and ski jumping.
1992: short-track speed skating and freestyle skiing are added to the Olympic programme, while the biathlon is opened to women at the Albertville Games.
1998: snowboarding is included in the Nagano Games, while the curling event is reintroduced 74 years after its first official appearance at the Chamonix Games.
2002: the skeleton returns permanently to the programme in Salt Lake City, having been included in the Saint Moritz editions of 1928 and 1948, when there was a specific track for this discipline.
2006: four new events are included in the Turin Games for both men and women in snowboarding (snowboard cross), biathlon (mass start) and speed skating (team pursuit). Cross country (team sprint).
2010: For the Games in Vancouver, two new events are included in freestyle skiing: ski cross for men and women.
2014: Twelve new events are included in ski jumping freestyle skiing, snowboarding, biathlon, luge and figure skating; this is the biggest increase of the history of the Winter Games.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is determined to continue ensuring that the Olympic Winter Games are a showcase that is representative of the winter sports practised across the world. There is limited room for change, since new sports that require expensive infrastructures cannot be added. This limit has been imposed so that the number of potential host cities is not excessively restricted.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE WINTER GAMES IN SOCHI IN 2014

Between 1924 and 2014, the Olympic Winter Games programme has grown considerably. Whereas 16 medals were awarded in six sports at the first edition in Chamonix, the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi will comprised 98 events in seven sports. In Sochi in 2014, twelve new events are included on the Olympic programme (see table A). The new events are:

- ski slopestyle (men and women);
- ski halfpipe (men and women);
- snowboard slopestyle (men and women);
- snowboard parallel special slalom (men and women);
- women's ski jumping;
- biathlon mixed relay,
- figure skating team event;
- luge team relay.

The IOC announced in April and July 2011 the new events on the sports programme. These decisions were taken by the IOC Executive Board (EB) during its meeting held in London in April and ahead of the 123rd IOC Session in July in Durban, South Africa.

PREPARATION OF THE OLYMPIC PROGRAMME

Nowadays, the Olympic Games programme is reviewed and amended, if necessary, after each edition. This task is entrusted to the Olympic Programme Commission, which comprises IOC members and representatives of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), International sport Federations (IFs) and athletes. The Commission analyses the programme of sports, disciplines and events included in the Olympic Games. It draws up a series of recommendations on the principles and structure of the Olympic Summer and Winter Games programmes. The Commission gives advice to the IOC EB and submits reports to the IOC Session, which decides whether or not sports should be included. For disciplines and events, the EB takes the equivalent decisions. The Olympic Programme Commission also determines how many athletes should compete in each sport at the Games (the quotas), but the EB has the responsibility to validate these choices.

Nevertheless, the inclusion of sports is still regulated by a number of conditions, which are set out in Rule 45 of the Olympic Charter under the heading "Programme of the Olympic Games". The difference in meaning between the terms sport, discipline and event is not always well understood. Olympic sports must also be governed by IOC recognised IFs. A discipline is a branch of a sport comprising one or several events. An event is a competition in a sport or in one of its disciplines, resulting in a ranking and giving rise to the award of medals and diplomas.

Only sports that adopt and implement the World Anti-Doping Code can be included or remain in the programme.

INTERNATIONAL WINTER SPORTS FEDERATIONS

Seven winter sports federations govern the disciplines included in the programme of the Olympic Winter Games. They are all members of the Association of the International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF). The oldest is the International Skating Union,

Table A: The programme of the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi in 2014

Disciplines	Number of men's events	Number of women's events	Number of mixed events
Bobsleigh	**2**	**1**	**-**
Luge	**1**	**1**	**2**[1]
Skeleton	**1**	**1**	**-**
Speed skating	**6**	**6**	**-**
Short-track speed skating	**4**	**4**	**-**
Figure skating	**1**	**1**	**3**
Curling	**1**	**1**	**-**
Ice hockey	**1**	**1**	**-**
Biathlon	**5**	**5**	**1**
Cross-country skiing	**6**	**6**	**-**
Ski jumping	**3**	**1**	**-**
Nordic combined	**3**	**-**	**-**
Alpine skiing	**5**	**5**	**-**
Snowboarding	**5**	**5**	**-**
Freestyle skiing	**5**	**5**	**-**
15 disciplines	***49***	***43***	***6***

Table B: Sports on the programme of the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi 2014

Abbreviation	English Name	Year established	Location of HQ
I.B.U.	International Biathlon Union	1993	Austria
F.I.B.T.	Fédération Internationale de Bobsleigh et de Tobogganing	1923	Switzerland
W.C.F.	World Curling Federation	1966	Great Britain
I.I.H.F.	International Ice Hockey Federation	1908	Switzerland
F.I.L.	International Luge Federation	1957	Austria
I.S.U.	International Skating Union	1892	Switzerland
F.I.S.	International Ski Federation	1924	Switzerland

[1] In the doubles event, please note that it is not necessary one man and one woman per sled

Table C: Evolution of the programme of the Olympic Winter Games

	1924	1928	1932	1936	1948	1952	1956	1960	1964	1968	1972	1976	1980	1984	1988	1992	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010	2014
Biathlon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	6	6	6	8	10	10	11
Bobsleigh	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Skeleton	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2
Curling	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	2
Ice hockey	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Luge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Figure skating	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Speed skating	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	10	10	10	10	10	12	12	12
Short-track speed skating	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	6	8	8	8	8
Cross-country skiing	2	2	2	3	3	4	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	10	10	10	12	12	12	12
Ski jumping	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Nordic combined	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Alpine skiing	-	-	-	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Snowboarding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	6	6	10
Freestyle skiing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	4	4	6	10
Military patrol	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	**16**	**14**	**14**	**17**	**22**	**22**	**24**	**27**	**34**	**35**	**35**	**37**	**38**	**39**	**46**	**57**	**61**	**68**	**78**	**84**	**86**	**98**

Discipline with women's events X

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