

FACTSHEET

The programme of the Olympic Winter Games

20 June 2024

According to the Olympic Charter, “The programme of the Olympic Games (“the programme”) is the programme of all sports competitions established by the IOC for each edition of the Olympic Games in accordance with the present Rule and its Bye-law.” ([Olympic Charter, Chapter 5, Rule 45](#)) and “*Only those sports which are practised on snow or ice are considered as winter sports.*” ([Olympic Charter, Chapter 1, Rule 6](#)) and may therefore be included in the programme of the Olympic Winter Games.

The Olympic sports are those governed by International Sports Federations (IFs) recognised by the IOC. Only sports which comply with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competition are eligible to be in the programme.

Today, the Olympic programme is reviewed after each edition of the Games. This is the task of the [Olympic Programme Commission](#), which is made up of IOC members and representatives of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs), IFs, athletes and other experts. It studies the programme of sports, disciplines and events at the Olympic Games. The Commission then makes its recommendations to the IOC Executive Board (EB) and reports to the IOC Session.

The procedure for the definition of the Olympic programme has evolved since the implementation of [Olympic Agenda 2020](#) and was further strengthened by the new strategic roadmap [Olympic Agenda 2020+5](#) for the future of the Olympic Movement.

The programme of the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026

The Milano Cortina 2026 Organising Committee was the first winter OCOG to propose new sport namely ski mountaineering. In July 2021, the IOC Session unanimously approved the inclusion of ski mountaineering as an additional sport for the programme of this specific edition of the Olympic Winter Games.

In June 2022, the IOC EB approved the event programme and athletes quotas for the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.

The Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 will be comprised of 116 events in eight sports. Eight new events have been added to the programme, with a strong focus on gender equality in terms of events and female athlete quotas. This approach is in line with the objective of reducing the cost and complexity of hosting the Olympic Winter Games by using existing venues and respecting the overall athlete quota of 2,900. The new events are:

- Freestyle Skiing: Dual Moguls (men and women)
- Luge: Doubles (women)
- Skeleton: Mixed Team (mixed gender)
- Ski Jumping: Large Hill Individual (women)
- Ski Mountaineering: Sprint (men and women)
- Ski Mountaineering: Mixed Relay (mixed gender)

[The full programme of the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 is available here.](#)

More information on the historical evolution of the programme can be located in **table A**.

Olympic programme commission

The Olympic Programme Commission has the responsibility of analysing the programme of sports



and events for both the Games of the Olympiad and Olympic Winter Games and forming recommendations for consideration by the IOC EB.

Olympic Agenda 2020 noted that *“the Olympic programme is the fundamental core of the Olympic Games as decisions regarding the programme have an impact on virtually all other areas of the Olympic Games and Olympic Movement.”*

The responsibilities of the Olympic Programme Commission are to:

- Develop a programme that maximises the popularity of the Olympic Games while containing costs and complexity;
- Make sure that the Olympic programme remains relevant to young people by ensuring innovation and adapting to modern tastes and new trends, while respecting the history and tradition of the sports;
- Thoroughly evaluate the sports and events in close cooperation with the respective IFs;
- Respect the framework and principles outlined in Olympic Agenda 2020 Recommendations 9, 10 and 11 and Olympic Agenda 2020+5 Recommendations 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Olympic programme process

There are three steps to the finalisation of the programme for an Olympic Games or Olympic Winter Games. These steps are detailed below.

1. Sports programme

In principle seven years before the Games, the IOC EB submits a proposal of the initial sports programme to the IOC Session for a vote no later than the host of that Games is elected ([Olympic Charter, Chapter 5, Bye-law to Rule 45, section 1.1](#)).

2. New since December 2014 – Host / OCOG proposal

This step is an optional proposal which is made by the Host to the IOC. The proposal should be submitted by the OCOG and reviewed by the IOC 4-6 years before the Games. The process is loosely defined as follows:

- The OCOG proposal on new sports is submitted to the IOC for review analysis and if necessary, observation;

- The Olympic Programme Commission works to review the proposal and makes a recommendation to the IOC EB;
- The IOC EB reviews and makes a proposal to the IOC Session on events and athlete quotas in the OCOG proposal on new sports;
- The IOC Session votes on the OCOG proposal on new sports ([Olympic Charter, Chapter 5, Rule 45 and its Bye-law](#)).

3. Event programme – three-four years out from the Games

This is considered within the quota of 2,900 athletes and 100 events.

- The Olympic Programme Commission reviews all changes to the programme proposed by the IFs in consultation with the OCOG and makes a recommendation to the IOC EB;
- The IOC EB votes to accept, reject or request further review.

Key dates for the Winter Games programme

1908: Figure Skating is on the programme of the Summer Games in London.

1920: Figure Skating and Ice Hockey are on the programme of the Summer Games in Antwerp.

1924: First Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix.

1936: Introduction of Alpine Skiing at the Games of Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

1952: First women's Cross-Country Skiing event at the Games in Oslo.

1960: Speed Skating increases from 4 to 8 events when it is opened to women. Biathlon is included at the Games in Squaw Valley, while Bobsleigh is excluded from the programme due to insufficient entries.

1964: Luge is added to the Olympic programme 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 at the Games in Calgary.

1992: Short Track Speed Skating and Freestyle Skiing are added, while Biathlon is opened to women at the Games in Albertville.



1998: Snowboarding is included at the Games of Nagano, while the Curling event is reintroduced 74 years after its first official appearance in 1924.

2002: Skeleton returns to the programme at the Games in Salt Lake City, having been included at the Games of Saint Moritz 1928 and 1948, presence due to the existence of a specific track dedicated to this practice.

2006: For Turin, four new events are included for both men and women in Snowboarding (Snowboard Cross), Biathlon (Mass Start), Speed Skating (Team Pursuit) and Cross-country (Team Sprint).

2010: At the Games in Vancouver, two new events are included in Freestyle Skiing: Ski Cross for men and women.

2014: In Sochi, 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.

2018: Six new medal events are added to the programme of this edition in PyeongChang (Curling Mixed Doubles, Speed Skating Mass Start for women and men, Alpine Skiing Nations Team event and Snowboard Big Air), reflecting the continued evolution of the Winter Olympic.

2022: Seven events make its Olympic debuts in this edition in Beijing: Women's Monobob in Bobsleigh, a Mixed Team Relay in Short Track, Men's and Women's Freeski Big Air events and Mixed Team Aerials in Freestyle Skiing, a Mixed Team event in Ski Jumping and a Mixed Team Snowboard Cross in Snowboard.

2026: Eight new events are added to the programme of Milano Cortina 2026, including 3 new events of the OCOG proposed sport - ski mountaineering which was included for this edition of the Games. The new events are: Men's and Women's Dual Moguls in Freestyle Skiing, Women's Doubles in Luge, Mixed Team in Skeleton, Women's Large Hill Individual in Ski Jumping, Men's and Women's Sprint and Mixed Relay in Ski Mountaineering.



Table A: 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 | 2018 | 2022 | 2026 |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Alpine skiing | - | - | - | 2 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| Biathlon | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Bobsleigh | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| 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 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Curling | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Figure skating | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Freestyle skiing | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 15 |
| Ice hockey | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Luge | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Nordic combined | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Short-track speed skating | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Skeleton | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Ski jumping | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Ski Mountaineering | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Snowboarding | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Speed skating | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Total | 16* | 14 | 14 | 17 | 22 | 22 | 24 | 27 | 34 | 35 | 35 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 46 | 57 | 61 | 68 | 78 | 84 | 86 | 98 | 102 | 109 | 116 |

* The event of the Military Patrol was on the programme of the first Games in 1924. Discipline with women's events are in blue.

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