

# FACTSHEET

## The programme of the Olympic Winter Games

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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 that adopt and implement the World Anti-Doping Code can be included or remain 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 Beijing 2022

In July 2018, the IOC EB approved the event programme and athletes quotas for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

The 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing will be comprised of 109 events in seven sports. In Beijing in 2022, seven new events are included on the Olympic programme. The new events are:

- Bobsleigh: Monobob (women)
- Short Track: Mixed Team Relay (mixed gender)
- Freestyle Skiing: Freeski Big Air (men and women)
- Freestyle Skiing: Mixed Team Aerials (mixed gender)
- Snowboard: Mixed Team Snowboard Cross (mixed gender)
- Ski Jumping: Mixed Team (mixed gender)

These considerations were made within the context of Olympic Agenda 2020, including the framework of approximately 2,900 athletes and 100 events for the Olympic Winter Games, a focus on continued innovation of the programme and increasing gender equality.

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

[The full programme of the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 is available here.](#)

### 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;
- Ensure the Olympic programme remains relevant to young people by promoting innovation and adapting to modern taste 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 frameworks and principles outlined in Olympic Agenda 2020 Recommendations 9, 10 and 11 and Olympic Agenda 2020+5 Recommendation 1 and 2.

## 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. This is considered inside the quota of 2,900 athletes and 100 events for the Olympic Winter 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:** The inclusion of ski mountaineering on the programme of Milano Cortina 2026 will consist of five new medal events: two men's events (sprint/individual), two women's events (sprint/individual) and one mixed-gender relay event.



**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	
Alpine skiing	-	-	-	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	
Biathlon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	6	6	6	8	10	10	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	
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	
Curling	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	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	
Freestyle skiing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	4	4	4	6	10	10	13
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	
Luge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	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	3	3	
Short-track speed skating	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	6	8	8	8	8	8	9	
Skeleton	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	
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	
Snowboarding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	6	6	10	10	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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16*</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>109</b>	

\* 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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