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Guide to the
2018
Winter Games
PYEONGCHANG



QUEEN YUNA

Basics of the Games

On Feb. 9, the XXIII Olympic Winter Games will kick off in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea, to much fanfare and slight global trepidation.

The people of South Korea face North Korean military threats on a regular basis, leading some athletes, government officials and Olympics analysts to raise concerns about safety.

Officials have expressed full confidence in the overall security posture of PyeongChang, the first Korean city to host the Olympic Winter Games since the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988. PyeongChang will be the stage for the opening and closing ceremonies and most snow sports.

THE ROAD HERE

PyeongChang was selected as the host city after receiving a majority vote at the 123rd IOC Session held in July 2011. The city's vision for the 2018 games is to "offer the Olympic Movement and the world of winter sports New Horizons — a legacy of new growth and new potential never seen before," according to a statement.

South Korea is hopeful to draw young audiences to the events, given PyeongChang's strategic position in Asia and a fast-growth youth market.



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THE MASCOT

Soohorang, the mascot of the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games, was inspired by the white tiger — long considered Korea's guardian animal.

According to the Olympic Winter Games' website,

"Sooho" represents "the protection offered to the athletes, spectators and other participants of the 2018 Games." "Rang" comes from the middle letter of "Ho-rang-i", the Korean word for "tiger," and is also the last letter of "Jeong-seon A-ri-rang," a popular tra-

ditional folk song of Gangwon.

SCHEDULE

The competition program for games features six new events, including snowboard big air (men's and women's), speed skating mass start (men's and women's), curling mixed

doubles and the Alpine team event.

This brings the number of gold medal events to 102 — the most ever at Winter Games.

Analysts expect the large number of medals to make this one of the most competitive Olympics in history.



Sports and Venues

Athletes taking part in the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 will compete in 102 events in 15 sport disciplines. The Games will be the first ever Olympic Winter Games with more than 100 gold medals.

Six new events will be rolled out. These include snowboard big air (men, women), speed skating mass start (men, women), curling mixed doubles, and an alpine skiing team event.

Here is a breakdown of the sport disciplines in which athletes will be competing for medals.

**Snow sports
7 disciplines**

- Alpine skiing
- Biathlon
- Cross-country skiing
- Freestyle skiing
- Nordic combined
- Ski jumping
- Snowboard

**Ice sports
5 disciplines**

- Short track speed skating
- Speed skating
- Figure skating

- Ice hockey
- Curling

**Sliding sports
3 disciplines**

- Bobsleigh
- Luge
- Skeleton

OLYMPIC VILLAGES

The layout of the 2018 games is compact. All competition venues of PyeongChang 2018 are located within 30 minutes driving distance from the PyeongChang Olympic Stadium.

The PyeongChang 2018 villages are comprised of hundreds of accommodation units ready to host athletes and officials. The privately funded

PyeongChang Village features 600 accommodation units in eight 15-story buildings while the slightly larger Gangneung Village has 922 units spread across nine 25-story buildings.

The PyeongChang Village will house approximately 4,000 athletes and team officials during the Olympic Winter Games and more than 2,000 people during the Paralympic Winter Games. The Gangneung Village will house more than 2,900 people at the Olympic Winter Games only.

Both villages will provide a bank, post office, general store, laundry service, fitness center, recreational center, beauty salon and multi-faith center, as well as a large dining hall serving round-the-clock meals.

Top American Storylines

Americans of all experience levels will represent United States at the Olympic Winter Games at PyeongChang.

From ice dancing siblings to grizzled downhill skiers, Team USA fields a talented collection of world-class athletes ready to make their mark on the winter stage.

Here is a look at a few of the top American storylines in PyeongChang 2018.

THE SHIBUTANI SIBLINGS

Born and raised in Ann Arbor, Mich., Alexa and Maia Shibutani have glided to multiple awards during their young careers. Now they are ready for the big winter stage.

While growing up, the siblings initially skated separately, but began competing together when Maia was 10 and Alex was 13. Dubbed the “Shib Sibs,” the skaters won the prestigious Skate America competition in November to position them for a gold-medal run in Korea.

BRYAN FLETCHER

When Bryan Fletcher endures the grueling Nordic Combined course in PyeongChang, it will pale in comparison to what he went through as a child.

The Colorado skier was diagnosed with leukemia at age 3. Two years later, he suffered a stroke due to an allergic

reaction from a chemotherapy drug. He credits his love for skiing and his parents — who took him to ski jumps as a youngster — for pushing him through. He went into remission at age 8.

Earlier this year, Fletcher was named FasterSkier’s North American Nordic Combined Athlete of the Year.

AMY PURDY

Hailing from Las Vegas, Nev., Amy Purdy is used to the bright lights. She, like Fletcher, has a health-related story to tell.

One day in July 1999, the 19-year-old snowboarder had to leave early from her job as a massage therapist for what she thought were flu-like symptoms. Purdy had actually contracted bacterial meningitis and was given a less than 2 percent chance of living. She survived but lost her spleen, kidneys, hearing in her left ear, and both legs below the knees.

Thanks to advanced prosthetics and a kidney transplant from her dad, Purdy is on top of her favorite sport. She became a three-time snowboarding world champion, winning the bronze medal during the 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympics.



Paralympic Winter Games

With great excitement and a dedicated fan base, the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games will take place between March 9 and 18.

According to the games' organizing committee, the Paralympics will feature up to 670 athletes — a large increase that includes a 44-percent boost in the number of female athletes compared to the Sochi games in 2014.

THE EVENTS

Paralympic athletes will compete in 80 medal events across six sports: Alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ice hockey, snowboard and wheelchair curling.

According to the planning committee, alpine skiing and snowboard events will take place at the Jeongseon Alpine Centre while the Aplesia Biathlon Centre will host biathlon and cross-country events.

The Coastal Cluster will host the ice events. Para ice hockey will take place at the Gangneung Hockey Centre and the Gangneung Curling Centre will stage wheelchair curling.

ACTUALIZING THE DREAM

The PyeongChang organiz-

ing committee has launched "Actualizing the Dream," to promote Paralympic winter sports, raise awareness of Para sports and its athletes, and foster social inclusion for people with impairments.

The official mascot of the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games is Bandabi, an Asiatic black bear. The animal is symbolic of

strong will and courage — two characteristics of the Paralympic athletes traveling to PyeongChang from across the world.

THE MEDALS

Athletes will compete for a collection of beautiful medals that are based on the Olympic Winter Games medals but feature their own unique style.

The medals use the Korean Hangeul alphabet to engrave the consonants of "PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games" around the edge.

Other interesting features of these stunning medals include:

- Traditional and symbolic patterns including clouds, mountains, wind and wood.
- The Paralympic symbol of

three agitos on the front side of the medal.

- The Paralympic Winter Games logo, along with the name of the specific sport feature on the back.

- Horizontal lines that represent the Paralympic values of equality.

- "PyeongChang 2018" in Braille on the back of the medal.



Collegiate Hockey Dreams

It's back to the future in 2018 for the U.S. men's hockey team.

For the first time in five Olympics, the American men will not field professional players from the National Hockey League.

The roster is instead filled with college players, retired NHL players and Americans playing in European leagues.

The U.S. women's team, on the other hand, is more focused on overcoming its fierce rival. The Americans lost in overtime to Canada in the 2014 Sochi games — a loss that still haunts the U.S. women.

Olympic veteran Hilary Knight has vowed to bring home the gold medal from PyeongChang, which would be a first for the Americans in 20 years.

USA WOMEN

The women have spent the last four years training to beat Canada in Korea.

Knight, a 27-year-old forward who has played on the USA women's national team since 2006, and fellow veteran Monique Lamoureux-Morando lead the way.

The team made headlines in early 2017 when it refused to play in the ice hockey world championships in Michigan unless the Olympic governing body agreed to pay the players what they considered to be fair wages and offer more year-



round support. The sides made an agreement and the women won the tournament with an exciting 3-2 overtime victory over rival Canada in the gold medal game.

After winning a silver medal in Sochi, Team USA has won the past two world championships.

The U.S. Olympic women's hockey team begins its quest for a gold medal on Feb. 11 when it faces Finland.

USA MEN

Due to a decision by the NHL not to interrupt its season for the Olympics, big names like Patrick Kane and

Austin Matthews won't be playing in South Korea.

Some of the most recognized players who will compete include:

- American Hockey League legend Chris Bourque, currently an alternate team captain of the Hershey Bears — an affiliate of the NHL's

Washington Capitals.

- Former Hershey Bears forward Ryan Sota, former U-20 Team USA members Troy Terry and Jordan Greenway, and former NHL defenseman James Wisniewski.

The first contest for the U.S. Olympic men's hockey team is set for Feb. 14 against Slovenia.

A History of Olympic Medals

Did you know the tradition of awarding medals at the Olympic Games dates back to the 1800s? It took nearly 100 years later to adapt the original design features of the goddess of victory and the Olympic Stadium.

The Olympic Games' medals have a rich and robust history influenced by innovative designers and strategic committees.

James B. Connolly of Massachusetts was the first modern Olympic champion to be rewarded a medal when in 1896 — the first Olympic Games of the modern era in Athens — he was crowned with an olive wreath and received a silver medal.

Here is a brief timeline showcasing the journey of the Olympic Games' medals, according to the International Olympic Committee (IOC):

- The 1904 Olympic Games in St Louis, were the first at which gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded for first, second and third place.
- With the exception of the medals for the 1956 equestrian events, the medals for the Games of the Olympiad became standardized starting in 1928.
- One side of the medal featured the traditional design of the goddess of victory, holding a palm in her left hand and a winner's crown in her right hand. On the other, an Olympic champion was depicted being carried triumphantly by the crowd, with an Olympic stadium in the background.
- For the 1972 Games in Munich, the organizing committee commissioned the medal's reverse to be designed by an artist from the Bauhaus school, Gerhard Marcks.
- A further design adaptation was

introduced for the 2004 Games in Athens when the IOC approved the organizing committee's proposal for an updated version of the goddess of victory and the stadium.

THE RIBBON

At the 1904 Olympic Games in St Louis, the medal was attached to a colored ribbon. A pin would affix the ribbon to the athlete's chest. Nearly six decades later in Rome, the organizing committee changed the ribbons to be placed around the winners' necks.

The initial adaption featured a laurel leaf chain, but at subsequent Olympics Games, athletes are awarded medals on colored ribbons.

THE WINTER GAMES MEDALS

The design of today's' medals must take into account certain visual elements approved by the IOC. Additionally, the Winter Games medals should reflect the visual look, plus cultural and aesthetic elements selected by the Olympics organizing committee.

The sleek 2018 design was inspired by the texture of tree trunks. The front bears the Olympic rings and diagonal lines that reflect the history of the Olympics and the commitment of the athletes. In total, 259 sets of the medals have been made for the PyeongChang games.



Looking Back on Sochi

History lets us discover valuable lessons that help us plan for a better Olympic experience. Let's take a look back at some of the key statistics reported from the Sochi 2014 organizing committee to see what may be ahead for athletes, teams and officials in South Korea.

- More than 2,800 athletes participated — a record.

- The Games featured a record 98 events in seven sports.

- Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerdalen became the most decorated Winter Olympian, earning his 13th medal in Sochi.

- Norwegian cross-country skier Marit Bjoergen became the most decorated female Winter Olympian with 10 medals.

- With a bronze medal in luge, Armin Zoeggeler of Italy continued the longest winning streak in Olympic history — six medals over six consecutive Winter Games.

- With a silver medal in bobsleigh, Lauryn Williams of the United States became the fifth person to medal at both the Summer and Winter Olympics.

- Six NOCs participated for the first time: Malta, Paraguay, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga and Zimbabwe.

- Women accounted for more than 40 percent of all participants and competed in 50 percent of all events in Sochi.

- 64 former Youth Olympic Games athletes, representing 34 NOCs, competed in Sochi, winning three gold medals, one silver and two bronze.

- The Sochi 2014 Games featured the most stringent



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anti-doping program in the history of the Olympic Winter Games with a record 2,812 tests conducted.

- Record broadcast audience of 2.1 billion people worldwide.

- Games broadcast by a

record number of TV channels (412 channels compared to 240 for Vancouver), including a record number of free-to-air channels (310 channels compared to 128 for Vancouver).

- Preparations for the Sochi

Games created and supported an estimated 690,000 jobs.

- In 2011, approximately 56,000 people worked on the Olympic construction sites

- At the close of 2012, a total of 70,000 people were working on Olympic construction.

- During the Games, Sochi had the lowest level of unemployment in Russia at just 0.17 percent.

- Before the Games, the number of foreign tourists to Sochi grew by more than 2.5 times in 2011-2012.