

4. Sports



■ **16 days** of competition: from 11 to 26 February 2006

■ **15 Disciplines:** Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Bobsleigh, Cross-Country Skiing, Curling, Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Ice Hockey, Luge, Nordic Combined, Short Track Speed Skating, Skeleton, Ski Jumping, Snowboard, Speed Skating

■ **14 competition Venues:** Oval Lingotto, Palasport Olimpico, Palavela, Torino Esposizioni, Pinerolo Palaghiaccio, Bardonecchia, Cesana Pariol, Cesana San Sicario, Pragelato, Pragelato Plan, San Sicario Fraiteve, Sauze d'Oulx-Jouvenceaux, Sestriere Borgata, Sestriere Colle

■ **84** gold medals

■ **2,500** athletes from **85** countries

■ **1,000,000** expected spectators

February		FRIDAY 10	SATURDAY 11	SUNDAY 12	MONDAY 13	TUESDAY 14	WEDNESDAY 15	THURSDAY 16	FRIDAY 17	SATURDAY 18	SUNDAY 19	MONDAY 20	TUESDAY 21	WEDNESDAY 22	THURSDAY 23	FRIDAY 24	SATURDAY 25	SUNDAY 26
Olympic Stadium	Ceremonies	Opening Ceremony 20:00																Closing Ceremony 20:00
	Ice Hockey 1		Ice Hockey Games W 15:30/20:30	Ice Hockey Games W 19:00	Ice Hockey Games W 17:30	Ice Hockey Games W 15:30/20:30	Ice Hockey Games M 13:00/17:00/21:00	Ice Hockey Games M 12:00/16:00/20:00	Ice Hockey Semifinals W 17:00/21:00	Ice Hockey Games M 13:00/17:00/21:00	Ice Hockey Games M 12:00/16:00/20:00	Ice Hockey Bronze Final W Gold Final W 16:30/20:30 20:30/23:10	Ice Hockey Games M 12:30/16:30/20:30	Ice Hockey Quarterfinals M 16:30/20:30			Ice Hockey Semifinals M 16:30/21:00	Ice Hockey Bronze Final M 20:30-23:05
Torino Esposizioni	Ice Hockey 2		Ice Hockey Games W 13:00/18:00	Ice Hockey Games W 16:30	Ice Hockey Games W 15:00	Ice Hockey Games W 13:00/18:00	Ice Hockey Games M 11:30/15:30/20:00	Ice Hockey Games M 13:00/17:00/21:00	Ice Hockey Games W 13:00/18:30	Ice Hockey Games M 11:30/15:30/20:00	Ice Hockey Games M 13:00/17:00/21:00	Ice Hockey G 7-8 W/G 5-6 W 13:00/17:00	Ice Hockey Games M 11:30/15:30/20:00	Ice Hockey Quarterfinals M 16:30/20:30				
Oval Lingotto	Speed Skating		Speed Skating 3000 m L 15:30-18:50	Speed Skating 3000 m L 16:30-19:00	Speed Skating 500 m M 15:30-18:50	Speed Skating 500 m M 16:00-19:00	Speed Skating Team Pursuit M/L 17:00-19:00	Speed Skating 500 m L 17:00-19:00		Speed Skating 1000 m M 17:00-19:00	Speed Skating 1000 m L 17:00-18:50		Speed Skating 1500 m M 16:00-18:30	Speed Skating 1500 m L 17:00-19:15			Speed Skating 10000 m M 15:00-18:20	Speed Skating 5000 m L 16:30-18:25
Palavela	Short Track Speed Skating			Short Track 1500 m M (Final) 500 m L (Prelim) 3000 m L Relay (Prelim) 19:30-22:15			Short Track 500 m L (Final) 1000 m M (Prelim) 5000 m M Relay (Prelim) 19:30-22:00			Short Track 1500 m L (Final) 1000 m M (Final) 19:30-22:20				Short Track 1000 m L (Prelim) 500 m M (Prelim) 3000 m F Relay (Final) 19:30-21:25				Short Track 500 m M (Final) 1000 m F (Final) 5000 m M Relay (Final) 19:30-22:10
Palavela	Figure Skating		Figure Skating Pairs Short Programme 19:00-22:15		Figure Skating Pairs Free Skating 19:00-23:10	Figure Skating Men's Short Programme 19:00-23:25		Figure Skating Men's Free Skating 19:00-23:20	Figure Skating Ice Dancing Comp. Dances 19:00-22:10		Figure Skating Ice Dancing Original Dance 19:00-22:30	Figure Skating Ice Dancing Free Dance 19:00-23:25	Figure Skating Short Programme 19:00-23:25		Figure Skating Ladies Free Skating 19:00-23:10	Figure Skating Gala Exhibition 19:00-21:30		
Pinerolo Palaghiaccio	Curling				Curling Round Robin M/W 09:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Round Robin M/W 09:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Round Robin M/W 09:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Round Robin M/W 09:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Round Robin M/W 09:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Round Robin M/W 09:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Round Robin M/W 09:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Round Robin M/W 09:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Tie Breakers M/W 09:00-12:00 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Semifinals M/W 14:00-17:00 19:00-22:00	Curling Bronze Final W Gold Final W 13:00-16:00 17:30-20:45	Curling Bronze Final M Gold Final M 13:00-16:00 17:30-20:45		
Pragelato	Ski Jumping		Ski Jumping NH Ind. Qual. 18:00-19:00	Ski Jumping NH Individual 18:00-19:55					Ski Jumping LH Ind. Qual. 18:00-19:05	Ski Jumping LH Individual 18:00-19:55		Ski Jumping LH Team 18:00-20:15						
Pragelato - Pragelato Plan	Nordic Combined		Nordic Combined NH / 15 Km Ind. 11:00-13:00 15:00-16:45				Nordic Combined LH / 4x5 Km Team 10:30-12:20 15:00-16:20						Nordic Combined LH / 7.5 Km SPRINT 11:00-11:50 14:00-14:45					
Pragelato Plan	Cross-Country Skiing			Cross-Country 7.5+7.5 Km Pursuit L 15+15 Km Pursuit M 10:00-11:15 13:45-15:30		Cross-Country Team Pursuit M/L 10:00-12:25		Cross-Country 10 Km L Interval Start 10:00-11:45	Cross-Country 15 Km M Interval Start 10:00-11:45	Cross-Country 4x5 Km Relay L 9:45-11:05	Cross-Country 4x10 Km Relay M 10:00-12:00			Cross-Country Sprint Qual & Finals M/L 10:00-11:05 12:30-14:40		Cross-Country 30 Km L Mass Start 11:30-13:25	Cross-Country 50 Km M Mass Start 10:00-12:45	
Sestriere Colle	Alpine Skiing					Alpine Skiing SLK M 17:00-18:00 19:30-20:30		Alpine Skiing SLK L 17:00-18:00 19:30-20:55		Alpine Skiing Super-G M 11:00-12:40		Alpine Skiing Giant Slalom M 09:30-11:30 13:00-14:40		Alpine Skiing Slalom L 14:45-16:00 17:45-19:10		Alpine Skiing Giant Slalom L 13:00-14:40	Alpine Skiing Slalom M 15:00-16:00 18:30-19:55	
Sestriere Borgata	Alpine Skiing			Alpine Skiing Downhill M 12:00-13:55		Alpine Skiing DHK M 12:00-13:30				Alpine Skiing Super-G M 11:00-12:40								
San Sicario Fraiteve	Alpine Skiing						Alpine Skiing Downhill L 12:00-14:10		Alpine Skiing DHK L 12:00-13:30		Alpine Skiing Super-G L 12:00-13:55							
Cesana San Sicario	Biathlon		Biathlon 20 Km Ind. M 13:00-15:00		Biathlon 15 Km Ind. W 12:00-14:00	Biathlon 10 Km Sprint M 13:30-15:30		Biathlon 10 Km L 12:00-13:30		Biathlon 15 Km M 12:00-13:30	Biathlon 10 Km Pursuit W 12.5 Km Pursuit M 12:30-13:25 14:30-15:25			Biathlon 4x7.5 Km Relay M 12:00-13:55		Biathlon 4x6 Km Relay W 12:00-13:50		Biathlon 15 Km M / 12.5 Km W Mass Start 10:00-11:00 12:00-13:00
Cesana Pariol	Bobsleigh									Bobsleigh Two M 17:30-20:15	Bobsleigh Two W 17:30-20:15	Bobsleigh Two M 17:30-19:35	Bobsleigh Two W 17:30-19:45			Bobsleigh Four M 17:30-20:15	Bobsleigh Four M 17:30-20:35	
Cesana Pariol	Skeleton						Skeleton Single W 17:30-19:15	Skeleton Single M 17:30-20:10										
Cesana Pariol	Luge		Luge Single M 16:00-20:00	Luge Single M 16:00-20:10	Luge Single W 16:00-19:20	Luge Single W 16:00-18:30	Luge Double M 16:00-18:30											
Sauze d'Oulx-Jouvenceaux	Freestyle Skiing		Freestyle Moguls Qual & Finals L 15:00-16:30 19:00-20:20				Freestyle Moguls Qual & Finals M 14:00-15:30 17:30-18:50				Freestyle Aerials Qual. L 18:30-20:35	Freestyle Aerials Qual. M 18:30-20:20			Freestyle Aerials Finals L 18:45-20:15	Freestyle Aerials Finals M 18:30-20:00		
Bardonecchia	Snowboard			Snowboard HP Qual & Finals M 10:00-11:40 14:00-15:20	Snowboard HP Qual & Finals L 10:00-11:40 14:00-15:20			Snowboard SBX Qual & Finals M 10:00-11:50 14:00-15:05	Snowboard SBX Qual & Finals L 10:00-11:50 14:00-14:50					Snowboard PCS Qual & Finals M 10:00-10:55 13:00-14:50	Snowboard PCS Qual & Finals L 10:00-11:55 14:00-15:50			

 Daily Medals Award Event

• Mountain competitions held at night are indicated in red

• Competition times are estimative and include Medal Ceremonies, if held at the Venues

Olympic Competition Schedule



Alpine Skiing and the Olympic Games

The Garmisch Games in 1936 marked the recognition of alpine skiing as an Olympic sport. There were downhill and slalom competitions (men's and ladies'), but medals were awarded only for the combined. Individual downhill and slalom competitions started in 1948. The first giant slalom competition was held at the Oslo Games in 1952, and super-G at Calgary in 1988. Between 1952 and 1988, no combined medals were awarded.

Did You Know?

At the 1936 Garmisch Games, where alpine skiing made its debut, ski instructors were banned from competitions because they were considered professionals.

Alpine Skiing

At a Glance

One of the most popular sports in the world, requiring technique, bravery, strength and focus.

Downhill is one of the most spectacular of the alpine disciplines. Athletes launch themselves down long and difficult slopes, attaining speeds in excess of 120 km/h. Some of the most celebrated downhill slopes in the world are truly legendary sport landmarks. **Slalom** and **giant slalom** courses are shorter and require great control over the skis and speed in executing the continual changes of direction. **Super-G** is a combination of downhill and giant slalom racing. Introduced in the 1980s, it has evolved into a fast race, more akin to downhill than to slalom. **Combined**, composed of downhill and slalom, demands great all-round abilities.

Technical Information

In **downhill**, the vertical drop for the men's course varies from 800 to 1100 m, while for the ladies it varies from 500 to 800 m. The men's **super-G** course has a vertical drop of 500-650 m and the ladies' course 400-600 m. The course is marked with blue and red alternating gates, 35 for the men's course and 30 for the ladies' course. In the **giant slalom**, the vertical drop does not exceed 400-450 m, but the course is shorter and steeper. There are 56-70 gates for men and 46-58 for ladies'. In men's **slalom**, the vertical drop is 180-220 m, and in the ladies' race, 140 to 200 m. There are 55-75 gates for men and 40-60 for women. The **combined** discipline comprises a downhill run and a slalom run. Classification is made by adding the times achieved in both runs.



Events

Ten gold medals will be awarded in alpine skiing:

Men

	Slalom	Giant Slalom	Super-G	Downhill	Combined
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Ladies

	Slalom	Giant Slalom	Super-G	Downhill	Combined
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There will be a single heat for downhill and super-G, and two for the slalom races. The starting order for the second heat is organised by inverting the classification of the first 30 skiers.

Competition Venues

Sestriere Colle, Sestriere Borgata, San Sicario Fraiteve (← pp. 88, 92 Olympic Venues)

The slalom and giant slalom courses are in Sestriere Colle. The men's downhill and super-G course (Kandahar Banchetta - G. Nasi slope) is in Sestriere Borgata, and the women's downhill and super-G slope is in San Sicario Fraiteve. Some competitions will be held at night, using a special lighting system.

Competition Schedule

Sunday 12 February	12:00-13:55	Downhill M
Tuesday 14 February	12:00-13:30 17:00-18:00 / 19:30-20:40	Downhill Combined M Slalom Combined M (1st run)/(2nd run)
Wednesday 15 February	12:00-14:10	Downhill L
Friday 17 February	12:00-13:30 17:00-18:00 / 19:30-20:55	Downhill Combined L Slalom Combined L (1st run)/(2nd run)
Saturday 18 February	11:00-12:40	Super-G M
Sunday 19 February	12:00-13:55	Super-G L
Monday 20 February	09:30-11:30 / 13:00-14:40	Giant Slalom M (1st run)/(2nd run)
Wednesday 22 February	14:45-16:00 / 17:45-19:10	Slalom L (1st run)/(2nd run)
Friday 24 February	09:30-11:30 / 13:00-14:40	Giant Slalom L (1st run)/(2nd run)
Saturday 25 February	15:00-16:00 / 18:30-19:55	Slalom M (1st run)/(2nd run)

How to get there: (← pp. 48, 54 Transport.

Biathlon and the Olympic Games

In 1924, 1928, 1936 and 1948, biathlon was restricted to military groups. It was finally held as an official Olympic sport at Squaw Valley in 1960. Women were admitted for the first time at the Albertville Games in 1992.

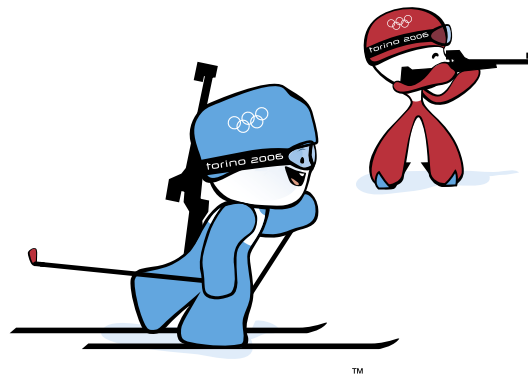
Did You Know?

In 1767, a group of soldiers manning the border between Norway and Sweden organised a race that is thought to be the first biathlon competition in history.

Biathlon

At a Glance

Biathlon combines two different disciplines: **cross-country skiing** with **target shooting** using a small calibre rifle. It demands great stamina and strength, as well as a capacity for concentration and technical ability. The athletes race on loops of varying lengths, stopping periodically at the shooting range to carry out a series of target shooting (five shots each). For each missed target a **penalty** is issued – adding a minute to the total time, or requiring the skiers to race an additional 150 m loop.



Technical Information

Skiers use the skating technique and conduct target shooting with a 5.6 mm small-bore rifle. Only manual loading is permitted. Targets are placed at a distance of 50 m and have a diameter of 45 mm for prone shooting and 115 mm for standing shooting.

Events

Ten gold medals will be awarded in biathlon:

	Men	Women
Individual	20 km	15 km
Sprint	10 km	7.5 km
Pursuit	12.5 km	10 km
Mass Start	15 km	12.5 km
Relay	4 x 7.5 km	4 x 6 km

In **individual** and **sprint events**, athletes start at 30-second intervals and race **against time**; there are four (two in sprint) shooting sessions, which alternate between prone and standing positions. The first athlete to cover the course with the best time, after adding any penalty time, wins.

The best sixty athletes in the individual event take part in the **pursuit** competition. The winner of the qualifying event starts first, and the others follow according to classification and elapsed time.

The **mass start** competition (which is being added to the Olympic Programme for the **first time** in Torino) is limited to **30 athletes**, chosen among the best in Olympic and World Cup competitions. All athletes start together, and the first athlete to cross the finish line wins.

Competition Venue

Cesana San Sicario (↶ p. 82 Olympic Venues)

The competition facility consists of five loops of varying lengths, from 2 to 4 km. The altitude ranges between 1,618 and 1,680 m. The biggest climb is 20.13 m in the 3.3 km loop.

Competition Schedule

Saturday 11 February	13:00-15:00	20 km Individual M
Monday 13 February	12:00-14:00	15 km Individual W
Tuesday 14 February	13:30-15:00	10 km Sprint M
Thursday 16 February	12:00-13:30	7.5 km Sprint W
Saturday 18 February	12:30-13:25	10 km Pursuit W
	14:30-15:25	12.5 km Pursuit M
Tuesday 21 February	12:00-13:55	4 x 7.5 km Relay M
Thursday 23 February	12:00-13:50	4 x 6 km Relay W
Saturday 25 February	10:00-11:00	15 km Mass Start M
	12:00-13:00	12.5 km Mass Start W

How to get there: (↶) p. 48 Transport.

Bobsleigh and the Olympic Games

While four-man bobsleigh was already being contested at the Chamonix Olympic Winter Games in 1924, two-man debuted at Lake Placid in 1932. Bobsleigh was not on the Olympic Programme at Squaw Valley in 1960. Women's bobsleigh was added at Salt Lake City in 2002.

Did You Know?

The modern bobsleigh is an evolution of the centuries-old wooden sleds. It was called bob because in early times the teams had to bob sideways inside the sled to gain speed.

Bobsleigh

At a Glance

In the bobsleigh event, teams of **two** or **four** athletes race **against time** on an **artificial ice track**. The two-person bobsleigh team is made up of the driver and the brakeman, who are joined by two additional athletes in the four-man race.

At the departure, all team members **push** the sled for about 50 m, a distance that is usually covered in less than six seconds, reaching a speed of about 40 km/h, before they jump into the sled. The maximum speed reached during the descent is approximately 130 km/h.

Technical Information

A modern bobsleigh is made of three different parts: the **chassis**, the **cowl** and the **runners**. Strict rules **limit** some features of these elements, while others are at each team's discretion. The chassis and the runners are usually made of steel, and the cowl is made of fiberglass, kevlar and other materials.

The maximum **weight** of the sled, including the crew, is 390 kg in two-man, 340 kg in women's and 630 kg in four-man.

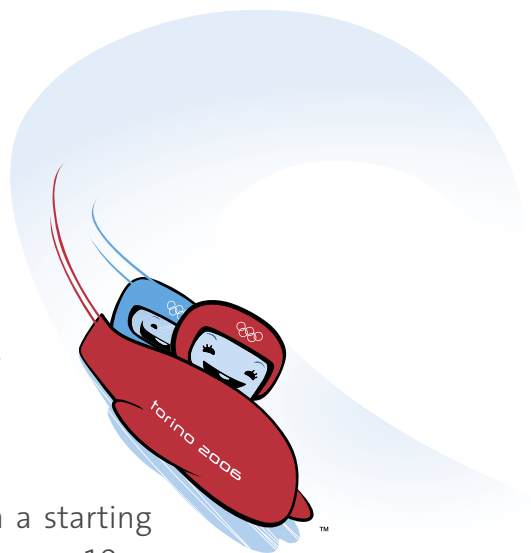
Events

Three gold medals will be awarded in bobsleigh: Two-Man, Four-Man, Women's Bobsleigh.

Each team is assigned to one **merit group** according to the results of the previous World Cup. Within each group, starting order is decided by a draw.

For each event, there are **four rounds**. The team that records the fastest overall time wins. In the case of a draw, there are two winners. Hundredths of a second can decide the winner.

If the sled **overturns** with all members of the team having passed the finish line inside the sled, the run is deemed valid.



Competition Venue

Cesana Pariol (← p. 80 Olympic Venues)

The track is 1,435 m long and has a 114 m gradient, from a starting altitude of 1,683 m to a finishing altitude of 1,569 m. There are 19 curves. Competitions will be held at night, using a special lighting system.

Competition Schedule

Saturday 18 February	17:30-20:15	Two-Man (runs 1, 2)
Sunday 19 February	17:30-20:15	Two-Man (runs 3, 4)
Monday 20 February	17:30-19:35	Women's Bobsleigh (runs 1, 2)
Tuesday 21 February	17:30-19:45	Women's Bobsleigh (runs 3, 4)
Friday 24 February	17:30-20:15	Four-Man (runs 1, 2)
Saturday 25 February	17:30-20:35	Four-Man (runs 3, 4)

How to get there: (← p. 48 Transport).

Cross-Country Skiing and the Olympic Games

Cross-country skiing has been an Olympic sport since 1924. Ladies' competitions started at the Oslo Games in 1952. Over the years, new races and techniques have been introduced at the Games. Separating the classical from the free technique was made official at Calgary in 1988.

Did You Know?

Skis already existed 5000 years BC, as proved by cave paintings in Norway and findings in swamps in Sweden.

Cross-Country Skiing

At a Glance

Born in Scandinavia as a **means of transport**, cross-country skiing is a fascinating and demanding sport, which takes place on snow-covered fields often among pristine forested landscapes.

The sport has undergone a tremendous **technical evolution** in the last decades, since American skier Bill Kock introduced the free, or skating, technique at a World Cup competition in 1982. The pursuit, mass start and sprint events have also been added to the traditional individually timed race.

Technical Information

There are two skiing techniques: classical and free. The **classical** technique is the **traditional** one in which athletes keep their skis **parallel**, never deviating from the two tracks marked on the course.

The **free** technique allows the skier to choose a different style. Most adopt a **skating-like** strategy, pushing off the inside edge of each ski and then gliding. Thus “skating” has become synonymous with “free technique”.

In **sprint** events, athletes race in elimination rounds over a very short distance (approximately 1,200 m).

Events

Twelve gold medals will be awarded in cross-country skiing:

Men	Ladies	Technique
Sprint	Sprint	Free
15 km + 15 km Pursuit	7.5 km + 7.5 km Pursuit	Classical / Free
15 km Interval Start	10 km Interval Start	Classical
50 km Mass Start	30 km Mass Start	Free
Team Sprint	Team Sprint	Classical
4 x 10 km Relay	4 x 5 km Relay	Classical / Free

In **individual** events, athletes start at 30-second intervals and race against time. In the **mass start**, all athletes start together, and the winner is the athlete who passes the finish line first. In **pursuit**, athletes use both techniques in succession: first classical then free, with a quick stop in between to change skis and poles. The **sprint** competition begins with individual time trials, the fastest 30 skiers advancing to the elimination heats.



Competition Venue

Pragelato Plan (← p. 86 Olympic Venues)

The competition course consists of ten loops of varying lengths, from 1.2 to 10 km. The altitude ranges between 1,538 and 1,614 m. The biggest climb is 76 m in the 10 km loop.

Competition Schedule

Sunday 12 February	10:00-11:15	7.5 km + 7.5 km Pursuit L
	13:45-15:30	15 km + 15 km Pursuit M
Tuesday 14 February	10:00-12:25	Team Sprint M/L
Thursday 16 February	10:00-11:45	10 km Interval Start L
Friday 17 February	10:00-11:45	15 km Interval Start M
Saturday 18 February	09:45-11:05	4 x 5 km Relay L
Sunday 19 February	10:00-12:00	4 x 10 km Relay M
Wednesday 22 February	10:00-11:05	Sprint Qualification M/L
	12:30-14:40	Sprint Finals M/L
Friday 24 February	11:30-13:25	30 km Mass Start L
Sunday 26 February	10:00-12:45	50 km Mass Start M

How to get there: (← p. 50 Transport.

Curling and the Olympic Games

The first curling competition at the Games was held at Chamonix in 1924.

A demonstration sport in 1932 and 1988, it returned as an official Olympic sport in Nagano in 1998.

Did You Know?

Curling was played in the 16th century, according to a famous inscription on the Stirling Stone, in Scotland, dated 1511.

Examples of this sport can also be found in the paintings of Flemish artists, like Pieter Bruegel.

Curling

At a Glance

Curling is a team sport played on an ice rink. The goal is to deliver smooth granite **stones** with handles across the ice, trying to get as close as possible to the centre of a target, called the **house**.

Each team consists of **four players**: the *lead*, who delivers the stone; the *second* and the *third*, who sweep the ice; and the *skip*, who calls strategy. A team's stone can knock the opponent's stone out of the scoring area. A **point** is awarded for each stone placed closer to the centre of the house than the opponent's.

Ten rounds (called **ends**) are played. If the game is tied, extra ends are played to determine the winner.

Technical Information

The field of play is 44.5 m **long** and 4.75 m **wide**. The ice sheet design allows play in both directions. The house is a circle 3.66 m in diameter, with concentric circles of 1.22 and 2.44 m in diameter inside.

Two **hog lines** are drawn. The stone must be released before the near hog line and travel beyond the far hog line.

Sweeping is a unique aspect of curling.

Sweepers try to direct the trajectory of the stone, according to strategy, by warming up the surface of the ice in front of it with two brooms.



Events

Two gold medals will be awarded in the men's and women's tournaments.

Ten teams will compete in both tournaments. The competitions will start with a round robin in which all teams will play against each other. The top four teams will advance to the semifinals. Teams placed fifth through tenth after the round robin will keep their respective rankings.

Competition Venue

Pinerolo Palaghiaccio (← p. 76 Olympic Venues).

The ice rink is 60 m long and 30 m wide and has four playing sheets.

Competition Schedule

From Monday 13 February	09:00-12:00	Round Robin M/W
to Monday 20 February	14:00-17:00	
	19:00-22:00	
Tuesday 21 February	09:00-12:00	Tie-breaker M/W (if necessary)
	14:00-17:00	
	19:00-22:00	
Wednesday 22 February	14:00-17:00	Semifinals W
	19:00-22:00	Semifinals M
Thursday 23 February	13:00-16:00	Bronze Medal Final W
	17:30-20:45	Gold Medal Final W
Friday 24 February	13:00-16:00	Bronze Medal Final M
	17:30-20:45	Gold Medal Final M

How to get there: (← p. 44 Transport).

Figure Skating and the Olympic Games

Figure skating was added to the Olympic Programme at the 1908 Summer Games and became an official Olympic Winter Games sport in 1924 at Chamonix with the men's and ladies' singles and pairs skating. Ice dancing was added at the 1976 Games in Innsbruck.

Did You Know?

The jumps are often named after the skater that invented them. The *lutz* was introduced by Alois Lutz in Vienna in 1913, the *salchow* by Ulrich Salchow in London in 1908, and the *axel* by Axel Paulsen in 1882 in Norway.

Figure Skating

At a Glance

This is one of the most spectacular and popular events of the Olympic Winter Games. **Accompanied by music**, men, ladies and pairs compete on ice executing complex **routines**: jumps, spins and step sequences. Judges evaluate two aspects: the difficulty and precision of the performance and its **artistic value**. Choreography and creativity are rewarded proportionately more than technical merit, underlining the importance of the artistic component.

Technical Information

Individual and pairs skating competitions consist of two separate programmes: a **short programme** and a **free skate**. The short programme counts for one-third of a skater's total score; it is a combination of **eight required elements** (jumps, spins, fast step sequences, plus overhead lifts and throw jumps for couples), that athletes may present in any order within a two-minute, 40-second time limit. In free skate, there is no limit to creativity, but time is limited to 4 minutes for ladies and 4 minutes, 30 seconds for men and couples.

Ice dancing, unlike pairs skating, does not allow jumps or overhead lifts. It is made up of three parts: the **compulsory**, the **original** and the **free dance**. In the first part, all athletes perform the **same dance**; in the second, skaters are given a prescribed rhythm and must create an original version of the dance in 2 minutes, 30 seconds; in the third, teams may display their skills to music and choreography of their own choice. The compulsory dance counts for 20% of the final score, the original dance for 30% and the free dance for 50%.

Events

Four gold medals will be awarded in figure skating: Individual Ladies, Individual Men, Pairs, Ice Dancing

Thirty (30) individual athletes are admitted, but only the best 24 advance to the free skate. Twenty (20) skating pairs and 24 ice dancing pairs are admitted to the Games; they are all allowed to perform in each part of the competition.

A non-competitive, final **exhibition** is also part of the event.

Competition Venue

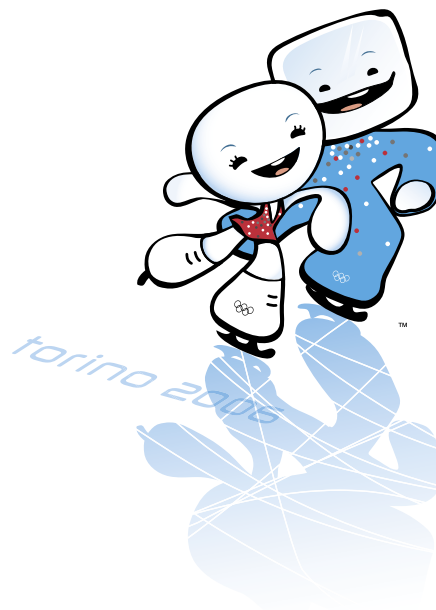
Palavela (← p. 72 Olympic Venues)

The field of play is a standard 60 m x 30 m ice rink.

Competition Schedule

Saturday 11 February	19:00-22:15	Pairs Short Programme
Monday 13 February	19:00-23:10	Pairs Free Programme
Tuesday 14 February	19:00-23:25	Short Programme M
Thursday 16 February	19:00-23:20	Free Skating M
Friday 17 February	19:00-22:10	Ice Dancing Compulsory Dance
Sunday 19 February	19:00-22:30	Ice Dancing Original Dance
Monday 20 February	19:00-23:25	Ice Dancing Free Dance
Tuesday 21 February	19:00-23:25	Short Programme L
Thursday 23 February	19:00-23:10	Free Skating L
Friday 24 February	19:00-21:30	Exhibition

How to get there: (← p. 40 Transport).



Freestyle Skiing and the Olympic Games

Moguls were introduced in 1992 at Albertville, while aerials were added to the Olympic Programme at the Lillehammer 1994 Games.

Did You Know?

Freestyle was once called *Hotdog*. The sport's creator was the Norwegian Stein Eriksen, a great skiing champion of the 1950's. Moving to the United States at the end of his career, Eriksen came up with the idea for a more spectacular and fun downhill style to encourage young Americans to take up skiing.

Freestyle Skiing

At a Glance

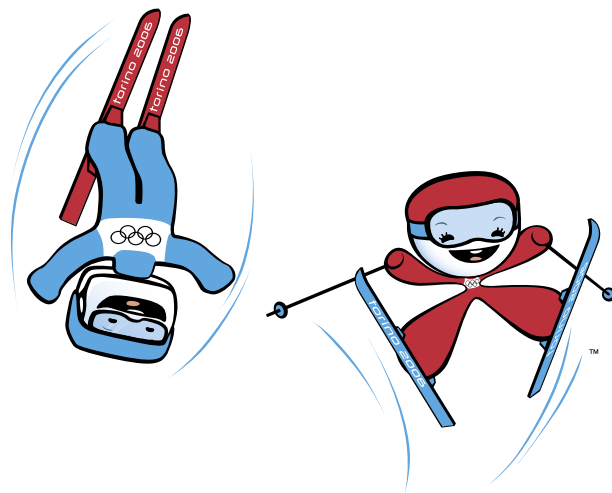
They are athletes, but also **acrobats**: freestylers race down a **special slope** covered with bumps. They wear short skis, because they have to perform **somersaults** and **jumps**.

Moguls competition is held on a bumpy slope, covered with moguls and with two jumps that allow the athletes to perform **acrobatic manoeuvres**. A score is awarded according to speed, style and difficulty. In **aerials**, athletes perform two different acrobatic jumps. They gain speed on the slope, choose one of the several ramps, called **kickers**, of different lengths and steepness and jump up in the air, executing various **acrobatic routines**.

Technical Information

Moguls. The course, 220-250 m long, is uniformly covered with moguls and has a constant slope of 26-30 degrees. Two **air bumps** are placed along the route, from which athletes launch their acrobatic manoeuvres. There are seven judges. 25% of the score is awarded for speed, 25% for aerials, 50% for technique.

Aerials. There are seven judges. 20% of the score is awarded for takeoff, 50% for form, 30% for landing. The sum of the scores is multiplied by the coefficient of difficulty of the jump executed.



Events

Four gold medals will be awarded in freestyle skiing:

Men

Moguls

Aerials

Ladies

Moguls

Aerials

The moguls competition comprises qualifying heats and a final. There is only one run, and starting order is by draw. The first 16 athletes are admitted to the final, which is held on the same day after a few hours' break.

In the aerials event, athletes must perform two different jumps. The scores are added, and the first 12 athletes are admitted to the final, held a few days after.

Competition Venue

Sauze d'Oulx - Jouvenceaux (↶ p. 90 Olympic Venues)

The vertical drop is 98 m for moguls, 44 m for aerials. Start and finish altitudes are 1,438 m and 1,384 m, respectively. Some competitions will be held at night, using a special lighting system.

Competition Schedule

Saturday 11 February	15:00-16:30	Moguls Qualification L
	19:00-20:20	Moguls Final L
Wednesday 15 February	14:00-15:30	Moguls Qualification M
	17:30-18:50	Moguls Final M
Sunday 19 February	18:30-20:30	Aerials Qualification L
Monday 20 February	18:30-20:30	Aerials Qualification M
Wednesday 22 February	18:45-20:35	Aerials Final L
Thursday 23 February	18:30-20:20	Aerials Final M

How to get there: (↶ p. 52 Transport).

Ice Hockey and the Olympic Games

Men's ice hockey has been an Olympic sport since the 1920 Summer Olympic Games in Antwerp. It was then added to the programme of the first Winter Games at Chamonix in 1924 and has been an Olympic sport ever since. Women's ice hockey was added at Nagano in 1998.

Did You Know?

The term "hockey", of medieval origin, is disputed by the French and the English. *Hoquet* in Breton means the pastor's cane or staff, while the English say it is derived from "hook".

Ice Hockey

At a Glance

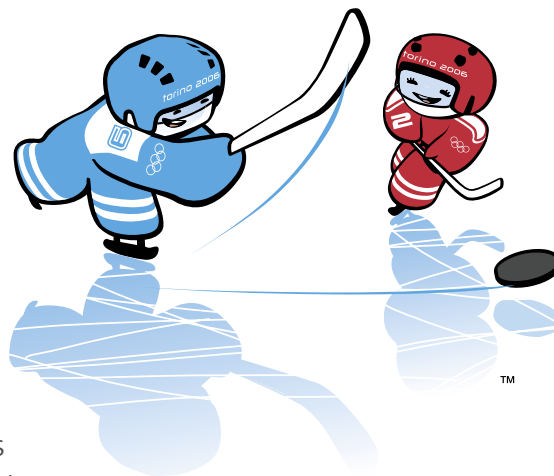
Ice hockey is a fast and spectacular team sport, requiring a combination of **speed, technique** and **aggressive play**. The pace is breathless, as the disk (called the **puck**) flies across the rink at high speed.

Teams are composed of **six** players: a goalkeeper, two defensemen and three forwards. A maximum of 20 players (18 in women's ice hockey) for each team are eligible to play. Athletes use a stick with a flat blade at the end to dribble and shoot the puck, with the goal of scoring in the opponent's goal. The puck can travel up to a speed of 150 km/h.

Technical Information

The game consists of **three** 20-minute **periods** during which players are substituted frequently, and a 15-minute rest in between. **Physical contact** is tough but must be kept within the rules. When a player commits a penalty, he/she is **sent off the ice** for 2, 5 or 10 minutes, or until the other team scores a goal.

A standard ice hockey rink is 60 m long and 30 m wide. The ice is surrounded by a wooden or plastic wall, known as **the boards**, approximately 1.22 m high. A red centerline divides the rink in half; two blue lines divide the rink into three equal zones: defensive, neutral and offensive. The **goals** are set 4 m away from the boards so players can skate behind them.



Events

Two gold medals will be awarded in the men's and women's tournaments.

Twelve men's teams and **eight** women's team, divided into two groups, are admitted to the Olympic Tournament. The first phase is a round-robin tournament in which all teams play once against the others in their group. The four best men's and the two best women's teams from each group, respectively, advance to the quarterfinals and semifinals.

Competition Venues

Palasport Olimpico, Torino Esposizioni (← pp. 70, 74 Olympic Venues)

The tournaments will be held at two city Venues: Torino Esposizioni and Palasport Olimpico. Both offer a standard 30 x 60 m ice rink.

Competition Schedule

Women's Preliminary: from Saturday 11 February to Tuesday 14 February

Men's Preliminary: from Wednesday 15 February to Tuesday 21 February

Friday 17 February	17:00 / 21:00	Semifinals W (Palasport Olimpico)
	13:00 / 18:30	5th-8th place games W (Torino Esposizioni)
Monday 20 February	16:30-18:50	Bronze Medal Final W (Palasport Olimpico)
	20:30-23:10	Gold Medal Final W (Palasport Olimpico)
	13:00	7th-8th place Final W (Torino Esposizioni)
	17:00	5th-6th place Final W (Torino Esposizioni)
Wednesday 22 February	16:30 / 20:30	Quarterfinals M (Torino Esposizioni)
	17:30 / 21:30	Quarterfinals M (Palasport Olimpico)
Friday 24 February	16:30 / 21:00	Semifinals M (Palasport Olimpico)
Saturday 25 February	20:30-23:05	Bronze Medal Final M (Palasport Olimpico)
Sunday 26 February	14:00-16:40	Gold Medal Final M (Palasport Olimpico)

How to get there: (← pp. 34, 42 Transport.

Luge and the Olympic Games

Luge, both men's and women's, has been an Olympic sport since the Innsbruck Games in 1964.

Did You Know?

The luge is very ancient. First accounts date back to 9th century Scandinavia, where it was most probably invented. The first competition was held in the 18th century in St. Petersburg.

Luge

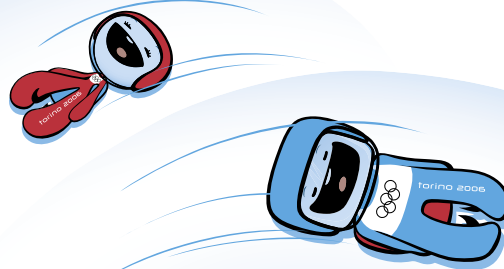
At a Glance

A frantic run along an iced track **lying on your back**: this is luge. Athletes must keep a supine position, with feet pointing down. The initial **thrust** is very important. Athletes start from a sitting position at the top of a ramp, from which they push themselves holding on to two fixed handles, wearing special gloves for improved grip. Running time is measured to thousandths of a second, and winning is often a matter of centimetres.

Technical Information

The primary parts of the sled are two **runners**, two **bridges** and a **seat**. The runners are made of two blades applied to a single non-flexible piece. The distance between the runner blades must not exceed 450 mm, while the maximum **width** of the sled is 550 mm. The maximum **weight** of the sled must not exceed 25 kg for the single and 27 kg for the double.

Arriving at the finish without the sled means automatic disqualification. However, athletes are permitted to **stop** during the descent and start again, with a push, after repositioning the sled on the track.



Events

Three gold medals will be awarded in luge:

Men

Single

Double

Women

Single

Rules are similar to bobsleigh. For each event there are **four rounds**. In the first, each athlete is assigned to one merit group and, within each group, start order is decided by draw; in the second, athletes start in inverse order with respect to the first round; in the third and fourth, the starting order is based on standings, with the current 15th place starting first. From the 16th place on, the starting order again respects the classification order. The athlete that records the fastest overall time wins.

Competition Venue

Cesana Pariol (↶ p. 80 Olympic Venues)

The event is held on the same track used for bobsleigh (↶ p. 102) and skeleton (↷ p. 120), with slight variations for the double and women's competitions: 1,233 m long with a 100 m gradient, from a starting altitude of 1,669 m to a finishing altitude of 1,569 m, with 17 curves. Competitions will be held at night, using a special lighting system.

Competition Schedule

Saturday 11 February	16:00-20:00	Single M (runs 1-2)
Sunday 12 February	16:00-20:10	Single M (runs 3-4)
Monday 13 February	16:00-19:20	Single W (runs 1-2)
Tuesday 14 February	16:00-19:30	Single W (runs 3-4)
Wednesday 15 February	16:00-18:30	Double M

How to get there: (↶ p. 48 Transport).

Nordic Combined and the Olympic Games

Nordic combined has always been part of Olympic Winter Games. Before Nagano 1998, the team event included three athletes and a 3 x 10 km relay.

Did You Know?

In 1952, the order of the disciplines was reversed to provide a more spectacular event. Before this change, the athlete who was able to establish a strong lead in the skiing portion put a minimum effort into the jumping, knowing that he could control the competition.

Nordic Combined

At a Glance

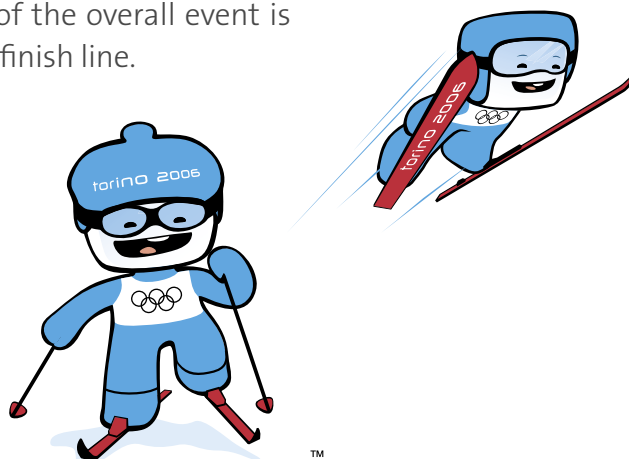
Nordic combined comprises two different disciplines: **ski jumping** and **cross-country skiing**. Athletes are required to have great versatility, **bravery, power and style** in the jumping portion, and **stamina and tactical ability** in the cross-country skiing event.

Ski jumping comes first, followed in the same day by cross-country skiing. Competitions are held in accordance with the rules of the respective disciplines; points and times are combined together.

Nordic combined, along with ski jumping, is the only Olympic discipline where **only men** compete.

Technical Information

After the ski jumping event, the points gained by each athlete are converted into seconds using the **Gundersen Method** (e.g., a 15 point advantage in the ski jumping event is equivalent to a minute gap in the cross-country skiing race). The winner of the ski jumping competition starts first, followed by the others with their assigned time intervals. The winner of the overall event is the first athlete to cross the finish line.



Events

Three gold medals will be awarded in nordic combined:

NH/15 km Individual Gundersen

LH/7.5 km Individual SPRINT

LH/4 x 5 km Team

There are two **individual** events. The Gundersen consists of a jumping competition on the NH (Normal Hill, ↶ p. 122) combined with a 15 km cross-country skiing race. The sprint comprises a single jump on the LH (Long Hill) and a 7.5 km cross-country skiing race.

The **team event** begins with a jumping competition on the LH, after which the team's points are added and converted into seconds. On the first leg of the relay, athletes start with the corresponding time intervals.

Competition Venues

Pragelato, Pragelato Plan (↶ p. 86 Olympic Venues)

See also cross-country skiing and ski jumping (pp. 102, 122).

Competition Schedule

Saturday 11 February	11:00-13:00	NH Individual Gundersen
	15:00-16:15	15 km
Wednesday 15 February	10:30-12:20	LH Team
	15:00-16:20	4 x 5 km
Tuesday 21 February	11:00-11:50	LH SPRINT
	14:00-14:45	7.5 km

How to get there: ↶ p. 50 Transport.

Short Track Speed Skating and the Olympic Games

After starting as a demonstration sport in 1988 at

Calgary, short track speed skating became an official Olympic sport in 1992 at Albertville, where the 1,000 m men, 500 m ladies and relay events were held.

Did You Know?

Because of high angles and sharp bends with which skaters have to cope, the blades are not placed in the middle of the boots, but slightly on the left side, in order to have a better grip to negotiate the turns.

Short Track Speed Skating

At a Glance

Short track speed skating is the younger and brash brother of speed skating. Events are **fast** and **spectacular**, and athletes skate at breakneck speed, leaning the body into the turns at an angle of up to 30 degrees, the hand touching the ice on the bends. Collisions and falls abound. In speed skating, which is contested on a long track, athletes compete in pairs and run against the clock, while in short track speed skating, skaters compete **against each other** in groups of four or six. **Tactics** and skill in studying the opponents' moves are very important, especially in longer events.

Technical Information

Athletes always start **in line**. Serious collisions, with pushing and obstructing, are punished with **disqualification**. Only one false start is permitted for each skater.

Relay teams consist of **four** skaters plus a substitute. Each team is free to decide how many laps each athlete will run, though the two final laps must be covered by the same skater. Usually changeovers are made every one and a half laps, making a total of 7-8 changeovers per athlete. The changeover is carried out by touching one's teammate and must be done along the two straight sides.

Events

Eight gold medals will be awarded in short track speed skating:

Men

	500 m	1,000 m	1,500 m	5,000 m Relay
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Ladies

	500 m	1,000 m	1,500 m	3,000 m Relay
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All events start with a series of elimination heats. There are four to six athletes (or teams) in each heat: the first two or three qualify to the next round, until the semifinals and finals.



Competition Venue

Palavela (← p. 72 Olympic Venues)

The competitions will be held at Palavela in Torino.

The field of play is a standard 30 x 60 m ice rink.

Competition Schedule

Sunday 12 February	19:30-22:15	1,500 m Final M 500 m Preliminary L 3,000 m Relay Preliminary L
Wednesday 15 February	19:30-22:00	500 m Final L 1,000 m Preliminary M 5,000 m Relay Preliminary M
Saturday 18 February	19:30-22:20	1,500 m Final L 1,000 m Final M
Wednesday 22 February	19:30-21:25	1,000 m Preliminary L 500 m Preliminary M 3,000 m Relay Final L
Saturday 25 February	19:30-22:10	500 m Final M 1,000 m Final L 5,000 m Relay Final M

How to get there: (← p. 40 Transport).

Skeleton and the Olympic Games

Men's skeleton was an Olympic sport at every Olympic Winter Games held between 1928 and 1948. Dropped from the programme in 1952, it made its comeback at Salt Lake City in 2002, with the addition of the women's competition.

Did You Know?

Skeleton has its origins as early as 1882, when Mr. Child, an Englishman, introduced a much improved and lighter sled. The first competition where athletes descended in prone position was held in 1887 at St. Moritz.

Skeleton

At a Glance

Face down: that's how the skeleton athletes do it. Lying prone, facing downhill, arms at their sides, they speed through an iced track at 130 kilometres an hour.

The **start** is similar to bobsleigh competitions. After the run/thrust phase, usually 25 to 40 m long, the athlete leaps into position on the sled and starts his/her descent.

Steering is carried out only by the athlete's **body movements**; no mechanical braking or steering device may be installed.

Technical Information

The sled is between 80 and 120 cm **long** and from 8 to 20 cm **high**, with the **distance** between the two blades ranging from 34 to 38 cm. The frame and the blades are made of steel, the upper part padded for the athlete's comfort.

The **total weight** – sled and athlete – must not exceed 115 kg for men and 92 kg for women. To reach the maximum weight, it is permitted to add **ballast** to the sled, but not to the athlete's body.

Athletes wear a very light **helmet**. It is forbidden to add any aerodynamic devices to the competition suit. **Footwear** can have a maximum of eight nails, 7 mm in length and 2 mm in diameter, to avoid ruining the ice on the track.

Events

Two gold medals will be awarded in skeleton: men and women single.

For each event, there are **two rounds**. The competition rules are the same as in bobsleigh (↶ p. 102).

Competition Venue

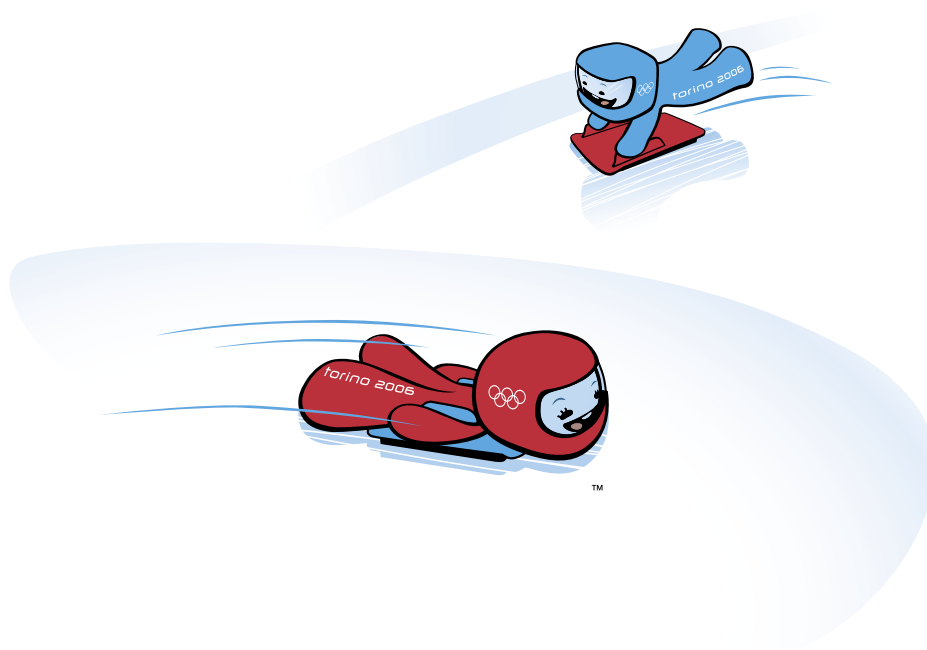
Cesana Pariol (↶ p. 80 Olympic Venues)

The event is held on the same track used for bobsleigh and luge (↶ pp. 102, 114). Competitions will be held at night, using a special lighting system.

Competition Schedule

Thursday 16 February	17:30-19:15	Single W
Friday 17 February	17:30-20:10	Single M

How to get there: (↶ p. 48 Transport).



Ski Jumping and the Olympic Games

Ski jumping has been an Olympic sport since the first Games in 1924 at Chamonix. In 1964, at Innsbruck, the large hill event was added.

Did You Know?

Ski jumping was born in the middle of the 19th century in the Scandinavian countries. It quickly became popular in Norway. The king, a jumping enthusiast, launched the first Royal Cup event in 1892 at Holmenkollen near Oslo, still a legendary venue for ski jumping fans.

Ski Jumping

At a Glance

Defying the laws of gravity, athletes use strength, speed, sensitivity, precision, equilibrium and concentration to soar over the field of play, gracefully landing after more than 100 m of flight.

Jumpers take off and assume their typical **V-position**, using the skis as wings and taking advantage of the air resistance and thermal currents. It is not only a matter of length, but also of **style**. Athletes are evaluated by a jury according to technical merit, and their votes can change the course of a competition.

Ski jumping, along with nordic combined (in which jumping is one of the two events), is the only Olympic Winter Games discipline in which **only men** compete.

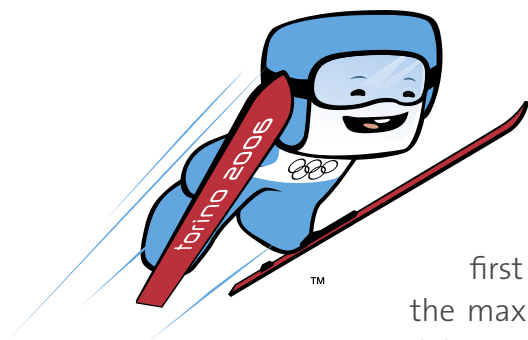
Technical Information

There are **two** different jumping hills and thus two types of events: the Large Hill (**LH**) and the Normal Hill (**NH**). The length of each jump is transformed into **points**. A five-member jury evaluates the performance according to **technical and style requirements** and can add to the length points a maximum of 20 extra points. Landing and flight position are especially important. Seven points are detracted if the athlete falls.

Events

Three gold medals will be awarded in ski jumping:

NH Individual	LH Individual	LH Team
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Each event is preceded by a **qualifying** round. The best **50** are admitted to the next day's final (the first 15 athletes in World Cup standings are admitted by default). All finalists are entitled to a first jump, and the best **30** to a second. The athlete that gets the maximum overall mark takes the gold. Each **team** is made up of four athletes, whose individual points are added for general classification. After a first qualifying jump, the best 8 teams move on to the final round.

Competition Venue

Pragelato (← p. 84 Olympic Venues)

The NH has an altitude of 1,528 and a vertical drop of 107 m, and the LH has an altitude of 1,635 and a vertical drop of 122 m. The LH has a maximum jumping length of 140 m and is the biggest jumping hill in the history of the Winter Games. Competitions will be held at night, using a special lighting system.

Competition Schedule

Saturday 11 February	18:00-19:05	NH Individual Qualification
Sunday 12 February	18:00-19:55	NH Individual Final
Friday 17 February	18:00-19:05	LH Individual Qualification
Saturday 18 February	18:00-19:55	LH Individual Final
Monday 20 February	18:00-20:15	LH Team

How to get there: (← p. 50 Transport).

Snowboard and the Olympic Games

Snowboard appeared for the first time in the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano 1998. Snowboard cross will make its debut at the Torino 2006 Games.

Did You Know?

Snowboard was conceived by a group of American surfers (especially Jack Burchett), that was looking for some action during the long winter break. It is worth noting, though, that in the 1920s, people living in Alpine valleys used long wooden boards as a means of transport.

Snowboard

At a Glance

Surfing the snow: snowboard is a **young** sport, a winter cousin of **surfing** and **skateboarding** that spread rapidly throughout the world and gained instant popularity. There are three Olympic snowboard events: parallel giant slalom, half pipe and snowboard cross.

Parallel giant slalom is similar to the alpine skiing version, but athletes race against each other on two parallel courses and not against time. Half pipe is held on a half-cylindrical course covered with snow, similar to those used for skateboarding, in which athletes perform manoeuvres and tricks. **Snowboard cross** is a downhill ride over a course dotted with various obstacles such as moguls, spines and kickers.

Technical Information

The **parallel giant slalom** course is **short**, with the vertical drop between the start and finish lines between 120 and 200 m. The position of the gates on the two fields of play must be as identical as possible.

In half pipe, the athletes cross the slope six to eight times, climbing the side walls, jumping over the lip and then landing back, while performing acrobatics, called **manoeuvres** and **tricks**. Each athlete chooses a musical track to accompany his/her performance. There are five judges, each evaluating the athletes on specific standards.

Snowboard cross is run over a slope divided into different areas: whoops, waves, banks, spines, and kickers.

Events

Six gold medals will be awarded in snowboard:

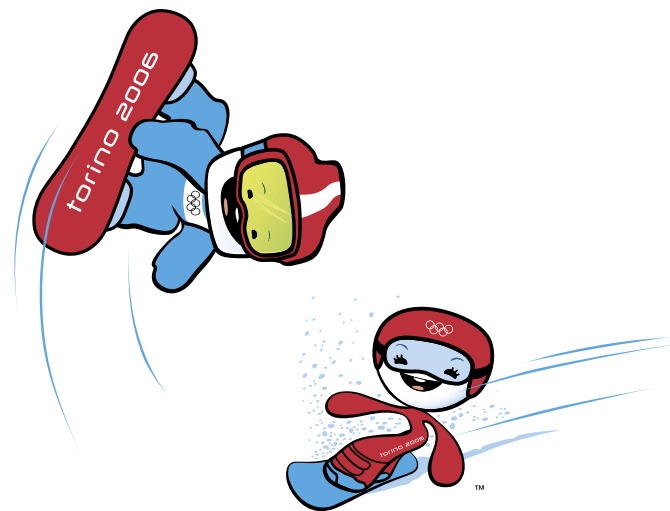
Men

	Parallel Giant Slalom	Half Pipe	Snowboard Cross
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Ladies

	Parallel Giant Slalom	Half Pipe	Snowboard Cross
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After two qualifying runs, the best 16 riders in parallel giant slalom compete against each other in elimination heats. In half pipe, the 12 athletes who achieve the highest scores in the two qualifying runs go on to the final. Snowboard cross rules are the same as in parallel giant slalom.



Competition Venue

Bardonecchia (← p. 78 Olympic Venues)

The fields of play are located on slopes 23 and 24 of the Melezet skiing complex.

Competition Schedule

Sunday 12 February	10:00-11:40 / 14:00-15:20	Half Pipe Qualification / Final M
Monday 13 February	10:00-11:40 / 14:00-15:20	Half Pipe Qualification / Final L
Thursday 16 February	10:00-11:50 14:00-15:05	Snowboard Cross Qualification M Snowboard Cross Finals M
Friday 17 February	10:00-11:10 14:00-14:50	Snowboard Cross Qualification L Snowboard Cross Finals L
Wednesday 22 February	10:00-10:55 13:00-14:50	Parallel Giant Slalom Qualification M Parallel Giant Slalom Finals M
Thursday 23 February	11:00-11:55 14:00-15:50	Parallel Giant Slalom Qualification L Parallel Giant Slalom Finals L

How to get there: (← p. 46 Transport.

Speed Skating and the Olympic Games

Men's speed skating has been a part of the Olympic programme since the first Winter Games in 1924 at Chamonix. The ladies' competitions were a demonstration event at Lake Placid in 1932 and were officially included at Squaw Valley in 1960. At the Torino 2006 Games, the team pursuit event will make its debut.

Did You Know?

Speed skating is one of the most ancient sports. Competitive racing was held in Holland as early as 1676. The International Skating Union (ISU) was founded in 1892 and is today the oldest international winter sports federation.

Speed Skating

At a Glance

Balance, strength, speed, endurance: speed skating is **the fastest** human powered sport held on a flat surface.

Athletes race **against time**, wearing special skin-tight suits to reduce air resistance.

Skaters maintain their signature **crouched** position, powerful and **aerodynamic**, which allows for prolonged speed, elegant gliding and efficient strides into the curves. Top athletes can reach speeds in excess of 60 km/h.

Technical Information

Athletes compete **in pairs**, racing against time, skating **counterclockwise** around the oval. One false start per pair is allowed.

The skaters start side by side and **switch lanes** in the exchange zone once per lap, so that both skate the same distance.

In **team pursuit**, two teams of three athletes start simultaneously at each side of the track and then alternate in leading the group. Each team is clocked when the third athlete crosses the finish line.

Events

Twelve gold medals will be awarded in speed skating:

Men

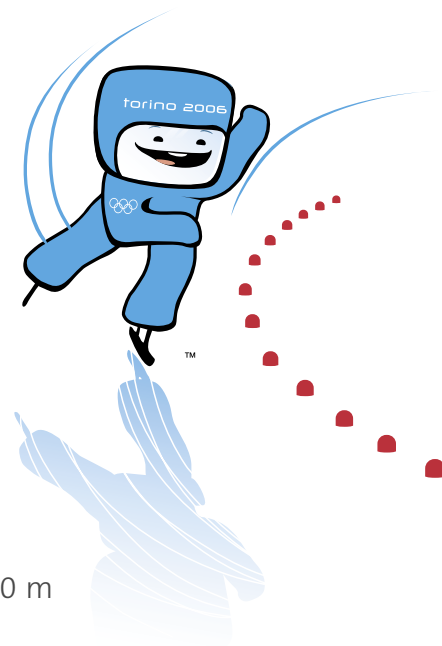
500 m	1,000 m	1,500 m	5,000 m	10,000 m	Team Pursuit
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Ladies

500 m	1,000 m	1,500 m	3,000 m	5,000 m	Team Pursuit
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In all individual events, there is only **one run**, with the exception of the men's and ladies' 500 m, where two runs are held in the same day. Pairing is based on times achieved during the season. Lanes and starting order are assigned by draw.

In team pursuit, there are elimination rounds leading up to the final.



Competition Venue

Oval Lingotto (← p. 68 Olympic Venues)

The field of play is Oval Lingotto, with a standard rink of 400 m in length.

Competition Schedule

Saturday 11 February	15:30-18:50	5,000 m M
Sunday 12 February	16:30-19:00	3,000 m L
Monday 13 February	15:30-18:50	500 m M
Tuesday 14 February	16:00-19:00	500 m L
Wednesday 15 February	17:00-19:00	Team Pursuit Qualification M/L
Thursday 16 February	17:00-19:00	Team Pursuit Finals M/L
Saturday 18 February	17:00-19:00	1,000 m M
Sunday 19 February	17:00-18:50	1,000 m L
Tuesday 21 February	16:00-18:30	1,500 m M
Wednesday 22 February	17:00-19:15	1,500 m L
Friday 24 February	15:00-18:20	10,000 m M
Saturday 25 February	16:30-18:25	5,000 m L

How to get there: (← p. 38 Transport).

