



Current Winter Olympic Sports (2014)

The 15 sports of the Winter Olympics are categorized into three main categories: (1) ice sports, (2) alpine, skiing and snowboarding events, and (3) Nordic events. In each of these sports categories there are more specific events as listed.

Ice Sports

- ◆ Bobsled (Two-man, Two woman and Four-man)
- ◆ Luge
- ◆ Skeleton
- ◆ Ice Hockey
- ◆ Figure Skating (Men's singles, Ladies' singles, Pairs, Team and Ice Dancing)
- ◆ Speed Skating
- ◆ Short Track Speed Skating (500m, 1,000m, 1,500 m and Relays)
- ◆ Curling

Alpine, Skiing and Snowboarding Events

- ◆ Alpine Skiing (Downhill, Super G, Giant slalom, Slalom, Super Combined)
- ◆ Freestyle Skiing (Aerials, Moguls, Ski Cross, Ski halfpipe and Ski slopestyle)
- ◆ Snowboarding (Parallel Giant Slalom, Halfpipe and Snowboard Cross and Slopestyle)

Nordic Events

- ◆ Biathlon (combining cross-country skiing and target shooting: individual, sprint, pursuit, mass start & relay events)
- ◆ Cross-Country Skiing (individual and team sprint, freestyle, pursuit, classical and relays)
- ◆ Ski Jumping
- ◆ Nordic Combined (ski jumping and cross country skiing)

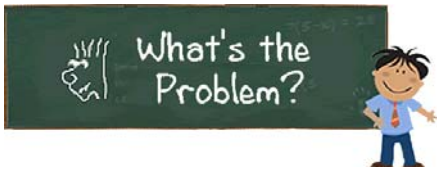
Demonstration sports

The following sports have been part of the Winter Olympic program as a demonstration sport at some stage.

- ◆ Skijöring (skiing behind horses): 1928.
- ◆ Winter Pentathlon (X-country & downhill skiing/pistol/fencing/horse riding) 1948
- ◆ Dog Sled Racing: 1932
- ◆ Curling: 1932 & 1988
- ◆ Ice stock sport (a German variant to curling): 1936 & 1964.
- ◆ Military Patrol: (Led to Biathlon in 1960) 1928,1936,1948
- ◆ Bandy: (Soccer on ice) 1952
- ◆ Short track speed skating started as a demonstration sport in 1988, before becoming a full sport from 1992 onwards.
- ◆ Speed skiing: 1992
- ◆ Disabled events in alpine (1984 and 1988) and Nordic skiing (1988 only)
- ◆ Synchronized skating: 2002
- ◆ Snowshoeing: 2002
- ◆ Freestyle Skiing - Aerials (1988), Moguls (1988, 1992) and Ski Ballet (1988, 1992)

Future Sports

There are always a number of sports or events that are lobbying to be included on the Winter Olympic Games program. Such sports include: Team alpine skiing, Ski mountaineering, Ski-orienteeing, Winter triathlon (involving running, mountain biking and cross-country skiing all on snow), and Bandy.



Are these sports too extreme (or strange) for the Winter Olympics?

<p style="text-align: center;">Speed Riding</p> <p>A combination of skydiving, downhill skiing and paragliding, competitors have skis at their feet and a “speedglider” wing as a chute when they are dropped at the top of a mountain from an airplane. From there, they glide and (literally) fly down the mountain, using the chute to catch air if any obstacles appear in their way.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Snocross</p> <p>With riders reaching speeds of up to 60 miles per hour and heights as high as 130 feet, Snocross (a winter weather version of motor cross performed with snowmobiles) was first featured in the 1998 winter X Games.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Reindeer Racing</p> <p>This theatrical event pairs man and animal for a festive and speedy race down a 201-meter-long snow covered track. In Norway the event is a part of Sami National Day; a celebration of the land's original inhabitants who rely heavily on reindeer for meat, fur, and transportation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Automobile Ice Racing</p> <p>This slippery sport is exactly as its name implies – a car race on ice. It takes place on an ice-covered track, and usually with lightweight, front-wheel-drive cars. Drivers must put the limits of speed and control to the ultimate test.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ice Cross</p> <p>First introduced in 2000 in Stockholm, this intense ice sport is a race between four hockey-equipped skaters. Skaters sprint down a bobsled run as they fight to remain upright while clearing obstacles like jumps and ledges.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shovel Racing</p> <p>By name, this sport sounds seemingly carefree; like a childish game played in a snowstorm. In reality, it is a high-speed sport that went on to be a part of the first winter X Games in 1997. It is often called the “poor man’s luge.”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Snowkayaking</p> <p>Here’s a sport whose name doesn’t reveal just how intense and extreme it actually is. Picture fearless thrill-seekers setting sail in a kayak over steep mountain cliffs and racing down 4-cross style tracks.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Snowkiting</p> <p>Snowkiting is the powder-based equivalent of kitesurfing, except with no water to cushion the blow of a bump or a fall (which makes it a bit more dangerous). There is the potential to reach speeds of more than 50MPH, so remaining in control of your kite is a necessity.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Speed Skiing</p> <p>This one is simple. Speed skiers travel downhill in a straight line, usually reaching speeds of more than 120 miles per hour. The record speed is a mind-blowing 156 miles per hour. Speed skiing had been featured as demonstration sport at the 1992 Winter Olympics, but was considered too dangerous and has not returned.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ski Cliff Jumping</p> <p>If skiing downhill at unimaginable speeds is extreme, than skiing downhill <i>and</i> jumping over cliffs is beyond extreme. Ski jumping is an official winter sport, but ski cliff jumpers take this sport off the straight track and into the unknown. The current world record for the highest cliff jump on skis is 255 feet..</p>