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The International Olympic Committee (IOC) OFFERS THE FOLLOWING VIDEO NEWS RELEASE TO ALL NEWS AGENCIES, BROADCASTERS AND ALL ONLINE PLATFORMS FREE OF CHARGE.

Story Headline: Mixed NOC duo from Japan and Switzerland claim Lillehammer 2016 gold in the Curling Mixed Doubles

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

Date: 21 February

Place: Lillehammer, Norway

STORY SCRIPT

Athletes from Japan and Switzerland have combined to win gold in the Curling Mixed Doubles.

Yako Matsuzawa (JPN) and Philipp Hoesli (SUI) joined to overcome Yu Han (China) and Ross Whyte (Great Britain) in the Final 11-5, securing victory with one End remaining.

Matsuzawa finished fifth in the Japanese Junior Curling Championship in 2015, whilst Hoesli finished ninth in the Junior Swiss Curling Championship.

In total, 1100 athletes from 71 nations are competing at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Lillehammer Norway for a total of 70 Gold medals.

The 2nd Winter YOG is taking place between Friday 12th & Sunday 21st of February 2016.

Curling explained.

Age Group: Born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2001

Quota: 64

Venue: Stampesletta Ice Venues

Mixed Team

Each NOC team consists of two females and two males.

The teams will be divided into two round robin groups of eight teams. All teams will play each other within a group. The top four teams from each group will play in cross-over



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quarter-finals, followed by semi-finals, and bronze and gold medal games. After the round robin, the event is played in a direct elimination format. The winner of each game advances to the next round. Losers in the quarter-finals are eliminated

In the Mixed Team Competition, a game is made up of eight ends. An end consists of each of the four team members playing two stones alternately with the opponent's stones (for a total of eight stones per team). When all stones have been delivered, the score for that end is determined. A 3.66-metre (12-foot) circle is the scoring area. Within this scoring area, for each stone closer to the centre of the circles than any of the opponent's, one point is scored. The team scoring plays first in the next end, giving the opponents the last stone of that end.

The team with the most points after the eight ends is the winner.

Mixed Doubles (M / W)

At the completion of the Mixed Team competition, all players (32M/32W) will take part in the Mixed Doubles competition. The teams for the Mixed Doubles competition will be determined based on a pre-established WCF formula (with one female and one male athlete from different NOCs). The event is played in a direct elimination format ending with bronze and gold medal games.

In Mixed Doubles, a game is made up of eight ends. Prior to each end, one stone of each team is placed by the game umpire for each team in a predetermined position (one in the house and one in front of the house). Each team plays five stones per end, alternately with the opponent's stones. One player of the team delivers the first and last stone, and the other player delivers the second, third and fourth stones. The player delivering the first and the last stones can change from end to end. When all stones have been delivered, the score for that end is determined. A 3.66-metre (12-foot) circle is the scoring area. Within this scoring area, for each stone closer to the centre of the circles than any of the opponent's, one point is scored.

The team with the most points after the eight ends is the winner.

What are the YOG?

The Youth Olympic Games are essentially about competing, learning and sharing. They are a celebration of sport, youth diversity and the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect. They also exemplify the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, blending sport with culture and education. The vision of the Youth Olympic Games is to inspire young people around the world to participate in sport and live by the Olympic values.

YOG Key Facts

- Hosted from 12 to 21 February 2016 in Lillehammer, Hamar, Gjøvik, Øyer and Oslo — demonstrating the use of a fantastic legacy of Olympic venues and the flexibility of the YOG.
- 71 NOCs and 1,100 athletes aged 15 to 18 will compete in 70 medal events at Lillehammer 2016.



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- Lillehammer 2016 is the second winter edition of the YOG following Innsbruck 2012. The first summer edition took place in Singapore in 2010, followed by Nanjing in 2014.
 - The YOG have been used as an incubator for innovation in sport and education. Lillehammer 2016 will feature Olympic debuts for a number of disciplines, including cross-country cross, snowboard cross, ski slopestyle, biathlon super sprint and monobob.
 - With regard to education, the Coaches' Corner will be a pioneering YOG first in Lillehammer, featuring dedicated workshops and talks by experts and Virtual Reality (VR) technology to explore and explain how new advances in technology can be applied to the science of coaching.
 - The YOG have acted as a springboard to further Olympic glory for many alumni. Some 64 YOG athletes from Innsbruck 2012, for example, went on to compete at the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014, winning 6 medals in total. In addition, 200 YOG alumni from Singapore 2010 competed at London 2012, of whom 25 medalled.
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