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Story Headline: Polina Tsurskaya wins Ladies' Figure Skating Free Skating for the Russian Federation

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

Date: 16 February

Place: Hamar, Norway

STORY SCRIPT

Russian Federation's Polina Tsurskaya has won gold in the Ladies' Figure Skating Free Skating event at Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games.

The 14-year-old, from the Sport School Sambo-70, produced a total score of 186.04 to claim gold, ahead of compatriot Maria Sotskova (169.50) and Elizabet Tursynbaeva of Kazakhstan (167.88).

Gold in Lillehammer follows on from her first place finish in the 2015 Junior Grand-Prix in Bratislava, Slovakia.

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.

Figure Skating explained.

Age Group: Born between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2001

Number of Athletes: 38

Venue: Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre

Ladies' Singles



The event consists of the Short Programme and Free Skating

The Short Programme for Singles Skating consists of seven required elements, such as jumps, spins, steps and other linking movement. The sequence of the elements is optional.

Free Skating consists of a well-balanced programme of 12 Free Skating elements for the men's event and 11 for the women's event. Elements, such as jumps, spins, steps and other linking movements are executed with a minimum use of two footed skating in harmony with music of the Competitor's choice.

The Technical Specialist identifies the elements the skater is performing in real time and the level of difficulty of the element, if applicable. The Judges focus entirely on scoring the quality of each element and the quality of the Programme Components. Their marks will be based on specific quality criteria for each element and will provide a comprehensive assessment of each skater's skills and performance.

The scores of the Short Programme and Free Skating are added and the result constitutes the final score of a skater. The participant with the highest total score wins.

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.
- 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



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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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