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Story Headline: First ever Team Ski-Snowboard Cross gold won by Germany at Lillehammer 2016

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games
Date: 16 February
Place: Hafjell, Norway

STORY SCRIPT
Germany has won the first ever Winter Youth Olympic Games gold medal in the Team Ski-Snowboard Cross event.

Comprising of Jana Fischer, Celia Funkler, Sebastian Pietrzykowski and Cornel Renn, the German National Team finished ahead of the Swiss National Team and Mixed Team 4 in third, which was made up of two Swedish athletes (Veronica Edebo and David Mobaerg), Ukrainian Daryna Krychenko and Valentin Miladinov of Bulgaria.

The German quartet finished first in both the Quarter-Final and Semi-Final in the lead up to the gold medal race.

It’s the first Winter Youth Olympic Games where the Team Ski-Snowboard cross event has featured.

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.

Snowboard explained.
Team Ski-Snowboard Cross (New YOG Event)

Age group: Born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 1999
Sixteen teams are expected to take part in the event. Each team has four members. They will run in the following order: female snowboarder, female skier, male snowboarder, male skier.

The Team Ski-Snowboard Cross (XT) consists of finals only. The quarter-finals, semi-finals, big final and small final are divided into heats of up to four teams. Each team member will have one run - following each other as a relay. For the 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} starters in a team, the starting gate will automatically open when their previous team mate crosses the finish line. If a competitor cannot finish or finishes in a time exceeding the penalty time, the gate will open when the penalty time is reached.

The top two teams from each heat advance to the next phase.

**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.
- 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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