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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: Russian duo Anastasia Shpilevaya and Grigory Smirnov win gold in Ice Dance at Lillehammer 2016

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

Date: 16 February

Place: Hamar, Norway

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The duo of Anastasia Shpilevaya and Grigory Smirnov have won Russia's second Figure Skating gold medal of Lillehammer 2016 in the Ice Dance.

After both the Short Dance and Free Dance, the couple claimed gold with a total score of 141.88 ahead of the United States of America duo Chloe Lewis and Logan Bye (136.37) and the second Russian pairing of Anastasia Skoptcova and Kirill Aleshin (134.62).

Both Shpilevaya and Smirnov, who are part of the School of Olympic Reserve No.4 in Russia, add the YOG title to their bronze medal finish at the Junior Grand Prix event in Courchevel, France in 2014.

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.

Age group: Men born between 1 January 1997 and 31 December 2000 and women born between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2001
Quota: 76
Venue: Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre

Ice Dance

The Ice Dance event consists of Short Dance and Free Dance.



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Short Dance is the first segment of the competition consisting of a dance created by the Ice Dance couple incorporating five required elements including dance lifts and dance spins to designated rhythms.

The prescribed rhythms for the Short Dance are decided by the ISU. For the 2015/16 season, the designated pattern is the Starlight Waltz with the prescribed rhythms of Waltz plus a Foxtrot, March or Polka.

Free Dance is the skating by the couple of a creative dance programme blending dance steps, dance lifts, spins and movements expressing the character/rhythms of the dance music chosen by the Couple. The Free Dance must contain combinations of new or known dance steps and movements including seven required elements composed into a well-balanced, whole unit displaying excellent skating technique and the personal creativity of the Couple in concept, arrangement, and expression.

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. Judges' 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 Dance and Free Dance are added and the result constitutes the final score of a couple. The couple 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 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



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(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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