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**Story script**

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**Story Headline: Four nations combine to win first ever Youth Olympic Games Speed Skating Mixed NOC Team Sprint gold**

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

Date: 17 February

Place: Hamar, Norway

### **STORY SCRIPT**

Athletes from Mongolia, Italy, People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea have combined to claim gold in the first ever Winter Youth Olympics Speed Skating Mixed NOC event at Lillehammer 2016.

Sumiya Buyantogtokh (MGL), Noemi Bonazza (ITA), Hanyang Shen (CHN) and Jae Woong Chung (KOR) pulled together the Youth Olympic Games values of youth diversity, excellence, friendship and respect to cross the finish line with a time of 1:57.85.

Bonazza collected her second Lillehammer 2016 medal after winning bronze in the Speed Skating Ladies' 1500m, whilst Chung also won bronze in the Speed Skating Men's 500m.

A quartet of Elisa Dul (Netherlands), Karolina Gasecka (Poland), Austin Kleba (USA) and Anvar Mukhamadeyev (Kazakhstan) claimed silver in a time of 1:58.80, ahead of Chiara Cristelli (Italy), Mihaela Hogas (Romania), Ole Jeske (Germany) and Allan Dahl Johansson (Norway) in third (1:58.87).

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 12<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2016.



**Speed Skating explained.**

**Age group:** Born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2000

**Quota:** 56

**Venue:** Hamar Olympic Hall Viking Ship

**Mixed NOC Team Sprint (*New YOG Event*)**

The event is organised in a single race format. Fourteen teams are expected to take part in the event. Each team consists of two men and two women from different NOCs.

Two teams per heat compete against each other. The overall distance is four laps, the first skater of the team leading the first lap before leaving the race, the second skater of the team leading the second lap before leaving the race, the third skater of the team leading the third lap before leaving the race and the fourth skater finishing the race for the team.

Only one competition lane (corresponding to the inner lane for individual races) is used. The two teams in each race start and finish in the middle of the finishing and the crossing straights, respectively.

The team with the best time wins the competition; there is no elimination 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.
- 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.



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- 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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