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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: People's Republic of China win gold in first ever YOG Biathlon Single Mixed Relay event at Lillehammer 2016

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

Date: 17 February

Place: Lillehammer, Norway

STORY SCRIPT

The People's Republic of China have won the first ever Winter Youth Olympics gold medal in the Biathlon Single Mixed Relay at Lillehammer 2016.

The team made up of Fanqi Meng and Zhenyu Zhu needed a photo finish to claim top spot on the podium, with a time of 41:35.4 enough to finish ahead of Norwegian duo Marthe Krakstad Johansen and Fredrik Qvist Bucher-Johannessen (41:35.6).

Meng, who finished third in the Ladies' Individual race at the Biathlon National Championships, and Zhu, who was second in the Men's Mass Start at the Biathlon National Championships in 2014, win the People's Republic of China's third gold medal of YOG 2016.

Lillehammer 2016 is the first time the event has featured at a Winter Youth Olympic Games.

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.

Biathlon explained.



Age Group: Born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 1999
Quota: 100
Venue : Birkebeineren Ski Stadium

Single Mixed Relay (*New YOG Event*)

A team is composed of one woman and one man, from the same NOC, each of them skiing twice. The race order is woman-man-woman-man. The event consists of a single phase (i.e. final). The distance covered by the female athlete will be 2 x 3km, while the male athlete will ski 3km in the first leg and 4.5km in the second leg.

A simultaneous start is used for the Single Mixed Relay. Biathletes ski using the free technique, and then shoot a small-bore rifle (.22 calibre (5.6mm)), alternating between the prone and standing positions. Target size varies depending on the shooting position. Athletes have two shooting bouts, first in the prone position then in the standing position. The biathletes take one round at each of the five targets and have three extra shots per shooting bout. Each missed shot incurs one 75-metre penalty loop to be skied after the shooting is completed. The team crossing the line first 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.



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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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