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Story script

**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: The Russian Federation's Maya Yakunina wins Ladies' Cross-Country Skiing 5km Free gold at Lillehammer 2016**

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

Date: 18 February

Place: Lillehammer, Norway

### **STORY SCRIPT**

Maya Yakunina has won the Russian Federation's fourth gold at Lillehammer 2016 in the Ladies' Cross-Country Skiing 5km Free.

The 17-year-old crossed the line with a time of 12:58.8 ahead of the People's Republic of China's Chunxue Chi (13:29.9) and Finland's Rebecca Immonen (13:35.9).

Yakunina, who belongs to Children's Sports School Orlenok, adds YOG gold to her Russian Championship title, and begins her Olympic quest to emulate the achievements of her sporting hero, Therese Johaug, the Norwegian Olympic champion Cross-Country Skier.

The 2nd Winter YOG is taking place between Friday 12<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2016.

### **Cross-Country Skiing explained.**

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

**Quota:** 40

**Venue:** Birkebeineren Ski Stadium

### **Ladies' 5km Free**

The two events are skied in free technique; the skis are prepared with only glide wax and forward motion is created by using the edges of the skis, also called skating.



Both events consist of a single phase only (i.e. finals). Competitors start individually at intervals of 10 to 30 seconds. The competitor with the fastest individual time wins the race.

### **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 (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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