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Story script

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Story Headline: Norway claim gold in the Men's Freestyle Skiing Slopestyle at Lillehammer thanks to Birk Ruud

Event: Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games

Date: 19 February

Place: Hafjell, Norway

STORY SCRIPT

Norway have won their 17th medal of the Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games with Birk Ruud taking gold in the Men's Freestyle Skiing Slopestyle.

The 15-year-old, who belongs to Bærums Skiklubb, finished first in both Runs with a best score of 89.20 to claim top spot on the podium ahead of Alexander Hall of the United States of America (87.40) and New Zealand's Finn Bilous (86.00).

Ruud, who from the age of three has been learning and practicing ski tricks on the trampoline at his family home before developing them on the snow, wins the YOG's first ever Men's Freestyle Skiing Slopestyle gold.

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.

Freestyle Skiing explained.

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

Quota: 40

Venue: Hafjell Alpine Centre

Men's Ski Slopestyle (*New YOG Event*)



The Ski Slopestyle competition is a judged sport. Each competitor performs individual runs with several tricks, spins and flips. The competition is held on a course with a variety of hits, jumps, rails, tables, big-air, etc. with two or more lines that the competitors may choose to perform.

The Ski Slopestyle competitions consist of a single phase (i.e. final). The results are calculated on the best of three runs. The competitors will be judged on a combination of amplitude, technical difficulty, creativity and landings.

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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