



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

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: BEIJING 2022 TO HAVE HIGHEST EVER NUMBER OF FEMALE ATHLETES AT OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES AS SEVEN NEW EVENTS ARE ADDED TO THE PROGRAMME

Location: Lausanne, Switzerland

Date: 18th July 2018

STORY SCRIPT

The Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) today approved an innovative event programme for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, which includes the highest ever representation of female athletes at an Olympic Winter Games.

The programme features the addition of signature new events monobob and freestyle ski big air, as well as dynamic mixed team formats including short track mixed relay, ski jumping mixed team event, mixed gender team aerials and the snowboard cross mixed team event.

The seven new events are:



- Women's Monobob
- Short Track Skating Mixed Team Relay
- Ski Jumping Mixed Team Event
- Freestyle Skiing Aerials Mixed Team Event
- Freestyle Skiing Big Air Men's
- Freestyle Skiing Big Air Women's
- Snowboard Cross Mixed Team Event

In addition to creating a youth-oriented programme, it is also a significant step towards achieving a 50-per-cent gender balance at the Olympic Winter Games in both athletes and events, which is a clear objective of Olympic Agenda 2020.

Beijing 2022 will see more female athletes and women's events than any other Olympic Winter Games, with female quota positions increasing from 41% to 45.5%.

IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell, welcomed the new innovative events and also the big step towards gender equality. He said: "We continue to introduce more innovation, more youth focus around the Olympic Winter



Games, balancing the traditional sports and events with those really reaching out to new, young audiences around the world.

“All of those events bring something new to the Olympic Games, they bring a new youth focus, they bring mixed events, combining both men and women in the same teams in a number of cases. We’ve increased gender equality from 41 percent to over 45 percent that is really important.”

With this decision, Skating joins the International Federations of Biathlon and Curling in reaching gender parity on their Olympic programmes, while Bobsleigh and Skeleton, Hockey, Luge, and Ski have all established an increase in female participation.

The disciplines of skeleton, speed skating, alpine skiing, cross country, freestyle and snowboard will all move to gender balance for the first time.

The overall number of athletes has been reduced by 41 to reach 2892, which is within the Olympic Charter framework. With no new venues or



fields of play needed for the new events, the programme aligns with recommendations set out in Olympic Agenda 2020.

ENDS