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Story Script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: First gold for Romania at Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 with victory in women's monobob

LOCATION: St Moritz Olympia Bob Run, Switzerland

DATE: January 19, 2020

LANGUAGE: Romanian

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: <http://iocnewsroom.com>

STORY SCRIPT:

Georgeta Popescu won Romania's first gold medal of the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) on the historic St Moritz Bob Run in the women's monobob competition.

Popescu, who is 17, was fastest on her first run, making up time on her rivals in the latter stages to put her into the lead with a time of 1 minute 13.40 seconds.

That gave her a lead of just over a tenth of a second. But on the second and final run Popescu was near flawless in her monobob, posting a time of 2 minutes 26.84 seconds to win easily by more than half a second.

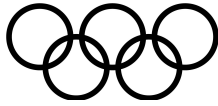
Slovakia's Viktoria Cernanska took the silver medal. Bronze went to Germany's Celine Harms.

Monobob consists of a single pilot who also acts as the brakman. Sleds are identical and distributed to the teams by random draw.

Following the sled allocation, four individual runners will be selected by the athletes using the sled to make a set. The chosen runners will be used with the allocated sled for the duration of the event.

Both the men's and women's monobob events are held over two heats. Results are calculated by adding the times of the two heats, together with the lowest aggregate time winning.

The programme consists of at least six training heats to be held over three days. Pilots must have completed at least two valid practice heats without incident to qualify for the competition.



Lausanne 2020 is the third edition of the Winter YOG, bringing together the world's best young athletes between the ages of 15 and 18. For the first time in Winter Olympic history the Games will have gender equality, with equal numbers of male and female competitors in the 81 medal events.

1,872 athletes from 79 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) will be in action in Lausanne, 12 of those NOCs for the first time at a Youth Olympic Games - Albania, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Haiti, Hong Kong, Kosovo, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Trinidad & Tobago.

As well as the brand new sport of Ski Mountaineering, Lausanne 2020 features five new events, Women's Nordic Combined, Individual Normal Hill/4km, Women's Doubles Luge, Mixed NOC 3x3 Ice Hockey, Freeski Big Air, Snowboard Big Air.

The first Winter Youth Olympic Games took place in Innsbruck, Austria, in 2012. The second edition was held in the Norwegian city of Lillehammer in 2016.

SHOTLIST:

00:05 Action from the race of Georgeta Popescu in the women's bobsled

00:36 Popescu celebrates her win with her teammates

00:44 The women's monobob podium

00:50 SOUNDBITE: Georgeta Popescu, Gold Medallist, Women's Monobob (Romanian Language).

"The key to winning an Olympic gold medal is to never give up!"

00:56 Popescu celebrates with her teammate

01:01 SOUNDBITE: Georgeta Popescu, Gold Medallist, Women's Monobob (Romanian Language).

"It is very important to win, because this is a once in a lifetime chance to have such an opportunity and it's an Olympic gold medal."

01:09 Popescu celebrates her win

01:17 SOUNDBITE: Georgeta Popescu, Gold Medallist, Women's Monobob (Romanian Language).

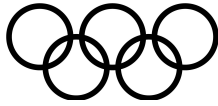
"The first run was very tense because I saw my competitor from Germany coming very close to me. But after my second run, when I saw my time, I was super happy!"

+++ Updated on 20th January after medal ceremony at 18:00 CET in St.Moritz +++

01:31 Shots from the medal ceremony of the women's monobob

-- ENDS --

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