Athletes have started to arrive in Switzerland as last minute preparations take place ahead of the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020.

1,872 athletes between the ages of 15 and 18 will compete in 81 medal events across Switzerland and France.

Lausanne 2020 will mark the first gender equal Winter Olympic Games. An event programme featuring the same number of girls and boys for the first time ever at a Winter Olympic event.

Athletes from numerous countries were welcomed on arrival at Geneva Airport by Ian Logan, Director General of the Organising Committee for Lausanne 2020, along with the official mascot for the Games, Yodli.

79 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) will attend Lausanne 2020 between the 9th and 22nd of January, 12 of them will be participating for the first time at a Winter Youth Olympic Games. Albania, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Haiti, Hong Kong (China), Kosovo, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Trinidad & Tobago.

The 10 largest delegations will be: Switzerland (112), Russian Federation (107), United States of America (96), Germany (96), Canada (81), Czech Republic (77), Japan (74), Italy (69), Austria (64), France (61).

The 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games will also see an increased program with 5 new events being introduced including, Women's Nordic Combined, (Individual Normal Hill/4km), Women's Double Luge, Ice Hockey Mixed NOC 3x3 Tournament, Freeski Big Air and Snowboard Big Air.

One new sport will also make its debut in Lausanne. Ski Mountaineering in the Swiss town of Villars-sur-Ollon will provide 5 new events to the Winter Youth Olympic calendar. Girl and Boy’s Individual, Girl and Boy’s Sprint and Mixed NOC Relay.

Lausanne 2020 gets underway on the evening of the 9th of January with the lighting of the Olympic Flame at the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games in the city of Lausanne.
SHOTLIST:
00:06 Close up of the Lausanne 2020 logo
00:11 Shots of various teams arriving at Geneva airport for Lausanne 2020
00:28 Close up of Team USA bag
00:30 Action of an athlete registering for the Youth Olympic Games.
00:33 Director General of Lausanne 2020 Ian Logan meets some of the athletes at the airport

00:42 SOUNDBITE: Ian logan, Director General of Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee. (French Language).
“I’m very excited, very enthusiastic, and very grateful because all the team worked well. It’s been four years we have worked on it, people are here, everybody is happy, volunteers are happy and very proud. The team is unbelievable, euphoric. The weather is great, so it’s an amazing welcome from the Swiss people, we are very happy.”

00:59 Action of Team Australia arriving in Lausanne
01:04 Close up of Team Australia bag.
01:07 Various teams pose with Lausanne 2020 mascot Yodli
01:14 Shot of the athletes kit in the airport
01:18 Lausanne 2020 mascot Yodli ‘high-fives’ athletes and tourists
01:23 Lausanne 2020 mascot Yodli poses with athletes and Ian Logan, Director General of Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee.

01:24 SOUNDBITE: Ian logan, Director General of Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee. (English Language).
‘Well it’s very impressive because we’re here in Geneva, this is the entry airport of Lausanne 2020 so there’s the first impressions, it’s a fantastic welcome at the airport, we have the volunteers very happy everywhere and the weather is here to welcome them so very proud and an amazing team that have been working very hard. The volunteers are happy, smiling, so we see that the crew and everybody are so excited about this! I’m excited too, and thankful for the fantastic people working with us.’

01:47 Shots of Team China arriving at Geneva airport for Lausanne 2020

01:54 SOUNDBITE: Ian logan, Director Generalof Lausanne 2020 Organising Committee. (Swiss-German Language).
“We have been working towards this for 2 years, it is extreme, unbelievable, everybody is so excited, we had our volunteers here, we are extremely proud of the people here, everyone is ready. Here is where it begins in Switzerland. This is the real image of Switzerland. The beautiful weather can be seen for all that are coming to Switzerland.”

02:21 Various shots of the Youth Olympic Village decorated with participating nations flags
02:35 Team Russia moving into the Youth Olympic Village
02:37 IOC President Thomas Bach greets athletes
02:43 Various shots of skiers practising on the slopes

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