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STORY HEADLINE: Unlikely nations strike gold at Lausanne 2020 as Winter Youth Olympic Games Mixed NOC 3-on-3 ice hockey tournament gives minnows a chance

LOCATION: Vaudoise Arena, Lausanne, Switzerland.
DATE: January 15, 2020

LANGUAGE: Italian, German

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Athletes from Luxembourg, Hong Kong, Mexico and New Zealand were among the gold medallists as the Mixed National Olympic Committee (NOC) Ice Hockey 3-on-3 tournament finished at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Lausanne 2020.

The format allows ice hockey players, whose NOC doesn’t have enough athletes to make a full team, to compete in the YOG, and it proved its worth with athletes from 20 different nations winning gold in the mens and womens events.

Luxembourg and Hong Kong were the surprise gold winners in the men’s event. Hong Kong’s Yau Yam is one of the youngest athletes at this Winter YOG - he does not turn 15 until January 25. Luxembourg’s Nicolas Eglas is already 15 and they were both part of the winning squad, which also included athletes from Russia, France, Ukraine, Spain, Slovakia, Italy, Belgium, Estonia, Norway, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

Mexico's Luisa Wilson and Katya Blong of New Zealand were the unlikely gold medallists in the women’s event, although Blong is a member of Canada’s Ontario Hockey Academy. Their squad also included athletes from Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and Austria.

Athletes were placed in eight squads for the tournament and they played in a round-robin preliminary stage. The top four teams went through to the Semi-Finals. Winners of the Semi-Finals played the Gold Medal Games and the losing teams played the Bronze Medal Games.
A game was played in an end zone of a normal ice rink, allowing two games to be played simultaneously on the ice. Given that there were no boards at the blue line of a normal ice rink, temporary hard boards were used to separate the field of play from the neutral zone.

Each game consisted of three periods of 16 minutes; 50 seconds after the initial puck-drop, a buzzer signals a line-change. The skaters on the ice cannot touch the puck after the buzzer and they must immediately skate to the player bench. The next line, when the buzzer signals the line-change, can immediately enter the ice and continue playing. There can not be any face-offs between line-changes. The goaltenders change every 8 minutes.

If the game is tied at the conclusion of the regular time, there is a penalty-shot shootout. The shootout will follow sudden-death format from the beginning and thus it will allow one skater from each team to take a shot until a winner is determined.

Because the tournament was classified as a Mixed National Olympic Committee (NOC) event, the Olympic flag was raised in all three positions at the medal ceremony.

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 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 “Yellow” team score a goal during the final of the Women’s 3-on-3 Ice Hockey Mixed NOC
00:08 “Yellow” team celebrate winning gold medal
00:17 Members of “Yellow” team prepare to return to ice for medal ceremony

00:23 SOUNDBITE: Magdalena Luggin, Team Yellow (Austria). Gold Medallist, Women’s 3-on-3 Ice Hockey (German Language).
“It is an incredible feeling to win at the Olympic Games for our country, and to have this gold medal is a dream come true for me.”

00:34 Gold Medallist and Bronze Medallist pose with toy mascot

00:38 SOUNDBITE: Magdalena Luggin, Team Yellow (Austria) Gold Medallist, Women’s 3-on-3 Ice Hockey (German Language).
“It was a very good ending for me. A good feeling to come out of there with a gold medal. Unbelievable feeling.”

00:45 Match action from final

00:49 SOUNDBITE: Leonie Botthcer, Team Yellow (Germany) Gold Medallist, Women’s 3-on-3 Ice Hockey (German Language).
“It is unbelievable, it makes a lot of difference and you can really advance here.”

00:55 Yellow Team receive Gold Medals for Women’s 3-on-3 Ice Hockey
01:18 Match action from final of Men’s 3-on-3 Ice Hockey final
01:26 “Green” team score goal in final
01:34 “Green” team celebrate winning Gold medal

01:45 SOUNDBITE: Alessandro Segafredo, Team Green (Italy) Gold Medallist, Men’s 3-on-3 Ice Hockey (Italian Language).
“It is a fantastic feeling. I was not expecting this at my first Olympiad. I am here with my team and we won. It is a fantastic sensation.”

01:55 “Green” team leave ice after final

01:59 SOUNDBITE: Alessandro Segafredo, Team Green (Italy) Gold Medallist, Men’s 3-on-3 Ice Hockey (Italian Language).
“It is a beautiful thing, but this would not have been possible without the support of my team who in the semi final worked with me. I was lucky enough to get into the game and I feel very good.”

02:15 Green Team receive Gold Medals for Men’s 3-on-3 Ice Hockey

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