

INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

## Story Script and Shot log

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**STORY HEADLINE:** Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 opens with spectacular ceremony celebrating the city's status as Olympic capital

**LOCATION:** Lausanne, Switzerland

**DATE:** January 9th, 2020

**LANGUAGE:** English

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

### STORY SCRIPT:

The Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 were declared open in a spectacular ceremony recognising the Swiss city's status as the Olympic Capital and home to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for more than a century.

Staged at the city's Vaudoise Arena before a crowd of 8,000, the ceremony was organised around seven artistic scenes and symbolic elements that epitomise the Olympic movement.

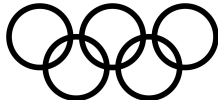
From the beginning, as fog gave way to a winter world of traditional Swiss chalets, spectators were taken on a poetic journey through the different phases of an athlete's growth.

The Olympic spirit was at the heart of the choreography and was personified by performers dressed in white as 'spirits' helping athletes on their seven-stage journey to excellence.

The participants in the traditional athletes' parade – consisting of the 79 flags of the 79 National Olympic Committees competing at Lausanne 2020 – were treated to a wall of noise as they entered the stadium, with the biggest cheer reserved for the final flagbearer, Switzerland's Thibe Deseyn.

At different points of the night, screens also panned over to St Moritz, where the ceremony was being streamed live and where the 225 athletes who will be staying there took part in their own parade.

Recognisable Swiss athletes were part of the ceremony throughout, with perhaps the most stunning performance coming from figure skating world champion and Olympic medallist



Stéphane Lambiel. Skating to a live orchestra rendition of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, Lambiel turned and pirouetted flawlessly before passing on the baton to a young skater representing the next generation.

Given Lausanne's historic ties to the Olympic movement, IOC President Thomas Bach, told the finest youth athletes in winter sport: 'Welcome Home!'

He added, "Here you are in the heart of the Olympic Movement. Therefore, the experience of these Winter Youth Olympic Games will be a very special one. You will experience the Olympic spirit in everything you do. You will enjoy your first Olympic competition. You will make new friends. You will become more familiar with the Olympic Values. And you will live these Olympic values by respecting yourself, by respecting your competitors, by respecting the rules and by competing with fair-play."

The climax of the ceremony was the lighting of the Olympic cauldron by ice dancer Gian Zehnder – the youngest member of the 112-strong Swiss team at Lausanne 2020 – in a fitting illustration of the Organising Committee's commitment to youth.

Lausanne 2020 is the third edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games (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. The final day of competition is January 22 with the closing ceremony later that evening.

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 (China), Kosovo, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Trinidad & Tobago..

Lausanne 2020 features five new events, Women's Nordic Combined, Individual Normal Hill/4km, Women's Doubles Luge, Ice Hockey Mixed NOC 3x3 Tournament, Freeski Big Air, Snowboard Big Air. One new sport has also been added to the programme, Ski Mountaineering that includes five events: Women's and Men's Individual, Women's and Men's Sprint and Mixed NOC Relay.

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

### SHOTLIST:

00:05 Pan of the Opening Ceremony stadium as the crowd do the Mexican wave

00:13 Scenes from the Opening Ceremony of Lausanne 2020

00:25 IOC President Thomas Bach and the President of Switzerland Simonetta Sommaruga acknowledge the crowd

00:33 Scenes from the Opening Ceremony of Lausanne 2020

### 01:31 SOUNDBITE: **Virginie Faivre, Lausanne 2020 President (English Language).**

*"To every person young and old, in every city around the world watching us tonight. to anyone who has ever dreamt of the Olympics or been inspired by sports, we welcome you to the home of the Olympic movement."*



01:58 IOC President Thomas Bach poses for a selfie with a selection of athletes

**02:04 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).**

*“Here you are in the heart of the Olympic Movement. Therefore, the experience of these Winter Youth Olympic Games will be a very special one. You will experience the Olympic spirit in everything you do. You will enjoy your first Olympic competition. You will make new friends. You will become more familiar with the Olympic Values. And you will live these Olympic values by respecting yourself, by respecting your competitors, by respecting the rules and by competing with fair-play.”*

02:53 Scenes from the Opening Ceremony of Lausanne 2020

03:16 The Olympic flag is brought into the stadium

03:20 Scenes from the Opening ceremony

03:25 The Olympic flag is raised

03:33 Scenes from the Opening Ceremony

04:17 The Olympic torch is brought into the stadium

04:31 The Olympic Cauldron is lit

-- ENDS --

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