



1st Winter Youth Olympic Games - Curling to Get Even Cooler!

Many of us know it already - curling IS cool. Now it's going to be even cooler as the sport gets ready to take centre stage at the inaugural Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria from the 13th till the 22nd January 2012.

Two curling competitions – for national mixed junior teams of four athletes and inter-national mixed doubles teams - will be staged throughout the Games at the Innsbruck Exhibition Centre, right next door to the main Olympic Operating Centre and the main media centre.

The Youth Olympic Games aims to bring the Olympic ideals closer to young people around the world, and, following the success of the first Summer Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in 2010, the stage is now set for the first-ever winter version.

While sports participation is at the heart of the Youth Olympic Games, uniquely, they also aim to allow athletes to step away from their own fields of play and learn something about the culture of competitors from other parts of the world, as well as becoming involved in Olympic-themed education programmes.

Altogether 16 mixed curling teams (two junior men and two junior women aged between 16 years and 2 weeks old to 18 years and 2 weeks old at the time of the event) will be eligible to take part via a formal qualifying procedure based on performances at the 2011 WCF European Challenge, Pacific and World junior championship events.

The mixed curling competition will take place at the start of the Games. After this, the make-up of the mixed doubles teams will be decided by performances in that event, with each team having one male and one female player, of two different nationalities.

While performances in the 2011 Championship events will determine the nations involved, National Olympic committees (NOCs) are free to select their four team members by any method of their choosing. NOCs are expected to make their final nominations by 1st November 2011.

After that, it's on to the Games!



What's it all about?

The Youth Olympic Games is an innovative concept for a new sport event designed by the International Olympic Committee to inspire young people from all around the world to participate in sport and adopt and live by the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect.

The inaugural Winter Youth Olympic Games will take place from the 13th to the 22nd of January 2012 in Innsbruck, Austria. The event is set to bring together over 1000 young athletes aged between 15 and 18 to compete in the fifteen official winter sport disciplines of the Sochi 2014 Olympic Programme: Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Bobsleigh, Cross Country Skiing, Curling, Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Ice Hockey, Luge, Nordic Combined, Short Track Speed Skating, Skeleton, Ski Jumping, Snowboard and Speed Skating.

Where is it all happening?

The event will be based in the Austrian city of Innsbruck (which has already hosted two Winter Olympic Games 1964 and 1976) and spread across three zones – Innsbruck, Seefeld and Küthai.

When is it?

Opening ceremony on 13th January 2012, closing ceremony on 22nd January 2012.

When will the curling events be?

The Mixed Curling Competition begins on Saturday 14th with the finals on Wednesday 18th. The Mixed Doubles event takes place from the 20th to the 22nd of January.

What is happening curling-wise?

Two curling events – national mixed teams of four (two junior men, two junior women) and inter-national mixed doubles (selected from the competing teams – one male, one female, two nationalities).

The mixed team event will be split into two round-robin divisions, looking for quarter-final qualifiers; the mixed doubles will be a straight knock-out.

Which countries will take part in the curling events?

Altogether 16 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) can send teams to take part. Countries will qualify through performances at the World Curling Federation's 2011 European Challenge, Pacific and World Junior Championships. The make-up of the 16 teams will be:

1 team from the host nation (Austria); 2 teams from North America; 1 team from South America; 3 teams from Asia; 1 team from Oceania; 8 teams from Europe.

The NOCs of qualified nations are free to use their own method of team selection.

Competitors in Mixed Doubles (32 teams) will be drawn from the 16 national teams, involving one boy, one girl and two nationalities in each team.



Which athletes are eligible to take part?

To be eligible for the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games, athletes must have been born between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1995, therefore between 16 years and 2 weeks old to 18 years and 2 weeks old at the time of the event.

Who nominates the team members?

National Olympic Committees (NOCs) will nominate individuals. NOCs are free to use the selection arrangement of their choice.

What about the cultural and education activities?

As well as competing in the curling events, athletes will also have the chance to take part in the Youth Olympic Games Culture and Education Programme which will explore the following themes – Olympism, Skills Development, Well Being & Healthy Lifestyle, Social Responsibility and Expression.

Where can I find out more?

<http://www.innsbruck2012.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/Innsbruck2012>

<http://www.olympic.org/en/content/YOG/>

Qualification System for the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games Curling Competition

The National Olympic Committees (NOCs) will collect points from the World Curling Federation World Junior Curling Championships (WJCC), European Junior Curling Challenge (EJCC) and the Pacific Curling Championships (PJCC) in 2011. In the event that a specific Challenge event is needed for the Americas, it will be added to the qualification timeline.

The 16 Mixed teams will then be selected (based on the highest number of points accumulated) in the following manner:

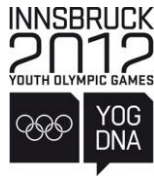
- 1 team from the host country (Austria)
- 2 teams from North America
- 1 team from South America
- 3 teams from Asia
- 1 team from Oceania
- 8 teams from Europe.

The points shall be awarded on the following basis:

EJCC	PJCC	WJCC
1 st = 10 pts	1 st = 10 pts	1 st = 20 pts
2 nd = 8 pts	2 nd = 8 pts	2 nd = 18 pts
3 rd = 6 pts	3 rd = 6 pts	3 rd = 16 pts
4 th = 5 pts	4 th = 4 pts	4 th = 15 pts
5 th = 4 pts	5 th = 2 pts	5 th = 14 pts
6 th = 3 pts	6 th = 1 pt	6 th = 13 pts
7 th = 2 pts		7 th = 12 pts
8 th = 1 pt		8 th = 11 pts
		9 th = 10 pts
		10 th = 0 pts

The NOC shall determine how their mixed team of two (2) junior women and two (2) junior men will be selected to represent them.

The composition of teams for the mixed doubles competition will take place at the completion of the mixed team competition, as the same athletes will participate in both events. However, the mixed doubles teams will be formed on the basis of the final ranking from the team competition, and players will be assigned to teams of two (2) players using a pre-determined formula. These teams will have one (1) junior woman and one (1) junior man per team, and they cannot be from the same NOC.



1st Winter Youth Olympic Games - Innsbruck, Austria - 13-22 January 2012 - Curling Competition Qualification

16 Teams Qualify		NOC	EJCC Women	EJCC Men	PJCC Women	PJCC Men	WJCC Women	WJCC Men	Total Qualification Points
1	Hosting Association	AUSTRIA	Not required - qualified as Host						Host
2	1 st from N. America	CANADA	X	X	X	X	18	15	33
3	2 nd from N. America	USA	X	X	X	X	14	13	27
	Team from S. America	<i>BRAZIL*</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	S. America entry
5	1 st from the Pacific	JAPAN	X	X	10	6	11	X	27
6	2 nd from the Pacific	CHINA	X	X	4	10	X	12	26
7	3 rd from the Pacific	KOREA	X	X	8	8	X	X	16
8	1 st from Oceania	NEW ZEALAND	X	X	6	4	X	X	10
	Reserve from Oceania	<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	X	X	2	2	X	X	4 = (Reserve)
9	European Zone	NORWAY	10	X	X	X	12	16	38
10	European Zone	SWEDEN	X	X	X	X	15	20	35
11	European Zone	GREAT BRITAIN (SCO)	X	X	X	X	20	14	34
12	European Zone	SWITZERLAND	X	X	X	X	13	18	31
13	European Zone	CZECH REPUBLIC	X	10	X	X	10	10	30
14	European Zone	RUSSIA	X	8	X	X	16	X	24
15	European Zone	GERMANY	8	5	X	X	X	X	13
16	European Zone	ESTONIA**	2	6	X	X	X	X	8
4		ITALY	6	2	X	X	X	X	8
		FINLAND	<i>dnc</i>	X	X	X	X	11	11
		POLAND	3	4	X	X	X	X	7
		DENMARK	5	X	X	X	X	0	5
		SPAIN	4	1	X	X	X	X	5
		NETHERLANDS	<i>dnc</i>	3	X	X	X	X	3
		SLOVAKIA	1	0	X	X	X	X	1
		FRANCE	X	0	X	X	0	X	0
		FRANCE	X	0	X	X	0	X	0

* Following the decision of the Brazilian National Olympic Committee not to accept the invitation as per the qualification system Italy** were invited to replace them (based on WCF World Ranking)

** Following the withdrawal of Finland, Estonia accepted an invitation to compete as the next highest ranked team in the qualification system

dnc = did not compete