

## **XXIII Winter Olympic Games, PyeongChang 2018**

**(Press material, background)**



### **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

The city of PyeongChang in South Korea is organizing the 2018 XXIII Winter Olympic Games between 9-25 February 2018.

The South Korean city applied to host the games earlier, but lost out by just a few votes when it came to judging the 2010 and 2014 Olympics. However, in Durban, South Africa, on 6 July 2011, it came out top in the first round with 63 votes, ahead of Munich (25 votes) and Annecy (7 votes). This means that South Korea is organizing its second Olympic Games, and its first winter competition, in February. In Asia, Japan has hosted the winter competition on two occasions: Sapporo (1972) and Nagano (1998).

Champions will be crowned in 102 events of 15 sports during the 18 days of the games.

The International Olympic Committee announced the formation of the PyeongChang 2018 Coordination Committee on 15 August 2011. The local organizing committee was set up on 19 October. The first task of the organizing committee was drafting the overall plan for the games and designating the venues. The first inspection by the IOC was in March 2012. In February 2013, then president of the IOC Jacques Rogge made his first tour of the construction sites. Since then, the organizers have built the rapid rail line linking the capital with the Olympic city. Successful trial competitions have been arranged at all the venues. The emblem of the competition was unveiled on 3 May 2013.

So far, Hungarian athletes have won two silver and four bronze medals at winter Olympics. Hungary took part in the very first winter games, in 1924, when three of our athletes entered the Nordic skiing events. Since then, our sportsmen and women have been present at every Olympics. The first medal, a bronze, was won by the figure skating pair of Emília Rotter and László Szollás in 1932. They repeated this achievement in 1936. After the Second World War, in 1948, the couple Andrea Kéessy and Ede Király won silver in figure skating. During the games in 1952 and 1956, the Nagy siblings, Mariann and László, ensured that a Hungarian pair could once again take to the podium, winning bronze medals on both occasions. The (so far) last Olympic medal winners from Hungary are ice dancers Krisztina Regőczy and András Sallay, who carried off silver in 1980. At the last few Olympics, short track speed skaters have taken several creditworthy 4th-6th placings. They are hoping that this run of excellence will also result in medals in 2018.

### **OLYMPICS IN NUMBERS**

Hungary cannot be called a superpower in winter sports. So far, our sportsmen and women have won two silver and four bronze medals. Skating has supplied all these medals, and we expect great things of our skaters once again. Looking at a few winter Olympic superpowers solely in terms of numbers, it can be established that whereas Hungary stands head and shoulders above many in the summer games in terms of medal count, these countries have collected more medals at winter Olympics.

### Medals won by selected nations at summer and winter Olympics

	Summer Olympics				Winter Olympics				Total		
	Participation	I	II	III	Participation	I	II	III	I	II	III
Hungary	26	176	149	170	22	0	2	4	176	151	174
Austria	27	18	33	36	22	59	78	81	77	11	117
Finland	25	101	85	117	22	42	62	57	143	147	174
Norway	25	56	49	47	22	118	11	100	174	160	147
Switzerland	28	50	75	67	22	50	40	48	100	115	115
Sweden	27	145	170	179	22	50	40	54	195	210	233

RESULTS OF HUNGARIAN ATHLETES BY SPORTS, MEDALS, POSITION									
	Positions						Participants		
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	Men	Women	All
Biathlon							12*	10*	22*
Bobsleigh							8	2	10
Speed skating				1			15	3	18
Ice hockey							38		38
Figure skating		2	4	2	3	1	19	20	39
Short track speed skating				1	2	2	9	13	22
Skiing							43*	26*	69*
Summary:		2	4	4	5	3	140	72	212

\* Anna Bozsik, Zsófia Gottschall, Gábor Mayer, István Oláh, Pál Sajgó and Imre Tagscherer also competed in biathlon and Nordic skiing competitions.

PLACES OF HUNGARIAN ATHLETES AT THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES										
Year	Venue	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	HUN Participants (MEN/WOMEN)		
1924	Chamonix							4	0	4
1928	St.Moritz							12	0	12
1932	Lake Placid			1	1			2	2	4
1936	Garmisch-Partenkirchen			1	1			22	3	25
1948	St.Moritz		1		1	1		17	5	22
1952	Oslo			1				8	4	12
1956	Cortina d'Ampezzo			1				1	1	2

1960	Squaw Valley							2	1	3
1964	Innsbruck							22	6	28
1968	Grenoble					1		8	2	10
1972	Sapporo				1			0	1	1
1976	Innsbruck				1			2	1	3
1980	Lake Placid	1						1	1	2
1984	Sarajevo							7	2	9
1988	Calgary							3	2	5
1992	Albertville							13	11	24
1994	Lillehammer							5	11	16
1998	Nagano							8	9	17
2002	Salt Lake City							14	11	25
2006	Turin			1	1			11	8	19
2010	Vancouver				1	1		6	9	15
2014	Sochi					1		7	9	16
SUMMARY:		2	4	4	5	2		175	99	274

## SPORTS CATEGORIES

Champions will be crowned in 102 events of 15 sports during the 18 days of the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games. In June 2015, the following sports were added to the winter games programme: curling mixed pair, snowboard big air (jump), Alpine ski team, and speed skating mass start. At the same time, the snowboard parallel slalom event was ditched.



**Alpine skiing (11 events = 5 men + 5 women + 1 mixed):** men's and women's slalom, giant slalom, super-G, downhill, Alpine combined and team competition

**Freestyle skiing (10=5+5+0):** men's and women's aerials, moguls, ski cross, ski halfpipe, ski slopestyle

**Snowboard (10=5+5+0):** men's and women's parallel giant slalom, halfpipe, snowboard cross, slopestyle, big air

**Biathlon (11=5+5+1):** men: 20 km, 15 km mass start, 12.5 km pursuit, 10 km sprint, 4x7.5 km relay  
women: 15 km, 12.5 km mass start, 10 km pursuit, 7.5 km sprint, 4x6 km relay,  
mixed: 2x6 km women + 2x7.5 km men mixed relay

**Nordic combined (3=3+0+0):** normal hill/10 km, large hill/10 km, normal hill/4x4.5 km

**Cross-country skiing (12=6+6+0):** men: 15 km freestyle, 15 km + 15 km skiathlon, sprint classic, sprint team relay freestyle, 50 km mass start classic, 4x10 km relay  
women: 10 km freestyle, 7.5 km + 7.5 km skiathlon, sprint classic, sprint team relay freestyle, 30 km mass start, 4x5 km relay

**Ski jumping (4=3+1+0):** men's normal and large hill, team and women's normal hill

**Bob (3=2+1+0):** men's double, 4-man, women's double

**Skeleton (2=1+1+0):** men's and women's single

**Luge (4=2+1+1):** men's and women's single, men's double and team

**Curling (3=1+1+1):** men's and women's team, mixed pair

**Speed skating (14=7+7+0):** men's and women's 500 m, 1000 m, 1500 m, 5000 m, mass start and pursuit  
team competition, men's 10 000 m, women's 3000 m

**Figure skating and ice dancing (5=1+1+3):** men's and women's individual, pair, ice dance and team

**Short track speed skating (8=4+4+0):** men's and women's 500 m, 1000 m, 1500 m, 3000/5000 m relay

**Ice hockey (2=1+1+0):** men's and women's team

## QUALIFICATION

Figure skater Ivett Tóth took Hungary's first quota in Helsinki at the world championship on 31 March 2017. The quota is for the nation, so that along with Ivett, Fruzsina Medgyesi competed for Olympic participation. On the basis of her performance at the Moscow European championship, the Hungarian federation approved Ivett Tóth's entry. Konrád Nagy put in times at 1000 m and 1500 m that qualify him to start in both these distances in the 36-person Olympic field.

Qualification in skiing events closed on 21 January. In women's Alpine skiing, Hungary received two quotas. The decision of the Hungarian federation was that Szonja Hozmann can enter the Olympics, while Mariann Mimi Maróty – who attained B level – was designated for the second quota. This was accepted by the FIS. Márton Kékesi, Dalibor Samsal and Bence Nagy, our three men's competitors, were nominated in the Alpine events. The board of the Hungarian federation decided Márton Kékesi can compete at the Olympics on the basis of his performance during the 2017 world championship. Later on, the FIS gave one further entry option for the men, which was taken by Dalibor Samsal. This means that a 4-member team has been put together, which can enter the team competition for the first time in Olympic history. According to a statement from the IBU, there will be no Hungarian biathlon entry, so Emőke Szőcs competes at the Olympics in the cross-country. Ádám Kónya is a guaranteed Olympic starter for the men: he received his card way back in 2016. In the reallocation, Elizabeth Swaney received her chance in the Freestyle halfpipe.

In short track speed skating, the fact that both Hungarian relay teams can be present at the Olympics was down to four world cup competitions. The men's five: Sándor Shaolin Liu, Shaoang Liu, Viktor Knoch, Csaba Burján and Bence Oláh. The women's team: Andrea Keszler, Bernadett Heidum, Zsófia Kónya, Petra Jászapáti, Sára Luca Bácskai. It will be decided at the venue itself who can enter the various distances in the individual events, because the national team travels to Korea on 27 January, where they will complete preparations for the Olympics.

We have three quotas each in the 500 m and 1500 m for men, and two quotas in the 1000 m, and for women two quotas each in every distance. This means that the number of athletes in the Hungarian delegation in PyeongChang is 19.

## VENUES

Competitions will be staged in two main zones: PyeongChang Mountain Cluster and Gangneung Coastal Cluster. The latter is staging the ice events. The venue for the ice hockey tournament is the Gangneung Hockey Centre with a capacity of 10,000 and the 6000-person Kwandong Hockey Centre. Curling competitions will be held in the Gangneung Curling Centre, which can accommodate 3500. The 8000-seat Gangneung Oval will host the speed skating, while the venue for figure skating, ice dance and the short track speed skating events will be the Gangneung Ice Arena. This has a capacity of 12,000. The zone for mountain competitions is the PyeongChang Mountain Cluster.

**Alpensia Ski Jumping Centre:** ski jumping, Nordic combined, snowboard (big air); capacity: 8500 (6300 seated, 2200 standing)

**Alpensia Biathlon Centre:** biathlon; capacity: 7500 (4500 seated, 3000 standing)

**Alpensia Cross-Country Centre:** Nordic skiing, cross-country skiing, Nordic combined; capacity: 7500 (4500 seated, 3000 standing)

**Olympic Sliding Centre:** bob, skeleton, luge; capacity: 7000 (1000 seated, 6000 standing)

**Yongpyong Alpine Centre:** Alpine skiing (slalom, giant slalom); capacity: 6000 (2500 seated, 3500 standing)

**Jeongseon Alpine Centre:** Alpine skiing (downhill, super giant slalom, combination); capacity: 6500 (3600

seated, 2900 standing)

This is where the temporary **PyeongChang Olympic Stadium** (capacity: 35,000) has been built and where the opening and closing ceremonies are staged. The stadium covers an area of 80,000 sqm and is 740 metres above sea level. Besides the stadium there is the Olympic exhibition hall and traditional food markets and other sights, as well as the medal plaza where medal-presentation ceremonies are held. There are Olympic villages in both zones.

**Gangneung Olympic Village:** No. of rooms: 1405, No. of beds: 2340 (of which, singles: 470)

**Olympic Village:** No. of rooms: 1818, No. of beds: 3520 (of which, singles: 116)

## OLYMPIC FLAME

In the course of an age-old ceremony, on 24 October 2017 the flame of the Winter Olympic Games was kindled at the site of the ancient games, Olympia. This symbol of the Olympics was carried 2129 km in Greece, stopping, for instance, at the foot of the Acropolis, before being handed over to the Koreans on 31 October in the marble-built Panathenaic Stadium, site of the first Olympics of the modern era (1896).

In Korea, over the course of 100 days the torch covers 2018 km, with more than 7500 running with it in nine provinces and eight cities. On 9 February, it reaches its goal of the venue of the Games for the opening ceremony, where it will be used to light the cauldron in the Olympic stadium.

## OLYMPIC MASCOTS



A white tiger and an Asiatic black bear are the mascots of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games and Paralympics. The animals are called Soohorang and Bandabi. Soohorang comes from combining the Korean words for 'protection' and 'tiger'. The white tiger is revered as a sacred animal in the Republic of

Korea; a tiger was also the mascot chosen for the 1988 Seoul games in the summer. Bandabi is the mascot of the Paralympics; the organizers say the name symbolizes courage and determination.

### **THE FIGHT AGAINST DOPING**

The Hungarian Olympic Committee adheres to the principle of zero tolerance. This is why two tests, both producing negative samples, are the strict requirement for entry into competitions by our sportsmen and women. The second test must be a sample taken immediately before travelling, in addition to which every athlete has undergone a drugs test. Under the terms of a ruling by the IOC, as a consequence of the state-run doping violation (Sochi, 2014) Russian sportsmen and women cannot compete in their national colours at the winter games, but only following extremely rigorous tests and 'only' under the Olympic flag. Their official designation is 'Olympic Athlete from Russia' (OAR). This logo will appear on their clothing, and if they win a gold medal the Olympic Hymn will be played. The bans were implemented following a report by the independent investigation committee headed by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren and commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). This report uncovered evidence of systemic doping by Russia backed by the state. According to the report, between 2011-2015 Russian doping monitoring bodies tampered with samples of approximately 1000 sportsmen and women in 30 sports, or covered up positive test results.

### **SECURITY**

Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), stated at the Lima session of the executive committee that security at the upcoming winter Olympics is not endangered by the tense Korean situation.

"We are in contact with governments concerned. In all these conversations with the leading figures in the different governments we can see there is no doubt being raised about the winter Games of 2018. There is so far not even a hint that there is a threat for the security of the Games," said Bach.

Earlier, the statement of the president was confirmed by Lee Hee-Beom, head of the organizing committee. According to this senior executive, the Olympic Games can be organized in "perfect security", and he reiterated that they did not have a plan B.

Recently, Bach despatched a letter to the national Olympic committees, including the Hungarian Olympic Committee, in which the German sport diplomat indicated that the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games will be held "unchanged, in the spirit of peace and friendship and according to the original plans".

The Hungarian Olympic Committee, following the proposals of the IOC and in compliance with the regulations of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, furthermore, within the scope of its own resources, possibilities and the relevant legal framework, arranges the participation of the Hungarian Olympic team members, athletes, is in close and direct contact with the Embassy of Hungary in Seoul as well as the competent security services, and accordingly, follows consular briefings and proposals concerning the security of Hungarian citizens. The Hungarian Olympic Committee carries out consular protection registration for the members of the Hungarian Olympic delegation.

It has been agreed that North Korea will participate in the games in five events of three sports with 22 sportsmen and women. The team of the two Koreas will jointly march in the procession at the opening ceremony.

In November 2017, in New York, the member states of the United Nations adopted a resolution on the Olympic Truce, accordingly they approached the nations with a call for a ceasefire. Thomas Bach, president of the IOC, took part in the congress.

## **TRAVEL**

On 27 January, the team office, medical team and short track speed skaters will be the first to leave for the winter Olympics.

The office and the medical team will fit out the accommodation of the Hungarians in the two Olympic villages. The short track speed skaters stay in Seoul and prepare for the games there, until 1 February, when they move on and occupy their accommodation in Gangneung, in the newly-opening Olympic village.

Other departures:

31 January: cross-country skiers and speed skater Konrád Nagy

5 February: Alpine skiers

7 February: figure skater Ivett Tóth (from Switzerland)

Secretary of State for Sport Dr. Tünde Szabó will be present at the Winter Olympic Games between 20-23 February; president of the Hungarian Paralympic Committee László Szabó will be in the Republic of Korea between 9-13 February. The leadership of the Hungarian National Skating Federation (president Lajos Kósa, director general Mihály Orendi, vice-president Dr. Ferenc Bathó, international director György Sallak, and director of points scoring Klára Engi) participates at the Olympics between 16-24 February.

President of the Hungarian Olympic Committee Krisztián Kulcsár, Secretary General Bálint Vékássy, furthermore, the team leader Dr. Zsigmond Nagy and press attaché Kata Molnár-Bánffy will be present throughout the entire Olympics.

The Hungarian Winter Olympic Team returns to Budapest at 11.40 am on 25 February 2018.



# PYEONGCHANG HUNGARIAN TEAM



Szonja Hozmann



Mariann Maróthy



Márton Kékési



Dalibor Samsal



Ivett Tóth



Ádám Kónya



Emöke Szöcs



**ALPINE SKIING**



Sára Luca Bácskai



Bernadett Heidum



Petra Jászapáti



Andrea Keszler



Zsófia Kónya



Konrád Nagy



Elizabeth Swaney



**SHORT TRACK**



Csaba Burján



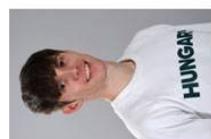
Viktor Knoch



Liu Shaoang



Liu Shaolin Sándor



Bence Oláh



**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**



Konrád Nagy



Elizabeth Swaney



**SPEED SKATING**



Bence Oláh



Liu Shaolin Sándor



Liu Shaoang



Viktor Knoch

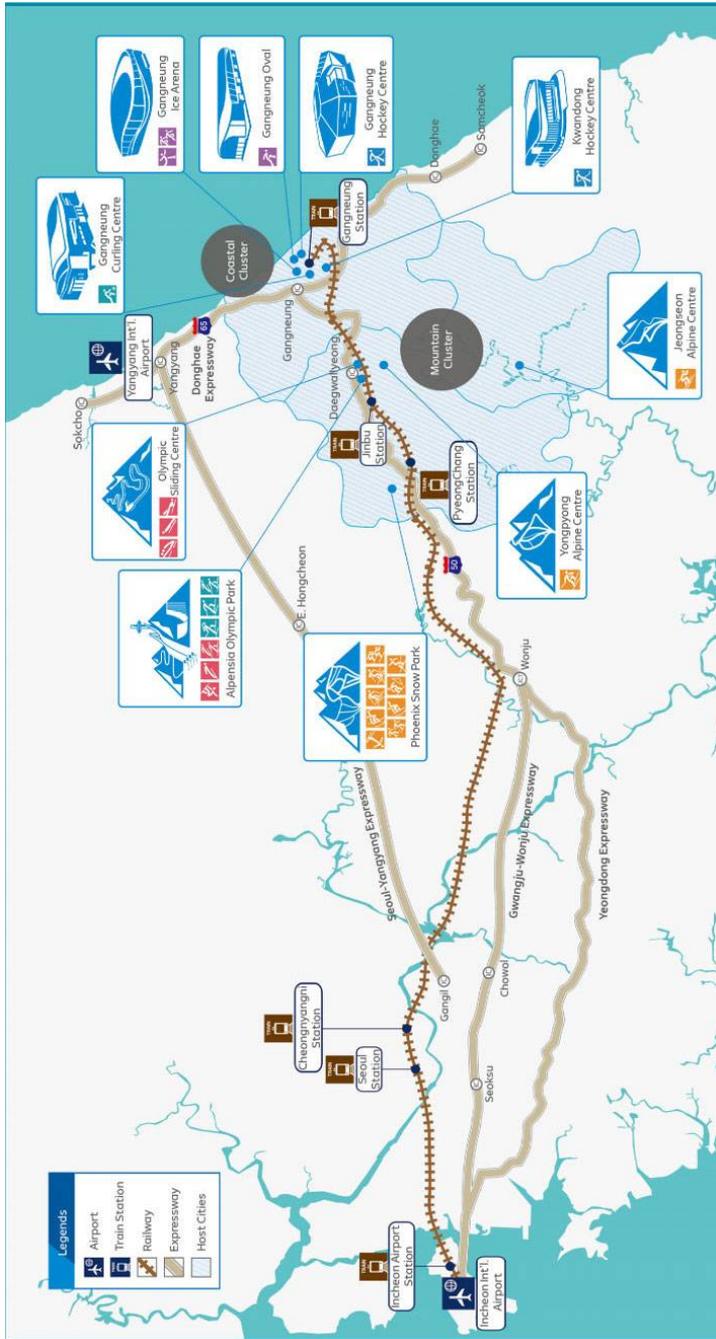


Csaba Burján

**SZABADSÍELÉS**



# VENUES



## **HUNGARIAN-RELATED PROGRAMME OF THE WINTER OLYMPICS**

(Hungarian time)

### **Friday 9 February**

Opening ceremony 12.00-14.00

### **Saturday 10 February**

Short track 11.00-13.50, 1500 m men's final, 500 m qualifiers and 3000 m relay semi-final, women

### **Sunday 11 February**

Alpine skiing 03.00–05.10 downhill, men (Márton Kékesi)

Cross-country skiing 07.15-09.10 15 km + 15 km skiathlon, men (Ádám Kónya)

### **Monday 12 February**

Alpine skiing 02.15 03.55 05.45–07.25 giant slalom, women (Szonja Hozmann, Mariann Mimi Maróty)

### **Tuesday 13 February**

Alpine skiing 03.30–05.00 07.00–08.10 super combination, men (Márton Kékesi, Dalibor Samsal)

Cross-country skiing 09.30-10.45 12.00-14.00 sprint individual, men (Ádám Kónya)

Short track 11.00-13.30 500 m women's final, 1000 m qualifiers and 5000 m relay semi-finals, women

Speed skating 12.00-13.50 1500 m, men (Konrád Nagy)

### **Wednesday 14 February**

Alpine skiing 02.15-03.50 05.45–06.55 slalom, women (Szonja Hozmann, Mariann Mimi Maróty)

### **Thursday 15 February**

Alpine skiing 03.00–05.10 super-G, men (Márton Kékesi, Dalibor Samsal)

Cross-country skiing 08.30-09.15 10 km freestyle, women (Emőke Szőcs)

### **Friday 16 February**

Cross-country skiing 07.00-08.50 15 km freestyle, men (Ádám Kónya)

### **Saturday 17 February**

Short track 11.00-13.55 1500 m final, women, 1000 m final, men

### **Sunday 18 February**

Alpine skiing 02.15–04.15 05.45–07.25 giant slalom, men (Márton Kékesi, Dalibor Samsal)

### **Monday 19 February**

Freestyle skiing 02.00-03.25 qualifiers (Elizabeth Swaney)

### **Tuesday 20 February**

Freestyle skiing 02.00-03.55 final (Elizabeth Swaney)

Short track 11.00-13.00 1000 m qualifiers, women, 500 m qualifiers, men, 3000 m relay, women

### **Wednesday 21 February**

Figure skating 02.00-06.30 individual short programme, women (Ivett Tóth)

### **Thursday 22 February**

Alpine skiing 02.15–03.30 05.45–07.25 slalom, men (Márton Kékesi, Dalibor Samsal)

Short track 11.00-13.45 500 m men, 1000 m women, 5000 m relay, men

### **Friday 23 February**

Figure skating 02.00-06.15 individual free programme, women (Ivett Tóth)

Speed skating 11.00-12.35 1000 m, men (Konrád Nagy)

### **Saturday 24 February**

Alpine skiing 03.00-04.55 Team (Hungary)

### **Sunday 25 February**

Closing ceremony 12.00-14.00