

OLYMPIC NEWS

Volume 3 Issue 1 – Alpine Skiing

ALPINE SKIING IS A POPULAR EVENT AT WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Alpine skiing is an exciting and popular Winter Olympic sport. Athletes participating in the alpine skiing events at the Winter Olympic Games are not afraid of traveling as fast as they can down a ski run. They try to build up as much speed as possible while skiing down the runs. Athletes want to ski down the runs in the shortest amount of time in order to win gold. At the start of the run, there is a thin fiberglass wand that runs across the knees of the athlete. Once the athlete pushes across the wand, the clock starts timing the length of the athlete's run.



ALPINE COMBINED IS FIRST MEDAL EVENT IN ALPINE SKIING AT 1936 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Alpine skiing was first introduced as a demonstration sport in 1924 at the Winter Olympic Games in Chamonix, France. It did not become a medal

sport until 1936 at the Winter Olympic Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Men's and women's alpine skiing was introduced with the alpine combined event. In 1948, at the Winter Olympic Games in St. Moritz, Switzerland, the downhill and slalom events became a part of the alpine skiing program. The giant slalom event was added at the 1952 Winter Olympic Games in Oslo, Norway. The super giant slalom event did not become a part of the Winter Olympic Games until 1988 when the games were held in Calgary, Canada.

SPEED AND CONTROL REQUIRED TO WIN GOLD IN ALPINE SKIING EVENTS

There are five events for men and five events for women in alpine skiing at the Winter Olympic Games. The events for both men and women include the downhill event, the slalom, the giant slalom, the super giant slalom, and the alpine combined. Both men and women follow the same rules for each event but they ski down different courses.

The downhill event involves speed. Athletes only have one chance to complete a run. The athlete with the fastest time is the winner. The course for the downhill event is the longest course of all the alpine skiing events. Athletes reach the fastest speeds in this event. The downhill course is marked with gates and

ALPINE SKIING

Name: _____

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

- 1. Why do athletes try to build up speed going down the runs in the alpine events?**

- 2. What was the last alpine skiing event to be added to the Winter Olympic Games program? What year was this event added?**

- 3. How are the slalom event and the giant slalom event similar? How are they different?**

- 4. What event is known as the 'Super-G'?**

- 5. Do you think 'gate bashing' should be allowed at the Winter Olympic Games? Give three reasons to support your answer.**

SPEED SKATING VOCABULARY MATCH

Name: _____

WORDS	MEANINGS
1. explosive _____	a. the power to last
2. medal _____	b. accountable
3. endurance _____	c. burst forth quickly
4. responsible _____	d. strength
5. races _____	e. a piece of metal with an image stamped on it
6. trials _____	f. contests of speed
7. energy _____	g. the back portion of the track
8. straightaways _____	h. preliminary races
9. backstretch _____	i. when two things hit together
10. collision _____	j. straight portions of the track