

Olympic Games

Countdown to the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games

One year from now, Salt Lake City will host the world's finest athletes with a disability as they compete in the VIII Paralympic Winter Games. On 7 March 2002, the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games of 2002 (SLOC) will welcome the world for the second time as the cauldron is lit in Rice Eccles Olympic Stadium.

SLOC expects that Paralympic teams from 40 nations will compete in the Salt Lake Paralympic Games. The 2002 Paralympic Winter Games are noteworthy for the fact that they will continue the spirit of competition and camaraderie of the Olympic Winter Games. SLOC is the first organizing committee to integrate preparations at all levels for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This concerted effort will insure that both events leave a lasting legacy on the history of the Winter Games.

The Paralympic Village, located on the



University of Utah campus will be the hub of residential life for the 1,100 visiting Paralympians, coaches and team officials from 1 March until 19 March 2002. In addition to new housing units, the 70-acre Paralympic Village will offer its residents a full host of goods and services, including 24-hour dining, entertainment and recreation activities, world wide web centre, packaging and mailing services, dry cleaning, a bank, post office, store and newsstand, salon, coffeehouse, photo shop and florist. Most bedrooms are approximately 160

square feet in size and one-third are wheelchair accessible. All bedrooms are equipped with quality furnishings, decorated with artwork crafted by Utah schoolchildren, and provided with daily housekeeping services. The heart and soul of the Team 2002 workforce - the volunteers - have been signing up in droves, demonstrating an overwhelming support of the Games and the athletes who embody the Paralympic ideals and spirit. The 2002 Paralympic Winter Games will require the assistance of approximately 6,000 volunteers.

Alongside the elite athletic competition of the Paralympic Games, is the Cultural Olympiad, which includes more than 60 performances and major exhibitions. Under the direction of Xavier Gonzalez, SLOC's managing director of Paralympics, the VIII Paralympic Winter Games will be a memorable event not only for the athletic triumph and competition, but for the spirit of human achievement and celebration of the mountain environment.

Olympic Quiz *

The IOC and its nations

Questions

1. How many nations currently have NOCs recognized by the IOC?

2. Which organization has more member nations/NOCs - the IOC or the United Nations?

3. Which nations have NOCs that are members of the IOC but not of the United Nations?

4. Which nations are members of the United Nations but do not have a NOC recognized by the IOC?

5. How many independent nations in the world are not members of the IOC? What are those nations?

6. The IOC uses three-letter abbreviations to help identify their member NOCs, but some of these have changed with time. Name five that have changed.

7. Name five nations that once had IOC-recognized NOCs but are no longer recognized.

8. Which nation that does not have an NOC recognized by the IOC, is affiliated with the most International sport Federations?

9. Which of the following nations, which have since changed their names, competed in the Olympic Games under these names: British Honduras, Ceylon, and the Gold Coast?

10. The following nations have since changed their names and have now competed in the Olympic Games. Did any of them compete in the Olympics under these names: Belgian Congo, British Guiana, and Serbia?

*Compiled by Bill Mallon, president of the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH).