



ALPINE SKIING

The International Ski Federation (FIS) was founded on 2 February 1924 during the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix. Today 101 National Ski Associations comprise the membership of the FIS, which manages alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, ski jumping, nordic combined, freestyle skiing and snowboard.



Origin

While Norway is regarded as the cradle of skiing itself, the origins of competitive Alpine Skiing can be found in the Alps of Central Europe, where the modern Alpine Skiing technique began to develop at the beginning of the 20th century. The first international competitions were started by Britain's Sir Arnold Lunn in the late 1920s, in 1931 the first World Championship took place in Mürren (Switzerland). Since then, this sport recorded growing popularity all over the world, but especially in Central Europe, Scandi-

navia, Northern America and Australia. In 1967, the FIS World Cup - a series of continuous competition circuits during the Fall and Winter season - was started and soon became the role model for similar competition formats in other sports.

At the Olympic Games

Alpine skiing was introduced in the programme of the IV Olympic Winter Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1936 with a combined competition for men and women (downhill and slalom). Since then, this sport is the highlight of the Olympic Games. Since 1948, medals have been awarded for single disciplines (slalom, downhill), in 1952 in Oslo the giant slalom added to the programme while in 1988 in Calgary the super giant slalom (Super-G) and the combined event (with special combined races in downhill and slalom) were also added to the schedule.

Salt Lake City Olympic venues

The Alpine events will be held at three venues: Snowbasin, Park City and Deer Valley. The downhill, super-G and combined events will take place at the Snowbasin ski area, located in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, about 53 kilometres (33 miles) northeast of Salt Lake City, with a capacity of 22,500 spectators. For men's downhill, the course has an 883 m (2,987 ft) vertical drop (800 m [2,625 ft] for women) and the starting pitch has a 74% grade (58% for women). In the super-G, skiers will scream down 2,153 vertical feet (650 m) (and 1,969 ft i.e. 600 m for women) and turn through 35 to 55 gates (30 to 50 for women). Park City Mountain resort, located about 54 km (34 miles) east of Salt Lake City, will host the giant slalom. Almost 16,500 spectators could watch the performances of giant slalom racers on a course with steeper vertical drop of 380 m (1,247 ft). The slalom events will be held at the Deer Valley resort, about 58 km (36 miles) east of Salt Lake City. The course has a 214 m (702 ft) vertical drop, slalom racers will turn through 45 to 65 gates, in front of 13,300 spectators.



Snowbasin ski station



*Gian Franco Kasper,
President*



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