

SOCHI 2014



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BOBSLEIGH'S HISTORY

□ Bobsleigh or bobsled is a winter sport in which teams of two or four make timed runs down narrow, twisting, banked, iced tracks in a gravity-powered sled. The timed runs are combined to calculate the final score.

□ The various types of sleds came several years before the first tracks were built in St. Moritz, Switzerland where the original bobsleds were adapted. The sport of bobsleigh didn't begin until the late 19th century when the Swiss attached two sleds together and added a steering mechanism to make a toboggan. The world's first bobsleigh club was founded in St Moritz, Switzerland in 1897.



RULES AND PROGRAMM

- Individual runs down the course begin from a standing start, with the crew pushing the sled for up to 50 metres before boarding; though the pilot does not steer, grooves in the ice make steering unnecessary until the sled leaves the starting area.

- Start shoes are made of synthetic material, have spikes on the soles for traction during the start push.

- In the competitions each team makes four runs down, and the winner is a team which time is minimal after four attempts.



MODERN TRACKS AND SLEIGHS

Modern tracks are made of concrete, coated with ice. They are required to have at least one straight section and one labyrinth (three turns in quick succession without a straight section). Ideally, a modern track should be 1,200 to 1,300 meters long and have at least fifteen curves. Speeds may exceed 120 kilometers per hour.

Modern day sleighs combine light metals, steel runners, and an aerodynamic composite body. Competition sleighs must be a maximum of 3.80 meters long (4-crew) or 2.70 meters (2-crew). The runners on both are set at 0.67 meters gauge. Now, the maximum weight, including crew, is 630 kilograms (4-man) or 390 kilograms (2-man). The bobsleighs themselves are designed to be as light as possible to allow dynamic positioning of mass through the turns of the bobsleigh course.



RUSSIAN SPORTSMEN ALEXANDER ZUBKOV AND ALEXEY VOEVODA BROKE THE RECORD ON THE TRACK IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- Russian sportsmen Alexander Zubkov and Alexey Voevoda won the first place in the XXII Olympic Games in Sochi. Our team broke the record on the track in the Olympic Games.



SOME MORE MEDALS

- Our sportsmen Alexander Zubkov and Alexey Voevoda, Alexey Negodaylo, Dmitry Trunenkov won the first place in the XXII Olympic Games in Sochie in 4-men sleigh.

