

PARALYMPIC WINTER GAME HISTORY

In 1948, Sir Ludwig Guttmen organized a sports competition involving World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries in Stoke Mandeville, England. Four years later competitors from Netherlands joined together and formed an international competition. The 1960 Olympics in Rome was where the Paralympic Winter Games were born.

TODAY

The Paralympics is an elite sporting event for athletes with six disability groups that focuses on athletic achievements rather than their disability.

In the Rome Winter Games of 1960 there were 600 athletes from 23 countries. For the 2004 Athens Games there were 3806 athletes from 136 countries.

FUTURE

From the 2012 Olympic Games and beyond, the Olympics and the Paralympics will have the same host city.

2010 Paralympic Winter Games—
Vancouver, Canada

2014 Paralympic Winter Games—
Sochi, Russia



TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets go on sale **May 6, 2009 @**
vancouver2010.com

VANCOUVER



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X Paralympic Winter Games 2010

March 12 to 21, 2010



Vancouver 2010
PARALYMPIC GAMES
JEUX PARALYMPIQUES



Alpine Skiing– Entered into the Paralympic Winter Games in 1976 and the Mono-ski was added in the 1998 Games. In alpine skiing athletes are classified as standing, sitting or visually impaired and compete against other athletes with similar disabilities.



There are several different events involved with alpine skiing. The events are: Downhill, Super– G, Giant slalom, Slalom, and Super Combined.

Competing at Whistler Creekside

Biathlon– Entered into the Paralympic Winter games in 1988 but drastically changed in the 2002 Games. The athletes are again categorized into their similar disabilities and compete according so. The biathlon combines cross-country skiing with rifle shooting. The shooting is always done in the prone position.

In short distance the skiers race a 2.5 kilometer loop three times, stopping twice at the shooting range. They take five shots at a metal target 10 meters away. The target has five plates on it and if the competitor misses a shot they must ski a 150 m penalty loop for each miss. Visually impaired skiers use acoustic systems.

In long– distance competitors ski the loop five times and stop four times at the shooting range. If a person misses, for every miss a minute is added to their overall time.

Competing at Whistler Paralympic Park



Cross– Country Skiing– Introduced to the Paralympics in 1976. The skiers are classified differently by their disabilities. Visually impaired use able bodied equipment but ski with a guide and sit-skiers have no use of their legs and use special made sit-skis.

Racers use two basic techniques: classical, where the skies move parallel to each other through the machine made tracks, and free technique, where skiers push off with the edge of their skies. The



skiers compete in men’s and women’s individual events over short, middle, and long distances. The International Paralympic

Committee uses the Nordic Percentage System in order to equalize the disability time handicap. The percentage is added to the final time and the lowest calculated time is the winner.

Competing at Whistler Paralympic Park

Ice Sledge Hockey– Debuted in the 1994 Paralympic Games. The game follows the International Ice Hockey Federation Rules with a few modifications for disabilities.

Players sit on aluminum or steel sledges that sit on two blades. They hold two double-ended sticks, one in each hand. On one end of one stick is a sharp pick that players use to assist them in the sledge, the other has a curved blade to pass and shoot the puck.

There are eight teams that compete in a round-robin tournament and the top seeded teams advance. The object is for one team to get the puck past the other team’s goaltender and into the goal. There are three 15-minute periods.



Competing at UBC Thunderbird Arena

Wheelchair Curling– The newest of the games, wheelchair curling was introduced in the 2006 Games. There is a single tournament with teams of both male and female. Two teams play against each other, taking turns pushing 19.1 kilometer stones down a sheet of ice towards a series of circles. The object is to get the stones as close to the circles as possible.

There are eight ends (like innings in baseball) in each game. During each end, four people “throw” two stones, which totals 16 at the end of the game. Each players wheelchair must be stationary when throwing. The players can use their hands or an extender cue to push the stones. The team with the most points– stones closer to the center of the circles– at the end of the eight periods wins.

Competing at Hillcrest/Nat Bailey Stadium

