

SKELETON

International Federation: Fédération Internationale de Bobsleigh et de Tobogganing (FIBT)

Countries Affiliated: 64 (November 2013)

Year of Formation: 1923

First Year of Olympic Appearance: 1928

Olympic History: Tobogganing is one of the oldest winter sports. Descriptions of it in the 16th century are found in literature. As a racing sport, it can be traced to the mid-19th century when British tourists starting sledding on the snowbound roads of the Alps. The original form of the sport was the skeleton sleds that were used on the Cresta Run at St. Moritz.

Skeleton sled racing owes its entire early history to St. Moritz and the famed Cresta Run. The sport developed in that Swiss resort town as a plaything for the rich. It was written by E. F. Benson in 1913, "There is one Mecca, there is one St. Peter's, there is one Cresta. As is Mecca to the Mohammedan, as is St. Peter's to the Catholic, so is the Cresta Run at St. Moritz to the tobogganer."

British and American vacationers built the first toboggan run near St. Moritz, on the Klosters Road in nearby Davos, as early as 1882. In 1884, Major W. H. Bulpetts built a similar track down the Cresta Valley at St. Moritz. The first toboggan Grand National took place there in 1885, attracting 20 contestants. All sliders rode at that time in a sitting position. The prone, head-first position of skeleton racing was introduced about ten years later. The St. Moritz Tobogganing Club was founded in 1887, and Bulpetts developed the modern model of a skeleton sled in 1902.

For many years the most important races in skeleton, all held at the Cresta Run, were the Grand National and Curzon Cup. Twice the sport was contested in the Olympics, in 1928 and 1948, both times when the Winter Games were contested at St. Moritz. World Championships were first held in 1982 and a World Cup circuit for men and women was introduced in 1986.

At the IOC Executive Board Meeting in Athens on 2 October 1999, skeleton was given approval to return to the Olympic program for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, and it has remained on the Program since.

Skeleton is governed world-wide by the bobsled federation, the Fédération Internationale de Bobsleigh et de Tobogganing (FIBT), not the luge federation, which might seem more appropriate. As of November 2013, the FIBT has 64 affiliated member nations, all of which are recognized by the IOC. This makes it the third smallest International Federation, after curling and luge, in terms of affiliated national federations.

The following nations are current members of the FIBT: American Samoa, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bermuda, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United States, US Virgin Islands, and Venezuela.

Skeleton Olympic Program

Sport	Class	1928	1932	1936	1948	1952-1998	2002	2006	2010	2014	Games	Début
Skeleton	M	x			x		x	x	x	x	6	1928
Skeleton	F						x	x	x	x	4	2002
Totals	M	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	6	
Totals	F	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	4	
Totals	All	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	10	

Skeleton Competitors by Nation

NOC	Overall	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G	Men	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G	Wom	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G
Argentina	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Austria	7	6	1	0	0	0	0	7	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bermuda	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	10	5	4	1	0	0	0	6	4	1	1	0	0	0	4	1	3	0	0	0	0

Croatia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOC	Overall	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G	Men	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G	Wom	1G	2G	3G	4G	5G	6G
Czech Republic	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	11	8	3	0	0	0	0	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	5	3	2	0	0	0	0
Great Britain	10	7	2	1	0	0	0	7	5	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Greece	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	8	7	1	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Japan	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Korea (South)	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvia	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Norway	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Poland	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Romania	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	11	9	1	1	0	0	0	9	8	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
United States	16	12	4	0	0	0	0	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	119	89	26	4	0	0	0	85	67	15	3	0	0	0	34	22	11	1	0	0	0

Overall: 28 Geopolitical entities (GPEs), 28 NOCs; Men: 26 GPEs, 26 NOCs; Women: 14 GPEs, 14 NOCs.

Most Medals

- 2 John Heaton (USA)
- 2 Gregor Stähli (SUI)

Most Appearances, Men

- 3 Jeff Pain (CAN-SKE; 2002/2006/2010)
- 3 Kazuhiro Koshi (JPN-SKE; 2002/2006/2010)
- 3 Kristan Bromley (GBR-SKE; 2002/2006/2010)
- 2 15 athletes tied with 2.

Most Appearances, Women

- 3 Maya Pedersen (SUI-SKE; 2002/2006/2010)
- 2 Diana Sartor (GER-SKE; 2002/2006)
- 2 Lindsay Alcock (CAN-SKE; 2002/2006)
- 2 Eiko Nakayama (JPN-SKE; 2002/2006)
- 2 Michelle Kelly (CAN-SKE; 2002/2010)
- 2 Anja Huber (GER-SKE; 2006/2010)
- 2 Desirée Bjerke (NOR-SKE; 2006/2010)
- 2 Mellisa Hollingsworth-Richards (CAN-SKE; 2006/2010)
- 2 Shelley Rudman (GBR-SKE; 2006/2010)
- 2 Katie Uhlaender (USA-SKE; 2006/2010)
- 2 Costanza Zanoletti (ITA-SKE; 2006/2010)
- 2 Svetlana Trunova (RUS-SKE; 2006/2010)

Youngest Competitor, Men

- 19-160 Jack Heaton (USA-1928, *9 September 1908)
- 19-209 William Martin (USA-1948, *8 July 1928)
- 20-062 Sebastian Haupt (GER-2006, *17 December 1985)
- 20-233 Tomass Dukurs (LAT-2002, *2 July 1981)
- 20-304 Aleksandr Tretyakov (RUS-2006, *19 April 1985)
- 21-009 Frank Kleber (GER-2002, *11 February 1981)
- 21-202 Frank Rommel (GER-2006, *30 July 1984)
- 21-323 Martins Dukurs (LAT-2006, *31 March 1984)
- 23-080 Sandro Stielicke (GER-2010, *30 November 1986)
- 23-110 Masaru Inada (JPN-2002, *2 November 1978)

Youngest Medalist, Men

- 19-160 Jack Heaton (USA-1928, *9 September 1908)

23-306 Jennison Heaton (USA-1928, *16 April 1904)
24-306 Aleksandr Tretyakov (RUS-2010, *19 April 1985)
25-325 Martins Dukurs (LAT-2010, *31 March 1984)
25-326 Nino Bibbia (ITA-1948, *15 March 1922)

Youngest Gold Medalist, Men

23-306 Jennison Heaton (USA-1928, *16 April 1904)
25-326 Nino Bibbia (ITA-1948, *15 March 1922)
30-290 Jon Montgomery (CAN-2010, *6 May 1979)

Oldest Competitor, Men

53-296 James Coates (GBR-1948, *13 April 1894)
51-250 Mac MacCarthy (USA-1948, *28 May 1896)
49-278 William Gayraud-Hirigoyen (FRA-1948, *1 May 1898)
47-328 Dialma Baselgia (SUI-1948, *11 March 1900)
47-248 Richard Bott (GBR-1948, *30 May 1900)
45-057 Kazuhiro Koshi (JPN-2010, *23 December 1964)
44-048 Alessandro Del Torso (ITA-1928, *31 December 1883)
41-331 Michael Voudouris (GRE-2002, *26 March 1960)
41-287 Patrick Antaki (LIB-2006, *6 May 1964)
41-213 John Crammond (GBR-1948, *5 July 1906)

Oldest Medalist, Men

41-214 John Crammond (GBR-1948, *5 July 1906)
39-190 Duff Gibson (CAN-2006, *11 August 1966)
39-147 Jack Heaton (USA-1948, *9 September 1908)
37-354 Gregor Stähli (SUI-2006, *28 February 1968)
35-065 Jeff Pain (CAN-2006, *14 December 1970)

Oldest Gold Medalist, Men

39-190 Duff Gibson (CAN-2006, *11 August 1966)
33-255 Jim Shea, Jr. (USA-2002, *10 June 1968)
30-290 Jon Montgomery (CAN-2010, *6 May 1979)

Youngest Competitor, Women

18-313 Marinela Mazilu (ROU-2010, *12 April 1991)
19-345 Michelle Steele (AUS-2006, *8 March 1986)
21-194 Tristan Gale (USA-2002, *10 August 1980)
21-214 Katie Uhlaender (USA-2006, *17 July 1984)
21-302 Yelena Yudina (RUS-2010, *22 April 1988)
22-255 Svetlana Trunova (RUS-2006, *7 June 1983)
22-273 Anja Huber (GER-2006, *20 May 1983)
24-082 Emma Lincoln-Smith (AUS-2010, *28 November 1985)
24-109 Yekaterina Mironova (RUS-2002, *3 November 1977)
24-137 Lindsay Alcock (CAN-2002, *6 October 1977)

Youngest Medalist, Women

21-194 Tristan Gale (USA-2002, *10 August 1980)
24-330 Shelley Rudman (GBR-2006, *23 March 1981)
25-135 Mellisa Hollingsworth-Richards (CAN-2006, *4 October 1980)
26-276 Anja Huber (GER-2010, *20 May 1983)
27-143 Amy Williams (GBR-2010, *29 September 1982)

Youngest Gold Medalist, Women

21-194 Tristan Gale (USA-2002, *10 August 1980)
27-143 Amy Williams (GBR-2010, *29 September 1982)

33-081 Maya Pedersen (SUI-2006, *27 November 1972)

Oldest Competitor, Women

38-334 Desirée Bjerke (NOR-2010, *22 March 1971)
37-083 Maya Pedersen (SUI-2010, *27 November 1972)
35-147 Tionette Stoddard (NZL-2010, *24 September 1974)
35-141 Eiko Nakayama (JPN-2006, *28 September 1970)
35-103 Michelle Kelly (CAN-2010, *7 November 1974)
35-085 Diana Sartor (GER-2006, *23 November 1970)
34-332 Desirée Bjerke (NOR-2006, *22 March 1971)
33-253 Lea Ann Parsley (USA-2002, *12 June 1968)
33-081 Maya Pedersen (SUI-2006, *27 November 1972)
32-178 Amy Gough (CAN-2010, *24 August 1977)

Oldest Medalist, Women

33-253 Lea Ann Parsley (USA-2002, *12 June 1968)
33-081 Maya Pedersen (SUI-2006, *27 November 1972)
32-062 Kerstin Szymkowiak (GER-2010, *19 December 1977)
28-054 Alex Coomber (GBR-2002, *28 December 1973)
27-143 Amy Williams (GBR-2010, *29 September 1982)

Oldest Gold Medalist, Women

33-081 Maya Pedersen (SUI-2006, *27 November 1972)
27-143 Amy Williams (GBR-2010, *29 September 1982)
21-194 Tristan Gale (USA-2002, *10 August 1980)

Olympic Skeleton Track Specifications

Men

Year	Curves	Length	Start Altitude	Vertical Drop	Gradient
1928	15	1,231 m	?	157 m	12.8%
1948	15	1,231 m	?	157 m	12.8%
2002	15	1,335 m	2,233 m	104 m	7.8%
2006	19	1,435 m	1,683 m	114 m	7.9%
2010	15	1,450 m	928 m	148 m	10.2%
2014	18	1,475 m	844 m	132 m	9.3%

Women

Year	Curves	Length	Start Altitude	Vertical Drop	Gradient
2002	15	1,335 m	2,233 m	104 m	7.8%
2006	19	1,435 m	1,683 m	114 m	7.9%
2010	15	1,450 m	928 m	148 m	10.2%
2014	18	1,475 m	844 m	132 m	9.3%

Medals Won by Countries

RankUS	RankEuro	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Totals
1	1	United States	3	3	-	6
2	3	Great Britain	1	1	3	5
3	2	Canada	2	1	1	4
4	4	Switzerland	1	-	2	3
5	6	Germany	-	1	1	2
6	5	Italy	1	-	-	1
=7	=7	Austria	-	1	-	1
=7	=7	Latvia	-	1	-	1
9	9	Russia	-	-	1	1
Totals (8 events)			8	8	8	24

Medals Won by Countries, Men

RankUS	RankEuro	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Totals
1	1	United States	2	2	-	4
2	2	Canada	2	1	-	3
=3	=6	Great Britain	-	-	2	2
=3	=6	Switzerland	-	-	2	2
5	3	Italy	1	-	-	1
=6	=4	Austria	-	1	-	1
=6	=4	Latvia	-	1	-	1
8	8	Russia	-	-	1	1
Totals (5 events)			5	5	5	15

Medals Won by Countries, Women

RankUS	RankEuro	NOC	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Totals
1	1	Great Britain	1	1	1	3
2	2	United States	1	1	-	2
3	4	Germany	-	1	1	2
4	3	Switzerland	1	-	-	1
5	5	Canada	-	-	1	1
Totals (3 events)			3	3	3	9

SKELETON – RESULTS

Men

Skeleton

Most Victories

1	Jennison Heaton [USA]
1	Nino Bibbia [ITA]
1	Jim Shea [USA]
1	Duff Gibson [CAN]
1	Jon Montgomery [CAN]

Most Medals

2	John Heaton [USA/020]
2	Gregor Stähli [SUI/002]

Closest Finish in Event

0.07 Jon Montgomery (CAN-2010)

Biggest Margin of Victory in Event

1.4 Nino Bibbia (ITA-1948)

Women

Skeleton

Most Victories

1	Tristan Gale [USA]
1	Maya Pedersen [SUI]
1	Amy Williams [GBR]

Most Medals

1 Nine athletes tied with one.

Closest Finish in Event

0.10 Tristan Gale (USA-2002)

Biggest Margin of Victory in Event

0.56

Amy Williams (GBR-2010)