

NEWS RELEASE

Women Ski Jumping USA
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U.S. Contact: Whitney Childers, 801-503-6099
wchildersmedia@gmail.com

Canada Contact: Deborah Folka, APR, 604.517.1339 office
deborah@dlfcommunications.com
604.312.8384 mobile

IOC Executive Board looks favorably to adding women's ski jumping event for 2014 Sochi Games

The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee is looking favorably at adding women's ski jumping to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, but said it needed more time to consider the outcome of the sport's World Championships in Oslo in February. The IOC's executive board is meeting in Acapulco, Mexico this week.

IOC President Jacques Rogge will make the final decision by the end of April. The EB also said it is considering the inclusion of Ski Halfpipe, Ski Slopestyle, Snowboard Slopestyle, Biathlon Mixed Team Relay, Figure Skating Team Event and Luge Team Relay for the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi in 2014.

Women ski jumpers are looking forward to showing the world the strength and depth of the women's field at the Oslo World Championships in February and are even more optimistic about their inclusion in the Sochi 2014 Games.

"We consider this a win, are looking forward to Oslo, where we know we will show the world the strength and depth of the women's field," said Deedee Corradini, Women's Ski Jumping USA President.

The Executive Board didn't elaborate on the exact criteria that needed to be met at the World Championships in Oslo, but said they wanted to see "progress made" since the last Championships in 2009.

The International Ski Federation has recommended twice to the IOC to include women's ski jumping in Sochi; three World Championships will have taken place before 2014; and a new World Cup circuit starts in 2011/2012. Since 2006, when the IOC turned down a women's ski jumping event for 2010, at least three more countries have women ski jumpers competing at the elite level including Romania, Russia and China.

"I'm definitely not surprised about the delay. They are thinking about us positively and they didn't say no. At least they are waiting to decide on all the events and not singling us out," said U.S. jumper Lindsey Van, reigning World Champion. "Nothing changes for me. I'm still going to ski jump because I love it and I'm going to keep moving forward."

Women's Ski Jumping USA
P.O. Box 980218 • Park City, Utah 84098
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