

The Paralympic Games

The Paralympic Games will involve more than 1,100 of the world's best athletes with disabilities and officials from as many as 40 countries. Venues throughout the Wasatch Front will host competitions in 25 medal events. The goals of the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games are to provide an environment of excellence and to make each venue easily accessible for athletes, officials, and spectators.

Alpine Skiing



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Speed, strength, power...athletes in all disability classes combine these elements, pushing their limits, to speed down mountains and through slalom courses. Apparent disabilities of the skiers do not get in the way of breathtaking performances.

Competition consists of downhill, super-G, giant slalom and slalom. Athletes are classified according to three disability categories: visually impaired, sitting (e.g. spinal cord, double amputee) and standing (e.g. amputee, cerebral

palsy). Visually impaired athletes use sighted guides who lead them through the course. Standing competitors use a single ski, outriggers (poles with small skis on their tips), other orthopedic aids or ski without poles. Sitting competitors use a sit-ski (mono ski) with outriggers.

VENUE: Snowbasin Ski Area

EVENTS: Men's and Women's downhill, super-G, slalom, and giant slalom



Ice Sledge Hockey

The crash of sledges and poles can just barely be heard over the roar of the cheering crowds. Sledge hockey, the Paralympic version of ice hockey, is fast becoming one of the biggest attractions at the Paralympic Winter Games. It is fast-paced, highly physical, and played by athletes with a disability that prevents them from easily getting around on their feet.

This sport is similar to ice hockey, with Olympic-size rinks and regulation-size goals. As with ice hockey, each team has five players and a goalie on the ice. Two-blade sledges (sleds) which allows the puck to pass underneath, replaces skates. Athletes use two, 3-foot-long hockey sticks with picks on one end—similar to the jagged toe on figure skates—and blades at the



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other end. The pick helps propel the sled across the ice, the slightly curved blade helps handle the puck. Games consist of three 15-minute stop-time periods.

VENUE: E Center

EVENTS: Sledge hockey tournament

Nordic Skiing



Competition consists of biathlon and cross-country skiing. The biathlon combines cross-country skiing and shooting. Athletes ski three 2.5-km segments. Between each segment, they fire five shots at targets 10 meters away using air or laser guns mounted on stands. The competitor is penalized for each bullet missing the target with a one-minute increase in his or her overall time. A sound-system aids visually impaired athletes, indicating when to fire.

Cross-country competitors are divided into three categories: visually impaired, sitting and standing.

VENUE: Soldier Hollow

EVENTS: Men's and Women's biathlon, cross-country, and relay



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