

## Youth Olympic Games 2016 - "BANDY- BE A PART OF IT!"

It took 64 years from being a demo sport in Oslo 1952 to become a part of the Youth Olympic Games in 2016.

At the FIB Congress in Almaty 2012, The Norwegian Bandy Federation (NBF) got the mandate to lead the process to make bandy a part of the program in the Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer 2016. After more than four years of work and good cooperation between the Federation of International Bandy (FIB), NBF, Norwegian Confederation of Sport (NIF), Gjøvik Municipality and Lillehammer Youth Olympic Games Organizing Committee (LYOGOC), success was achieved and bandy became a part of the cultural sport program. The Olympic process has been initiated and led by the FIB/NBF Tor Audun Sørensen. Halvor Hanneborg in the NBF started working early with this project too. Head of the International Department of NIF, Magnus Sverdrup, has all the time been a great support and advisor. Contact with LYOGOC by director Tomas Holmestad has been very useful to this Olympic project.

Bandy arrangements during the Olympics took place at Gjøvik Stadium natural ice track with help from Gjøvik Bandyklubb, Gjøvik-Lyn and Gjøvik Municipality. In addition, the Norwegian national Youth 17 team boys, as well as five bandy girls from Høvik and two boys from Ullevål contributed as instructors and mentors for school activities.

Towards the Olympics it was installed an excellent lighting construction at the stadium, and changing rooms were also restored. The municipality bought new bandy goals, boards and an ice machine. In the wake of the Olympics, a local process for artificial ice at Gjøvik Stadium was initiated, as well as bandy activities for children after school (FFO) in cooperation with Gjøvik-Lyn/NBF. Further steps were taken to local elementary schools and clubs to be followed up next season.

**Saturday, February 13:** SHOW GAME Norway Youth17 boys - Sweden, 3 (2) - 8 (3)

Norwegian goals: Ola Vigdal 2, Timian Strømdahl Fossli 1.

Swedish goals: Joel Broberg 2, Samuel Heeger 1, Victor Hjelm 1, William Arvidsson 1, Anton Heinulf 1, William Adamsson 1, Linus Björklund 1.

Head referee: Haakon Toverud Andersen, Norway

Assistant referees: Sandar Raggan and Joakim Grothaug, both Norway

Supervisor: Carl Jansson, Norway

Spectators: 310

NIF First Vice President Kristin Kloster and Magnus Sverdrup attended the game. Nicolas Chamerois and Justine Humair from IOC inspected the arena conditions. From FIB attended First Vice President Stig Bertilsson and Secretary General Bo Nyman. From FIB/NBF attended Stein Pedersen and Knut Audun Sørensen. The media coverage was acceptable from the show game and the Olympic bandy program in Gjøvik Blad, Oppland Arbeiderblad, "Kyllingposten", Budstikka and Aftenposten.

**Sunday, February 14:** Gjøvik Municipality invited to Olympic reception at Gjøvik Gård. Bandy promoted their Olympic goals to IOC member Gerhard Heiberg, Olympic CEO Tomas Holmestad, NIF president Tom Tvedt, NIF Secretary General Inge Andersen and Mayor of Gjøvik Bjørn Iddberg, among others. From bandy attended Tor Audun Sørensen, Halvor Hanneborg, Knut Audun Sørensen and Johan Ditlev-Simonsen, - son of Olaf Ditlev-Simonsen who was then Head of the Olympics in Oslo in 1952.

**Monday, February 15:** Bandy School 1st-4th grade.

480 eager children, followed by 30 teachers from five schools in Gjøvik; Fredheim, Kopperud, Snertingdal, Gjøvik and Vindingstad, played bandy and skated on the re-renovated Gjøvik Stadion. Highly polished ice, blue sky and sun, wind and 5 degrees below zero – simply perfect!

**Wednesday, February 17:** School Tournament 5th-7th grade.

24 teams from five local schools participated. Vindingstad, Biristrand, Fredheim, Kopperud and Gjøvik.

All schools were allocated bandy sticks and balls.

IOC's sport director Kit McConnell with assistant Bram Schellekens and bandy president Erik Hansen, experienced more than 250 children from 5th to 7th grade playing bandy in Gjøvik Stadium with outstanding natural ice conditions. The Høvik girls and the elder men from Gjøvik Bandyklubb were skilled judges/mentors.

The total expenditure of the bandy events of the Youth Olympic Games in 2016 amounted to approximately USD 26.600,- of which FIB has covered approximately 75 percent and a sponsor around 15 percent.

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FIB was fully "recognized" by the IOC in 2004 and is currently working hard to become an Olympic sport. The new law (aug.2015) - "The Olympic Charter" - from the IOC suggests that "recognized" international federations (FIB) can participate with their sports in the Olympics. IOC accepts both bandy and rink bandy, but FIB's priority is bandy. Several obstacles must be surpassed, but the Olympic process is headed in the right direction.

Through the Youth Olympic Games and hence contact with Chinese delegates, it is expected a meeting between the FIB and org.kom. for "Beijing 2022» in the summer of 2016. The process for bandy in the Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne in 2020 has already started in the FIB, where experiences from the Norwegian side has been central to the further work. The statistical analysis "Benchmarking as a Cutter Bolt into The Olympic Wall", prepared by Knut A. Sorensen in FIB's Olympic Committee, is emerging as a foundation wall in the Olympic process. In other respects translated from FIB-language English to Russian, Chinese (Mandarin) and German. The analysis has been published on the website of the International Bandy Federation. It has further been the subject of TV reports in both Norwegian and Russian national television and reproduced in the Norwegian and international press. Among several of the Olympic criteria from the IOC, the analysis shows that bandy is the second in size compared to the other 14 Olympic winter sports.

The analysis was presented by the FIB for the IOC at a meeting with Sporting Director Kit McConnell and "Head of coordination" Jennifer Mann in Lausanne February 1, 2016.

**FIB's goals are participation in the Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne in 2020, in Beijing 2022 as "additional sport" and full-fledged Olympic sport in the Winter Olympics in 2026.**

(W.) Tor Audun Sørensen

FIB / NBF



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