

Sports of The Winter Olympics: Snowboarding

The Sport

Packet #10

Halfpipe

Competitors take off from the halfpipe's rim, performing challenging aerial maneuvers, including flips, twists and spins. They complete each trick by traveling back and forth between the halfpipe's walls. Athletes complete two runs.

The event takes place in a semi-circular ditch, or half of a pipe, dug into the surface of a hill. The halfpipe is typically 110 meters long with 3 to 4 meter deep vertical sides, each on an 85 degree rounded slope. The width from wall to wall is 13 meters to 15 meters.

The format for the men and women's event is the same.

Parallel Giant Slalom

Two competitors race simultaneously side by side down two courses. They take two runs, switching sides after the first one. The setting of the courses, the configuration of the ground and the preparation of the snow must be as identical as possible. The format is the same for the men and women's event.



The vertical drop of the course must be between 120 meters and 200 meters. The number of turns should be equal to 11 percent to 15 percent of the vertical drop in meters.

Athletes must navigate around gates, which are 20 meters to 25 meters apart.

A gate consists of two poles - one outside pole and one turning pole. Triangular banners are fastened between the poles so lower edges of the flag touch the snow. The banner is 110 cm tall on its long side and 25 cm tall on the short side; its base length is 130 cm. One course has red banners and the other blue. Competitors can choose their own line between the gates.

The parallel giant slalom replaced the giant slalom event contested at the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, which marked snowboarding's debut as a competitive sport at the Olympics.

RULES

HALFPIPE

Scoring

The scores from all judges are added together in each run to determine the total score, and the total score from the first and second runs are added together for the final score.

Judges use a 10-point system. They give scores of ones and tenths, from .1 to 10.

Five judges determine the score for each run. One judge is responsible for standard airs, one for rotations, one for amplitude and two for overall impression. Each judge gives a separate score for a total of 50 points. The judging is a system of checks and balances so no one individual has more weight or power, which means athletes must perform well in each category.

Standard airs are all maneuvers that are without rotation, including aerials with and without grabs, tricks on or near the lip of the halfpipe and handplants with less than 360 degrees rotation. Judges pay close attention to the variety, difficulty and execution of tricks.

Rotations are all maneuvers that involve rotations, including spins, flips, hybrids (combinations that include both horizontal and vertical rotations), and handplants and liptricks greater than 360 degrees rotation. Judges consider the variety, difficulty and execution of tricks.



Amplitude is the energy of the run as demonstrated by the height of the maneuvers. Judges consider the distance measured from the lip of the pipe to the competitor's center of mass.

Overall impression is the run's overall precision, including the execution of the run and the routine attempted. The overall impression judges evaluate the sequence of tricks, the amount of risk in the routine and how the rider uses the pipe. They can take falls into consideration and deduct up to 10 percent of the run.

Ties

The athlete with the highest overall impression score in a tied single run is declared the

winner. If the overall impression score is the same, then the individual scores for each judging category are compared. The rider with the greatest number of higher scores is declared the winner. If all of these components result in a tie, then the rider with the highest amplitude score is the winner.

PARALLEL GIANT SLALOM

Competitions consist of a qualifying and head-to-head portion. All riders complete one run in the qualifying round, and the top 16 men and women move on to the next portion. The winners keep advancing to the next round until they are eliminated or win a medal.



The competitor who wins both of the two runs advances. If both athletes win a run, the person with the fastest total time advances. If a tie occurs, another run is held.

Athletes may touch the gates, as long as their board clears the gate without going through it. If competitors miss a gate, they must go back and complete the gate, or they will be disqualified. Falling is not grounds for disqualification.

HISTORY

American Sherman Poppen created the first commercial snowboard around 1965. Poppen fixed two skis together for his daughter to use while surfing down a snow hill. The board did not have any kind of binding.

1970: Dimitrije Milovich, a surfer from the United States' East Coast, brings a key change to the sport. Milovich begins limited production of custom boards with iron edges.

1982: The first international snowboard race is held in Suicide Six, outside Woodstock, Vermont. The race consists of a steep icy kamikaze downhill run called “the face.”

1983: United States hosts the first World Championships.

1990: International Snowboarding Federation (ISF) is created as a ruling body for international competition.

1998: Snowboarding debuts at the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan. Athletes compete in the giant slalom and halfpipe events. Ross Rebagliati of Canada wins the men's giant slalom event, Gian Simmen of Switzerland captures the gold in men's halfpipe, Karine Ruby of France wins the women's giant slalom and Nicola Thost of Germany takes the gold in women's halfpipe.

TERMS

Air to Fakie: Any trick in the halfpipe where the snowboarder approaches the wall riding forwards, makes no rotation and lands riding backwards.

Alley Oop: Any maneuver in the halfpipe where an athlete rotates 180 or more degrees in an uphill direction – in other words, rotating backside on the frontside wall or rotating frontside on the backside wall.



Bevel: The degree of angle to which the edges of a snowboard are tuned. Snowboards used for racing and carving should have a greater bevel than a snowboard used in halfpipe.

Boned: Straightening one or both legs.

Caballerial (Cab): A halfpipe trick that begins fakie, spins 360 degrees and lands riding forward. Named after skateboarding expert Steve Caballero.

Chicken Salad Air: A maneuver in which the athlete's rear hand reaches through the legs and grabs the heel edge between the bindings while the front leg is boned. The wrist is rotated inward to complete the grab.

Corkscrew: A sideways rotation.

Detune: The process of dulling the edges of the snowboard. Athletes detune the edges around the nose and tail so they don't catch in the snow.

Double Grab: A maneuver in which competitor completes two tricks while in the air. An athlete goes off of a jump, grabs the board one way, grabs it in another way and lands.

Fakie: Riding backwards.

Halfpipe: A snow structure built for freestyle snowboarding. It consists of opposing radial transition walls of the same height and size. Snowboarders utilize the halfpipe to catch air and perform tricks by traveling back and forth from wall to wall while moving down the fall line.

Handplant (Backside): A 180-degree maneuver in which both of a competitor's hands, or the rear hand, may be planted on the lip of the wall with a backside rotation.



The 2002 Olympics

Glad simply to be alive, let alone at the pinnacle of his sport, liver transplant survivor Chris Klug put a whole new twist on the notion of an Olympic miracle.

Using duct tape to bind together a broken boot buckle for his final race, Klug persevered and won the bronze medal for the USA in parallel giant slalom snowboarding.

Philipp Schoch of Switzerland, the second-slowest rider in qualifying, won the gold, defeating Sweden's Richard Richardsson, who took silver.

Klug gave the United States its record 14th medal of the Winter Games, and pushed the story of his unbelievable comeback to a stunning crescendo.

"I thought I was going to die waiting," Klug said of the days before his liver donor was found 19 months ago.

"I was pretty scared," he said. "I wasn't thinking about snowboarding, or coming back and winning a bronze medal. I was just thinking about hoping to live, hanging out with my family and continuing with life as I know it."



In that sense, Klug's Olympic triumph was about more than sports. It was about the miracle of modern medicine, one family's generosity and the will to overcome adversity

Leisa Flood, the mother who made the choice to donate her 13-year-old son's organs in July 2000, was overwhelmed when she heard of Klug's victory.



“I’m so grateful we were given the opportunity to help him,” Flood said from her home in Idaho. “It makes me feel good. They both won.”

Of course, such an improbable comeback story deserves an improbable ending, and Klug served that up, too.

During his first of two bronze-medal races against Nicolas Huet of France, the buckle on Klug’s back boot snapped. He didn't have time to replace it between races, so he used some metal and duct tape to “jerry-rig the thing up.”

At the starting gate, he felt the looseness in the boot, and briefly wondered if he could make it down the hill.

Klug had been in tougher jams than this.

“I just said, ‘To heck with it,’” Klug said. “If this buckle decides whether I get third or fourth, then to heck with it. If this thing’s going to work out, it’s going to work out. If not, so be it. I just made the best of it.”

He won the race, won the bronze, and celebrated by bouncing his fist against his heart, then pointing over to his father, his girlfriend and the dozens of other overwhelmed friends and family who came to see him.

A few moments later, the 29-year-old scaled two retaining fences to share hugs with all his supporters. Tears flowed in some parts, but Klug just smiled, then headed back toward the finish line for the flower ceremony. Later, he gave the flowers to his girlfriend.

“I don’t even know what to say,” she said. “Everything he’s done is a miracle.”

Almost lost in the celebration was the American record Klug helped set. He won medal No. 14, breaking a record last set in 1998 in Nagano. Snowboarders accounted for five of those medals.

“That’s pretty cool,” Klug said. “I’m glad I could help.”



The only American woman in the competition, Lisa Kosglow, lost in the quarterfinals and finished eighth.

Isabelle Blanc of France upset countrywoman and defending Olympic champion Karine Ruby to win the women's gold medal. Lidia Trettel of Italy took the bronze.

Blanc, who takes music lessons and has been playing the guitar in the Olympic Village coffee shop, dedicated her victory to the late French Alpine star Regine Cavagnoud.

Cavagnoud died last October when she slammed into a German ski trainer during a practice run.

"She's done all her best, she left at the top, and nobody can take that away from her now," Blanc said.

Klug's saga began in 1993 when he was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis, a rare disorder that slowly eats away at the bile ducts' ability to function.

He didn't start feeling the real effects of the illness until early in 2000, when a sharp pain pierced his right side. Quickly, his health deteriorated.

He moved up the waiting list for donors, but was also well aware of the frightening statistics: An estimated 16 people in America die every day waiting for an organ transplant.



"I thought I might be one of those people," he said. "Being on the waiting list was one of the scariest things I'd ever been through."

The wait ended in July 2000 when Flood's son, Billy, was accidentally shot in the head by a neighbor.

"As I sat there in that room and the machines were sounding, I was watching him," Flood said. "It's a kind of pain you can't explain."

Klug has yet to meet the donor family, although he says he plans to soon.

He wants his story to send a message to the world, "to get families talking about organ donation," but said he never felt pressure to win to make his ordeal worthwhile.

“All I can do is relax, have fun, enjoy each turn, and do the best I can,” he said.

He came through with the bronze, and now America has its newest, and maybe greatest, Olympic comeback story.

“He’s on the podium for the U.S.,” said Klug’s father, Warren. “What could be more exciting?”

2002 Final Results

Women’s Halfpipe

Gold	USA	Kelly Clark
Silver	France	Doriane Vidal
Bronze	Switzerland	Fabienne Reuteler

Men’s Halfpipe

Gold	USA	Ross Posers
Silver	USA	Danny Kass
Bronze	USA	Jarret Thomas

Men’s Parallel Giant Slalom

Gold	Switzerland	Philipp Schoch
Silver	Sweden	Richard Richardsson
Bronze	USA	Chris Klug

Women’s Parallel Giant Slalom

Gold	France	Isabelle Blanc
Silver	France	Karine Ruby
Bronze	Italy	Lidia Trettel

2006 The Olympics at Torino

Snowboarding at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games was one of the most popular and exciting events.



Medal table

Men's Halfpipe

Rank	Country	Name	Run1	Run2	Total
1	USA	WHITE Shaun	46.8	26.6	46.8
2	USA	KASS Danny	20.8	44.0	44.0
3	Finland	KOSKI Markku	41.5	31.4	41.5

Women's Halfpipe

Rank	Country	Name	Run1	Run2	Total
1	USA	TETER Hannah	44.6	46.4	46.4
2	USA	BLEILER Gretchen	41.5	43.4	43.4
3	Norway	BUAAS Kjersti	40.9	42.0	42.0

Men's Snowboarding Cross

Rank	Country	Name
1	USA	WESCOTT Seth
2	Slovakia	ZIDEK Radoslav
3	France	DELERUE Paul-Henri

Women's Snowboarding Cross

Rank	Country	Name
1	Switzerland	FRIEDEN Tanja
2	USA	JACOBELLIS Lindsey
3	Canada	MALTAIS Dominique

Notes on the Halfpipe

Redheaded snowboarding superstar Shaun White punked the competition on the halfpipe beating out teammate Danny Kass to win the Olympic gold medal that so many expected him to get.

“I’m a little overwhelmed right now. I can’t explain it,” White said after a tearful celebration with his parents at the bottom of the hill.

It capped another dominating display in snowboarding for the Americans, who fell one bronze medal short of repeating their history-making sweep of 2002. A solid run by third-place finisher Markku Koski of Finland wrecked those hopes. Eighteen-year-old Mason Aguirre of the U.S. placed fourth.

Notes on the Women's Snowboard Cross

Alone in the clear, Lindsey Jacobellis could have practically crawled to the finish line and won.

After an Olympic-sized flub, she probably wishes she had.

Coasting to what should have been a runaway victory, the 20-year-old American grabbed her board on the second-to-last jump before the finish line. Inexplicably -- and some say inexcusably -- she fell.

“I was caught up in the moment,” Jacobellis said.

While she scrambled to her feet, Switzerland's Tanja Frieden caught up and sped past Jacobellis to become the first champion in the strange and wild sport of Olympic women's snowboard cross. Jacobellis, who is sometimes referred to by her parents as “Lucky Lindsey,” settled for silver.

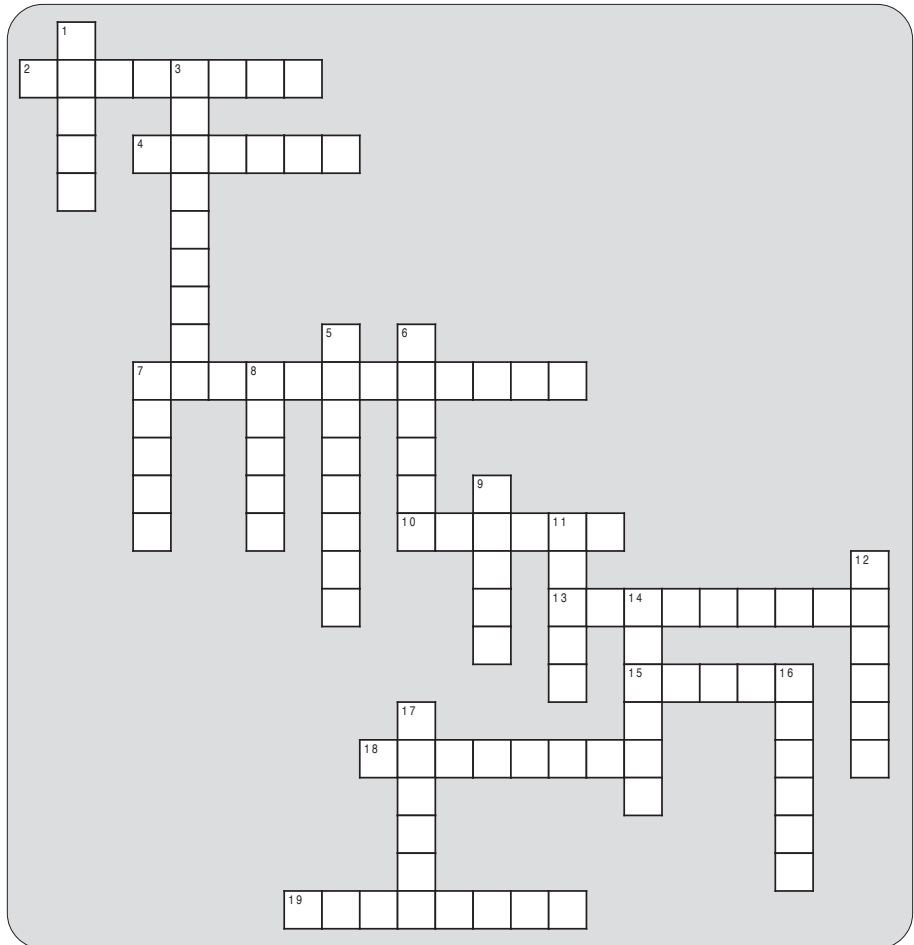


Packet #10

Cross Word

Name _____

Date _____



Across

- 2 A semi-circular ditch
- 4 Dulling the edges of the board
- 7 The "S" in ISF
- 10 Amplitude is the _____ of the run
- 13 One of the judges is responsible for _____
- 15 A gate consists of two of these
- 18 The race in 1982 that was one steep icy _____ downhill run called "the face"
- 19 He added iron edges to snowboards

Down

- 1 This country saw the first Olympic Snowboarding contest
- 3 Overall impression of the run
- 5 Standard airs are moves that are without this
- 6 Karin Ruby's country
- 7 These are an example of a rotation
- 8 The athletes complete their tricks traveling back and forth between them
- 9 The degree of angle to which the edges of the snowboard are tuned
- 11 Parallel _____ Slalom
- 12 Snowboard maneuvers above the ground
- 14 He created the first commercial snowboard
- 16 Winner of the first men's Olympic Gold in snowboarding
- 17 The Winter Games in 1998 was held here

Packet #10

Word Search

Name _____

Date _____



AERIAL
AMPLITUDE
BEVEL
DETUNE
DOWNHILL
ENERGY
FRANCE
GIANT
HALFPIPE
JAPAN
KAMIKAZE
MILOVICH

NAGANO
PARALLEL
POLES
POPPEN
RACE
ROTATION
SIMMEN
SLALOM
SNOWBOARDING
SPINS
WALLS
WINTER

Packet #10

Word Challenge

Name _____

Date _____

Word Scramble: Unscramble the following words:

ASPL:
LLWNIODH:
MRGNAYE:
TIAGN:
ETCIHSOGL:
LITYA:
EWLCRENA:
ELSEDEN:
RICDON:
RNOWYA:
INEP:
EAISLR:
LSOLMA:
OMTSHEOR:
DPEES:

Quote Falls: Find the quote in the puzzle below. Use the letters in the column directly above the boxes to fill in the appropriate letters. The first letter of the first word will either be an "F" or an "O" or a "P" or a "W." The second letter will be a "W" or an "O" or an "O" or an "I." Use all of the letters.

