

# The Whistler Sliding Centre



## Venue description

The Whistler Sliding Centre will host the bobsleigh, luge and skeleton competitions at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games and will also serve as a legacy for the enjoyment of local residents, visitors and high-performance athletes.

The venue is situated on Blackcomb Mountain, complementing the other adventure-oriented activities the area offers. Post-Games, the facility will operate as a centre for high-performance development, youth and recreational club programming, and tourist and public admissions (passenger rides and tours), building the legacy of the 2010 Winter Games.

**Venue capacity: 12,000**

**Elevation: Men's luge handles: 939 metres**  
**Bottom: 787 metres**  
**Highest vertical drop: 152 metres**

## Olympic Winter Games events

There are a total of 8 events:

- **Bobsleigh** – four-man, two-man, women's
- **Skeleton** – men's, women's
- **Luge** – men's singles, women's singles, doubles

## Timeline

Construction began in June 2005, with the track being operationally complete in winter 2007-08. The formal public opening will take place in fall 2008.

## VANOC investment

The Whistler Sliding Centre was built at a cost of \$104.9 million, funded jointly by the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

## Post-Games use

The Whistler Sliding Centre will be operated under the direction of the Whistler Legacies Society, supported by an endowment trust that was established by the federal and provincial governments as part of their 2010 Winter Games venues investment. The Whistler Sliding Centre will showcase sliding sports by hosting international competitions and developing sliding sports opportunities in the local communities. Its location, near several of the resort's world-class hotels, will attract many tourists, providing a sustainable revenue stream towards the centre's long-term operations.

## Sustainable attributes

- Smart site selection — adjacent to previously developed areas within a major ski area (such as ski trails, parking lots)
- Site designed to minimize required vegetation clearing and to reduce facility footprint (such as soft edging and tree islands)
- Long-term operations and revenue generation opportunities through athlete training facility and visitor use
- First construction contract (2005) awarded to local Whistler business
- Energy efficiency initiatives to minimize refrigeration plant energy use include:
  - ammonia refrigeration system — ammonia is one of the most energy-efficient refrigerants producing no chlorofluorocarbons (which contribute to ozone-layer depletion and global climate change)
  - track shading and weather protection system
  - tree retention to cast shade
  - track painted white to minimize heat absorption
  - capture and reuse of waste heat from refrigeration plant

More sustainability facts about this venue and others are available at [vancouver2010.com/sustainability](http://vancouver2010.com/sustainability).

## Scope of work for 2010

The venue features a new 1,450-metre competition-length concrete sliding track, refrigeration facilities, support buildings and access road. The Whistler Sliding Centre will host Sport Events for bobsleigh, luge and skeleton. Over the 13 days of sliding competition, athletes will compete for a total of eight Olympic medals.

## Sport governing bodies

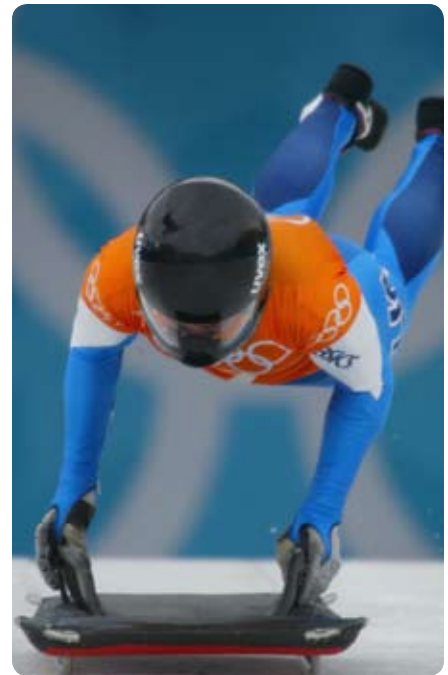
**International Federations:**

**International Bobsleigh and Tobogganing Federation (IBT)**  
**International Luge Federation (FIL)**

**Canadian Federations:**

**Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton**  
**Canadian Luge Association**

# The Whistler Sliding Centre



## QUICK FACTS

### The Whistler Sliding Centre

- One of only 15 international competition sliding tracks in the world.
- Highest vertical drop from top to low point of any track in the world: 152 metres.
- Track G-force is expected to reach 5.02 Gs (men's luge).
- A thin, two to five centimetre ice surface is produced and maintained by hand.

### Bobsleigh

- Part of the official competition program since the first Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix in 1924.
- Women's bobsleigh was introduced at the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Winter Games.
- The five-man bobsleigh was contested for the first and last time at the St. Moritz 1928 Olympic Winter Games.
- Following a sprint start, the bobsled travels down the track on four highly polished steel runners. Sleds are equipped with brakes.

## QUICK FACTS

### Luge

- Luge made its Olympic Games debut in 1964 in Innsbruck.
- Luge athletes start in a seated position, gripping start handles to propel themselves down a steep start ramp. They use gloves with small spikes on the fingertips to push themselves along the ice before laying feet first, on their backs.
- Luge athletes steer with their legs and shoulders by applying pressure to the sled runners.

### Skeleton

- Skeleton first appeared at the 1928 Olympic Winter Games and then again in 1948, both times in St. Moritz. The sport returned to the Olympic Winter Games program in 2002 in Salt Lake City.
- Skeleton athletes steer with their shoulders and knees by applying pressure to the sled.
- There are no brakes on a skeleton sled.