

2 events added to 2018 Winter Olympics

The International Olympic Committee approved big air snowboarding and an alpine team event for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang.

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association had been among nations lobbying for inclusion of big air.

The successful slopestyle events at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi provided a platform to launch big air as an additional medal opportunity. Big air was introduced at the 2003 FIS Snowboarding World Championships and was included on the World Cup tour in 2015.

“The inclusion of big air is another positive step from the IOC to incorporate more events that are more appealing to a younger audience in the Olympic schedule,” USSA Snowboarding Program Director Jeremy Forster said in a statement. “The ability to host big air events on the hill or in stadiums make it exciting and engaging for a variety of audiences.”

The alpine team event, first introduced at the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in 2005, was a fan favorite at the 2015 Worlds in Vail/Beaver Creek. The event features a mixed team of two men and two women competing for their national teams in a head-to-head slalom with a knockout format each round.