

Bobsled

Whistler Sliding Center will host the three bobsled events: four-man, two-man and two-woman. It has 16 curves, covers nearly a mile (1,450 meters) and is one of the world's fastest sliding tracks.

Events

Two-man sleds
Feb. 20 and 21

Two-woman sleds
Feb. 23 and 24

Four-man sleds
Feb. 26 and 27



Pushing

Back of sled has fixed push bars for brakeman; sides have collapsible push bars for driver, crewmen (two-person sleds have collapsible push bar for driver only)

Weight

More weight equals higher speeds; teams can add weight up to the maximum allowed

Four-man sled

Min. empty weight: 463 lb. (210 kg)
Max. weight: 1,389 lb. (630 kg) with crew, equipment

Two-man sled

Empty min.: 384 lb. (174 kg)
Max: 860 lb. (390 kg)

Two-woman sled

Empty min.: 284 lb. (130 kg)
Max: 750 lb. (340 kg)

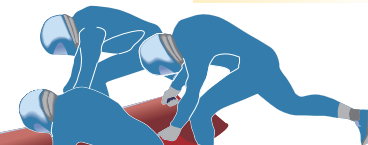
Four-man sled

Cowling (sled body)



Driver
Gives orders at start, steers

Crewman



Brakeman
Applies brakes after crossing finish

Crewman
Typically strong and fast, helps deliver a swift start

Runners

Unlike skating blades, bobsled runners must be blunt; to minimize friction, they are polished until very smooth; plating, coating, lubricating or heating runners is illegal; temperature of runners is taken before each race, compared to a reference runner; if sled's runner is more than four degrees warmer than reference runner, sled is disqualified

Viewing

E Entrance to spectator underpass

--- Access

■ Grandstand seating

▲ General admission standing areas

Access road

Elevation: 2,578 ft./786 m

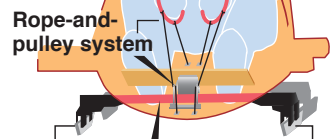
(7-minute walk from main entrance to Spectator Plaza)

Refrigeration building

Spectator Plaza

Track lodge information desk

Finish line: Bobsled



Runner Steering axle Runner

Steering

Driver steers sled with steering rings that control front runners by rope-and-pulley system; runners move about 3 in. (7.6 cm) in either direction

Take-out area

Finish house

Curve 10

Curve 11

Curve 12

Curve 13

Curve 14

Curve 15

Curve 16

Racing track

Curve 2

Curve 1

Curve 3

Curve 4

Curve 5

Curve 6

Curve 7

Curve 8

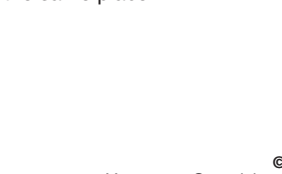
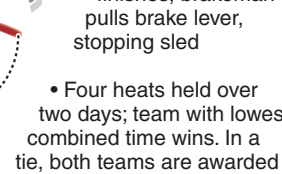
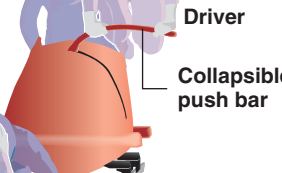
Curve 9

Brakeman

Driver

Two-man sled

Driver



The race
• At start, racers sprint about 164 ft. (50 m) while pushing sled

• Driver enters sled first, followed by brakeman; they retract push bars and descend, keeping heads low and leaning with turns

• Driver steers through curves; sled reaches speeds up to 90 mph (145 kph)

• After sled finishes, brakeman pulls brake lever, stopping sled

• Four heats held over two days; team with lowest combined time wins. In a tie, both teams are awarded the same place