

Polish competitors at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games¹

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57

Number of Polish representatives in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games

In the medal classification of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, Poland was ranked 27th. Polish competitors ended with one medal – a bronze won by Dawid Kubacki in ski jumping.

From 4 to 20 February 2022, the Polish national team took part in the Winter Olympic Games, which were organized in Beijing, for the 24th time. The Chinese capital hosted the Games for the second time and became the first city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games (the Summer Games were held in 2008). The opening ceremony took place at the National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest. Despite the pandemic and related restrictions, spectators in the stands were able to attend.

The schedule of the 24th Winter Olympic Games included 7 sports, 15 disciplines and a record number of competitions - 109. Seven new competitions were introduced to the schedule of this year's Games. In freestyle skiing there were team ski jumping and freeski big air - both for men and for women. Mixed teams started for the first time in ski jumping, snowboard cross and short track speed skating relay. A new competition dedicated exclusively to women was the monobob (single bobsleigh).

Nearly 3 thousand competitors from 91 countries competed at the Winter Games in China. The competition featured 57 Polish representatives (including 28 debutants) and 71 associates (training and medical staff, mission members, covid officers). The Polish team consisted of 30 women and 27 men, who competed in 10 of the 15 schedule disciplines, representing five Polish sports associations. Disciplines in which Poles did not participate were bobsleigh, curling, ice hockey, freestyle skiing and skeleton.

Speed skating was the most represented discipline with 10 athletes, while the smallest number of competitors (2) appeared in Nordic combined.

Kamil Stoch (ski jumping), for whom this was the fifth Olympics, was the most experienced participant of the Olympics in the Polish team. Natalia Czerwonka and Zbigniew Bródka (speed skating) competed at the Olympics for the fourth time. They were also appointed as flag bearers at the opening ceremony (the International Olympic Committee in 2021 proposed that the flag bearers of National Olympic Committees should be two people - a woman and a man). Eventually Natalia Czerwonka, who tested positive for COVID-19, was replaced by Aleksandra Król.

Zbigniew Bródka also served as a flag bearer at the 2018 Olympics in Pyeongchang. His greatest success is the two Olympic medals won at the 2014 Sochi Games (including gold in the 1500m individual start). Aleksandra Król is a snowboarder specialising in parallel giant slalom and parallel slalom, an Olympian from Sochi (2014) and Pyeongchang (2018).

In the medal classification of the Winter Olympics in Beijing, Poland finished 7 places lower than at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang 4 years ago

¹ Compiled from materials at <https://olimpijski.pl/> and <https://olympics.com/en/beijing-2022/>.

Zbigniew Bródka was also the oldest Polish representative (37 years old) and an alpine skier Hanna Zięba (16 years old) was the youngest Polish representative to perform in Beijing.

The Polish team brought home one bronze medal from the XXIV Olympic Winter Games. It was won by Dawid Kubacki in ski jumping on a normal hill. It is his second Olympic medal, but the first individual one (in 2018 in Pyeongchang he won bronze in the team competition together with Stefan Hula, Maciej Kot and Kamil Stoch). Dawid Kubacki made his third appearance at the Olympics. In addition to his Olympic successes, the competitor can also boast World Championship medals in individual and team competitions. In the 2019/2020 season he was the winner of the 68th Four Hills Tournament.

In the history of 24 starts at the Winter Olympics, Polish competitors have won a total of 23 medals, including 7 gold, 7 silver and 9 bronze

Table 1. Medal classification^a of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	 Norway	16	8	13	37
2.	 Germany	12	10	5	27
3.	 People's States of China	9	4	2	15
4.	 United States of America	8	10	7	25
5.	 Sweden	8	5	5	18
6.	 Netherlands	8	5	4	17
7.	 Austria	7	7	4	18
8.	 Switzerland	7	2	5	14
9.	 Russian Olympic Committee	6	12	14	32
10.	 France	5	7	2	14
	...				
27.	 Estonia	–	–	1	1
	 Latvia	–	–	1	1
	 Poland	–	–	1	1

a Classification announced by the International Olympic Committee. The number of gold medals won by each national committee is taken into account first. The number of silver medals is considered next, followed by bronze medals.

The Polish team, apart from winning the bronze medal in ski jumping, also won places in the top eight. In ski jumping, the Poles were also ranked fourth and sixth in individual competitions and twice sixth in team competitions. In speed skating, Piotr Michalski came close to a medal, eventually finishing fourth and fifth. In the same discipline the women's team took eighth place. The women's short track relay team finished sixth. Snowboarders took two places (seventh and eighth). Eighth place went to alpine skiers, as well as to the luge team relay.

In the medal classification Poland was ranked 27th, next to Estonia and Latvia. This is a worse result than that achieved four years ago. Then, two gold and bronze medals gave us 20th place. In the history of the Winter Olympics, the highest, 11th place, Poland managed

to achieve at the Olympic Games in Sochi in 2014, where the Poles won 6 medals, including 4 gold.

The closing ceremony took place at the Olympic Stadium in Beijing. It began with the march of the national teams. The first to enter the stadium in Beijing was Norway, which won the medal classification with 37 medals. The Polish flag was carried into the Olympic Stadium by Piotr Michalski.

Table 2. Participation of Polish competitors in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games

Specification	Number of events		Participation of Polish competitors
	total	of which with participation of Polish competitors	
Total	109	55	57
of which:			
Biathlon	11	8	5
Cross-Country Skiing	12	11	9
Nordic Combined	3	2	2
Figure Skating	5	2	3
Speed Skating	14	9	10
Alpine Skiing	11	6	6
Luge	4	4	4
Short Track	9	6	6
Ski Jumping	5	5	7
Snowboard	11	2	5

When quoting Statistics Poland data, please provide information: "Source of data: Statistics Poland", and when publishing calculations made on data published by Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Own study based on Statistics Poland data".

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