

## First Winter Olympics

The first organized international competition involving winter sports, known as the Nordic Games, was first staged in Sweden. This competition included athletes predominantly from Nordic countries (such as Norway and Sweden). It was held eight times between 1901 and 1926, with the Swedish capital of Stockholm hosting all but one time. (Eric)

In 1911 a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) suggested that Sweden should either include winter sports in the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm or stage a separate Winter Olympics in the same year. Concerned that such a move would jeopardize the Nordic Games, Sweden refused. (Nancy)

Germany supported plans to stage a competition of winter events in early 1916 as part of the Olympic Games scheduled for Berlin later that year. However, the outbreak of World War I in 1914 caused the cancellation of the Berlin Olympics and made the question of Winter Olympic Games moot. Finally an agreement was reached to celebrate an IOC-sanctioned International Winter Sports Week. (Eric)

On January 25, 1924, the first Winter Olympics took off in style at Chamonix in the French Alps. Spectators were thrilled by the ski jump and bobsled as well as 12 other events involving a total of six sports. The “International Winter Sports Week,” as it was known, was a great success, and in 1928 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially designated the Winter Games, staged in St. Moritz, Switzerland, as the second Winter Olympics. (Nancy)