

Humor Me

By Ronald P. Culberson

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"The Olympic Games I'd Like to See"

I don't typically write about current events. That way, I don't have to be current. However, after watching the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, I decided to break my self-imposed silence to recommend a few new sports which are sure to improve the so-called agony of victory and thrill of defeat (reverse that). I believe these new events will elevate the now mind-numbing Olympics' programming to a new level for which public transportation will shut down, students will skip class and employees will take unpaid leave just to watch the coverage. Here is a sampling of the Olympic Games I'd like to see.

Diathlon (formerly the Biathlon). The Biathlon combines skiing and shooting typically pitting the skiers against the clock and the accuracy of their shots. The Diathlon pits skiers against each other. Diathletes, wearing protective vests with targets in the shape of the Olympic rings, score points when they shoot each of the five rings on the skiers from other countries in the least amount of time. Teams would score bonus points for hitting skiers from countries with more Olympic medals. Once a skier's five rings are hit, he/she is considered "dead" and is penalized by spending two minutes in "Diathlon Hell" watching the compulsory ice dancing. Of course, backup athletes would be needed for this event. Note: The new Winter *Triathlon* would include the added skill of shooting in-flight ski jumpers.

De-Lugional (formerly the Luge). In the Luge, athletes speed to the bottom of an icy trough on a microscopic sled hopefully bettering the time of the other lugists. However, since there are few accidents along the way, this sport is repetitively redundant and quite boring. In the De-Lugional, athletes would compete on three parallel tracks that alternately cross every 300 feet. Each de-lugist would need to time their pass through each intersection when no other de-lugist happened to be there. Since times in this sport are separated by hundredths of seconds, viewers would be guaranteed of at least one major crash per run. The X-Games version of the De-Lugional would include bayonets attached to the ends of the sleds.

Ten Pin Curling (formerly Curling). Back in 16th century Scotland, someone was watching a shuffleboard tournament at the local senior pub and thought, *I bet if we did this on ice with smooth rocks, it would become an Olympic sport.* Go figure. However, as much as I am entranced by the slip sliding of the curling stones, I am much more familiar with the *rules* of bowling. I suggest raising the popularity of the sport by adding silk shirts, 80's hair styles and ugly shoes and allow athletes to curl strikes and spares

at the local Bowl Olympica lanes. In this event, smoking and beer drinking would be allowed. I smell medal for Bode Miller.

Boarder Derby (formerly Snowboard Cross). The Snowboard Cross was one of the more exciting new sports at the winter Olympics and a number of snowboarders crashed. But what if falling was more common? As a child, I was fascinated by the fast paced, physical and Amazon-like sport of Roller Derby. In Boarder Derby, these two sports combine for a knock-down, all-out, physical race in which snowboarders are allowed to bump, shove and run over each other in a race to the finish line. Points would be awarded for the fastest time, the most knockdowns and the snowboarder with the most injuries. Sweet, dude.

Ice-Hole Figure Skating (formerly Figure Skating). Let's be honest. We hate to see our favorite American skater fall but we've been known to cheer quietly when the husky Russian goes down. One way to make falling more strategic is to randomly place holes around the rink. The holes, covered by a thin layer of ice, would only be visible when directly over each hole. Skaters would be penalized for skating *across* the holes, as evidenced by their falls, but would receive bonus points for landing a triple toe whatchamacallit directly *into* a hole. I know one skater who would score big at this sport. I can see the headline now: "Tanya Harding is Queen of the Ice Holes."

If adversity wasn't appealing, none of us would remember the skier who wiped out at the beginning of every Wide World of Sports show. It's the tumbles, slips and falls that keep us coming back. Let's add more risk and then surely the Olympics will beat American Idol.

Until next time, just humor me.

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Ron Culberson, MSW, CSP, CPAE is a speaker, humorist, and author of four books including Do it Well. Make it Fun. The Key to Success in Life, Death, and Almost Everything in Between. His mission is to change the workplace culture so that organizations are more productive and staff are more content. He shows people how to have more FUN while preserving the integrity of the work they do and the lives they lead. For more information, visit www.RonCulberson.com.

