

USA Olympics uniforms 'security risk' in Sochi

27th January, 2014



American athletes attending the Sochi Winter Olympics have been told that their Team USA uniforms pose a

potential security risk if worn outside designated security zones. Security is reported to be the tightest ever for any Olympics. It includes the "Ring of Steel" – a heavily fortified zone that stretches for 90 kilometres along the coast and 40 kilometres inland. There are checkpoints everywhere and everyone will be X-rayed as they enter the zone. A US State Department official advised that: "If you are an American Olympic athlete, you don't want to advertise that far outside the Olympic venues." It added: "Wearing conspicuous Team USA clothing in non-accredited areas may put your personal safety at greater risk."

There are fears that the games may be targeted by militants from Russian states that want to break away from Russia. One group from Dagestan recently posted a video claiming responsibility for two suicide bombings in the southern city of Volgograd which killed 34 people and injured dozens more. President Vladimir Putin has given his personal assurance that the games will be safe and successful. Russian security officials are currently hunting for three potential female suicide bombers, one of whom is suspected to be in the Sochi area. US officials have warned there will be more threats to come as the time for the opening ceremony draws nearer. The games will be held between February 7 and 23.

Sources: Sky News / CNN

Writing

National team uniforms should only be worn in the sports venues. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

athletes / Olympics / uniforms / security risk / checkpoints / advertise / personal safety / militants / video / responsibility / injured / assurance / hunting / threats / ceremony

True / False

- Team USA's Olympic uniforms are dangerous in cold weather. T / F
- US athletes are advised to wear uniforms only inside the security area. T / F
- Russian authorities have set up a 90-km-long security zone. T / F
- The US State Department said there should be no adverts on uniforms. T / F
- People are worried Russian separatists will attack the games. T / F
- A group from Moscow claimed responsibility for a recent suicide bomb. T / F
- Security officials are looking for 3 suspected terrorists in Sochi city. T / F
- America said it expects there to be more threats. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. attending | a. chosen |
| 2. pose | b. hurt |
| 3. designated | c. focused on |
| 4. advised | d. appearing at |
| 5. conspicuous | e. presumed |
| 6. targeted | f. secede from |
| 7. break away | g. guarantee |
| 8. injured | h. warned |
| 9. assurance | i. represent |
| 10. suspected | j. standing out |

Discussion – Student A

- What would militants gain from attacking the Olympics?
- Should Russia accept the help offered by America's security forces?
- What are you most looking forward to about the Sochi Olympics?
- Is President Putin's personal assurance of safety reassuring?
- What inspires you most about the Olympics?
- What winter sport would you like to win a gold medal in (and why)?
- What other threats do you think there might be?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of security for Sochi?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. outside designated | a. Team USA clothing |
| 2. a heavily fortified zone that | b. assurance |
| 3. everyone will be X-rayed | c. targeted by militants |
| 4. Wearing conspicuous | d. security zones |
| 5. put your personal | e. as they enter the zone |
| 6. the games may be | f. ceremony |
| 7. claiming | g. threats to come |
| 8. Putin has given his personal | h. safety at greater risk |
| 9. there will be more | i. responsibility |
| 10. opening | j. stretches for 90 km |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the Winter Olympics?
- Should athletes wear uniforms that aren't covered with national colors?
- Do you think the Olympics will be safe?
- Can there ever be too much security at major international events?
- Have you ever been searched?
- Would you worry about security if you attended the Sochi Olympics?
- If you were an athlete, would you wear your national uniform?
- Have you ever felt your personal safety was at risk?

Spelling

- pose a tneipaotl security risk
- outside gsdnedtie security zones
- a heavily tfroefiid zone
- everyone will be drey-aX
- Wearing ocuupisnsco Team USA clothing
- in non-caddtcreie areas
- targeted by tmniilats
- claiming lsbsotinipirey
- injured ndseoz
- Putin has given his personal aacerunss
- there will be more etrhtsa to come
- the opening mrenyeoc

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. i	3. a	4. h	5. j
6. c	7. f	8. b	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Winter Olympics

You think the Winter Olympics is the world's greatest sporting event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): the soccer World Cup, the Summer Olympics or F1 motor racing.

Role B – Soccer World Cup

You think the soccer World Cup is the world's greatest sporting event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): the Winter Olympics, the Summer Olympics or F1 motor racing.

Role C – Summer Olympics

You think the Summer Olympics is the world's greatest sporting event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): the soccer World Cup, the Winter Olympics or F1 motor racing.

Role D – F1 Motor Racing Grands Prix

You think F1 motor racing is the world's greatest sporting event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their events. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): the soccer World Cup, the Summer Olympics or the Winter Olympics.

Speaking – Winter Olympics

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • curling | • ski jumping |
| • figure skating | • speed skating |
| • bobsleigh | • ice hockey |
| • snowboarding | • freestyle skiing |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.