Oleksandra Kononova
Winter Paralympic Athlete

Early Sporting Life

Oleksandra Kononova was born on 27th February 1991. She is from Ukraine and can speak Russian and Ukrainian.

Oleksandra began skiing in 2003 at the age of twelve, after seeing a group of teenagers using roller skis and deciding she wanted to give it a go.

Roller skis are used for cross-country skiing so this is what Oleksandra decided to do. She began competing in paraskiing in 2007, at the age of sixteen.

Sporting Success

Oleksandra is now a successful para-biathlon athlete. Biathlon involves skiing and rifle shooting. In 2010, at nineteen years old, Oleksandra was the youngest athlete in the Ukrainian team at the Winter Paralympic Games in Vancouver, Canada. It was during these Paralympic Games that Oleksandra won two gold medals. She then won an award for Best Games Debut at the Paralympic Sport Awards in 2011.

Oleksandra continued to win medals at the 2014 Winter Paralympics, held in Sochi, where she took home gold for the long-distance biathlon event and silver for the middle-distance biathlon.

She has high hopes for the 2018 Winter Paralympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

> Oleksandra says, "Achieving what I want in sport makes me happy. It gives me confidence and stability, knowing what I want."

Questions

1. What languages can Oleksandra Kononova speak? Tick one.

   ◯ French and Russian

   ◯ Russian and English

   ◯ Ukrainian and Russian

2. What made Oleksandra want to try skiing?

   _____

   _____

3. What did Oleksandra do at the age of nineteen? Tick one.

   ◯ took part in her last Winter Paralympic Games

   ◯ took part in her first Winter Paralympic Games

   ◯ pulled out of the Winter Paralympic Games

4. Match up the statements.

In 2003,	Oleksandra won gold and silver at the Winter Paralympic Games.
In 2010,	Oleksandra started skiing.
In 2014,	Oleksandra won two gold medals at the Winter Paralympic Games.

5. Find and copy a phrase which means Oleksandra's goal is to perform well at the 2018 Winter Paralympic Games.

   _____

6. What is your opinion about Oleksandra Kononova?

   _____

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