

# Milano-Cortina 2026: **PILKINGTON's** 'Competition Material' for indoor sports

Highlighting PILKINGTON glass in indoor sports venues where transparency, safety and visual comfort converge to enhance performance, Milano-Cortina 2026 showed how extra-clear, laminated and anti-reflective solutions can improve colour fidelity, impact resistance and glare control. While supporting athletes at major international competitions, such solutions also protect spectators and optimise lighting - all without compromising design.

The Winter Olympic Games provided a valuable opportunity to reflect upon the role of glass quality in the design of indoor sports facilities - particularly for barriers and separations between spectators and competition areas. In arenas and sports halls, glazing has a direct impact on visual experience, safety and the management of reflections generated by artificial lighting. Within this context, Pilkington





ton Italia have underscored several key selection criteria for the design of indoor sports venues, where transparency is not merely an aesthetic feature but also a functional requirement for fully enjoying a sporting event.

### TRANSPARENCY AND COLOUR RENDERING THAT ENHANCE VISUAL QUALITY

The readability of sporting action is influenced at indoor events by contrast, colour perception and depth of field. Indeed visual quality is one of the fundamental elements in indoor sports facilities. Here the use of extra-clear glass such as Pilkington Optiwhite™ makes it possible to achieve superior transparency and exceptionally faithful colour rendering. Thanks to a significant reduction in iron oxide content compared to standard glass, Pilkington Optiwhite™ eliminates the typical greenish tint and delivers natural, vibrant colours. This aspect is particularly relevant in ice sports, where

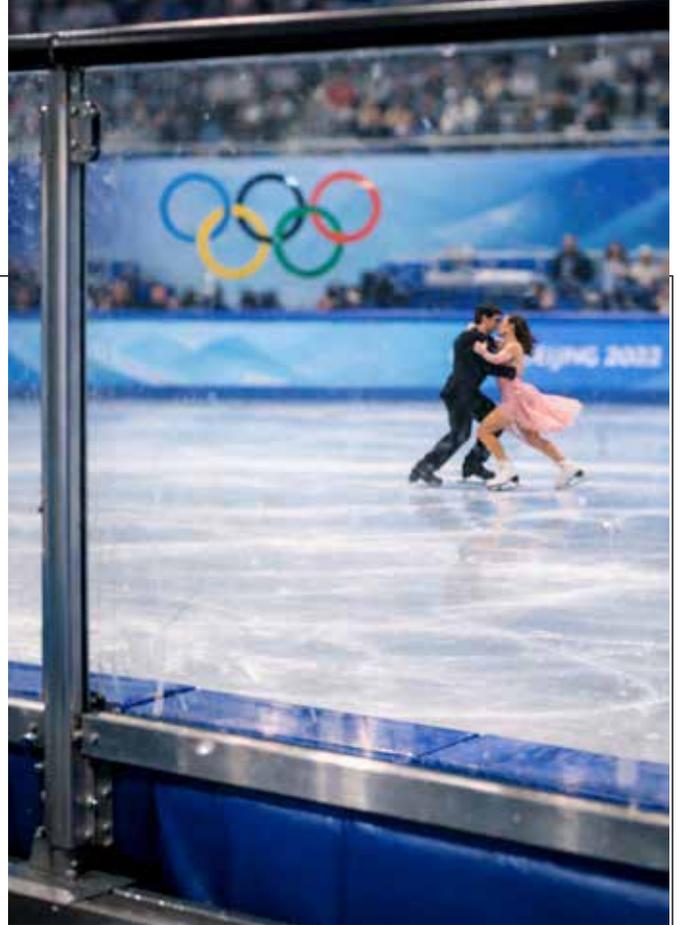
the contrast between surfaces, markings and athletes' uniforms plays a crucial role in the perception of movement and in the overall quality of the spectator experience.

### SAFETY AND VISUAL PROTECTION

Alongside transparency, safety is an essential requirement in all sports environments where spectators are located close to the field of play. Pilkington Optilam™, also available in an extra-clear Optiwhite™ version, is a laminated safety glass designed to withstand impact and to retain fragments in the event of breakage. These characteristics make it especially suitable for dynamic, high-impact sports such as ice hockey and skating, while also being highly effective in many other indoor applications where the protection of people is a top priority.

### VISUAL COMFORT AND GLARE TRANSPARENCY

In indoor sports venues, visual quality is closely linked to



lighting conditions. Artificial lighting –often very intense– can create reflections on glass surfaces that interfere with the perception of sporting action. Pilkington OptiView™ Ultra Protect combines the properties of extra-clear laminated safety glass with an anti-reflective coating specifically designed to minimise these effects. This solution ensures high colour fidelity, excellent light transmission and clear vision, significantly enhancing the spectator experience. At the same time, it contributes

to personal safety by eliminating the risk of falling where glass is used as a balustrade or transparent barrier. Beyond the Olympic event itself, the design of contemporary sports facilities increasingly requires materials capable of balancing performance with user experience: seeing better, protecting more effectively and managing light more efficiently. Milano-Cortina 2026 therefore represented a concrete opportunity to bring glass –often taken for granted– back to the centre of technical choices that define the safety and quality of indoor spaces.

## ABOUT NSG GROUP

One of the world's leading manufacturers of glass and glazing systems, NSG Group operates in three main business areas, namely Building, Automotive and Creative Technology. In 2006, it acquired Pilkington, the world's leading glass supplier. Today NSG Group operates globally with commercial activities in more than 100 countries. Its Building business produces and supplies glass for construction, solar energy applications and other sectors, whereas its Automotive business includes original equipment automotive glass (AOE) and original replacement glass (AGR). Finally, its Creative Technology business encompasses a range of activities, including printer and scanner lenses, specialty glass fibre products such as engine timing belts and glass flakes and thin glass products.



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