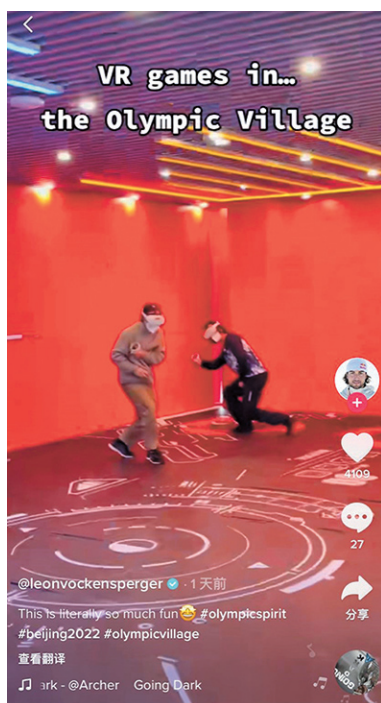




Americans Christopher Plys (left) and Vicky Persinger pose with Fan Suyuan (second left) and Ling Zhi after their curling mixed doubles round robin event of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games. The US duo received a gift from their Chinese rivals — a set of commemorative pin badges featuring Bing Dwen Dwen. — Xinhua



A screenshot of German snowboarder Leon Vockensperger playing VR games in the village.

## Athletes make best of it inside Olympic bubble



Liu Xiaolin

Life inside the Beijing 2022 Olympic Village has grabbed attention on social media, as Olympians have shared loads of vlogs featuring the entertainment and supporting facilities, food service, remote-controlled beds and the trending pin trading.

To prevent the transmission of COVID-19, athletes are kept inside the “bubble,” leaving them with a limited number of options for passing time outside of their competitions. But some athletes have managed to find novel ways to have fun when they’re not practicing and competing.

Julia Marino, who won the silver medal in women’s snowboard slopestyle, told NBC that she and her friends spend their downtime listening to music, dancing and singing along to songs. “That’s been super fun. We’ve been having some nice little music sessions in the sunlight before it goes down,” said the American.

Getting a haircut, playing table tennis and visiting the gym are three things to do for Swedish freestyle skier Walter Wallberg. Free hairdressing, facial beauty and manicure services are provided at the village’s hair salon, China.org.cn said.

German snowboarder Leon

Vockensperger shared a video on TikTok showing him and his teammates playing virtual-reality games in the village. Turkish ski jumper Fatih Arda Ipcioğlu is also intrigued by the entertainment facilities, calling it “fun zone.”

“It’s a place where the athletes go and play with the high-tech toys, have a roller-coaster experience, diving and going to space,” he told Xinhua news agency.

While athletes slept on cardboard beds at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, China has stepped up its game with adjustable, remote-controlled beds.

American luger Summer Britcher posted a TikTok clip on January 27 showing