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PRESS RELEASE - Preview BMW IBSF World Cup Whistler

22 November 2017

Whistler Sliding Center set to host all five World Cup disciplines Team Canada has already celebrated six podium finishes ahead of home event

Whistler (RWH): For the first time this season, all five of the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation's (IBSF) World Cup disciplines will be on agenda when the tour moves to Whistler Sliding Center. At the first stop in the World Cup season in Lake Placid, two 2-man bobsleigh races took place on account of the unusually warm weather, meaning that Park City (USA) then hosted two 4-man bobsleigh races. The third stop for the BMW IBSF World Cup in the Olympic season will be taking place in Whistler (CAN), where athletes in the women's skeleton, men's skeleton, women's bobsleigh, 2-man bobsleigh and 4-man bobsleigh will be battling it out for a place on the podium and for important points to qualify for the Winter Games in PyeongChang.

Ahead of their home World Cup event, the Canadian team has already celebrated six podium finishes: In Lake Placid, Kaillie Humphries/Melissa Lotholz came first in the women's bobsleigh, while Elisabeth Vathje (women's skeleton) and Justin Kripps/Alexander Kopacz (2-man bobsleigh) finished second. In Park City, Humphries/Lotholz came second while the 4-man squads led by Justin Kripps and Chris Spring finished in second and third. ©RWH2017

Anna Fernstädt replaces Sophia Griebel in Whistler

Whistler (RWH) Skeleton athlete Anna Fernstädt (GER) replaces teammate Sophia Griebel at BMW IBSF World Cup in Whistler. „Following her results at the first two World Cups, Sophia Griebel for the third event in Whistler will be replaced with Anna Fernstädt“, said German head coach Jens Müller according to the German Federation BSD. „Based on the Whistler results, we will decide how to continue.“

Sophia Griebel returned to the German World Cup team this season after an 18 month break due to injury. She finished 23rd in Lake Placid and 13th in Park City.

Anna Fernstädt finished fourth at 2017 BMW IBSF World Championships and was eighth overall in World Cup. She started the season in IBSF Intercontinental Cup after missing the German standard start time for the World Cup. Anna Fernstädt currently leads the overall ICC ranking after three victories – including Whistler – in four races. ©RWH2017



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Hurdler Phylcia George joins the Canadian bobsleigh team

Whistler (RWH): Phylcia George, who finished sixth in 100-metre hurdles at the London 2012 Olympics, has joined the Canadian bobsleigh team as a new brakewoman. Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton officially appointed the sprinter, who celebrated her 30th birthday on 16 November, as a member of the national team for the 2017/2018 BMW IBSF World Cup back in October. Phylcia George was recruited by pilot Kaillie Humphries. "I want to make sure that Canada is represented by the best athletes that we have," said the 2010 and 2014 Olympic Champion in a report on nationalpost.com at the start of the season. "Phylcia falls into that category."

For the first two races of the Olympic season, Kaillie Humphries relied on the more experienced Melissa Lotholz. The pairing won the opening World Cup race in Lake Placid and also finished second in Park City. ©RWH2017

Lascelles Brown sets his sights on fifth Olympic Games

Whistler (RWH): Bobsleigh brakeman Lascelles Brown (CAN) is working towards his fifth Olympic Games in the winter of 2017/2018. The now 43-year-old competed in his first Winter Games at Utah Olympic Park in Park City in 2002, when he was a brakeman for pilot Winston Watt and racing on behalf of his home country Jamaica. The pair finished in 27th place.

After receiving Canadian citizenship, Lascelles Brown won Olympic silver with Pierre Lueders in the two-man event in 2006, and bronze in Lyndon Rush's four-man team at Vancouver 2010. After temporarily switching to Monaco's team, Lascelles Brown pushed Patrice Servelle to second in the bobsleigh World Cup in Calgary in December 2010, and thus secured the first ever World Cup podium placing for Monaco. The brakeman then returned to Canada in 2012 and has been racing for the country ever since. At Sochi 2014, Lascelles Brown raced with Lyndon Rush, finishing ninth in both the 2-man and 4-man bobsleigh.

In the 2017/2018 Olympic winter, Lascelles Brown is on pilot Justin Kripps' 4-man squad. At the first BMW IBSF World Cup race in Park City, the team – completed by Ben Coakwell and Neville Wright – finished in second place. ©RWH2017

The World Cup schedule for Whistler

Date/Time Whistler		Date/Time CET		Race
Friday, 24 Nov	10 am	Friday, 24 Nov	7 pm	Women's Skeleton, run 1
	11.30 am		8.30 pm	Women's Skeleton, run 2
Friday, 24 Nov	3 pm	Friday, 24 Nov	12 midnight	2-Man Bobsleigh, run 1
	4.30 pm	Saturday, 25 Nov	1.30 am	2-Man Bobsleigh, run 2
Friday, 24 Nov	6 pm	Saturday, 25 Nov	3 am	Women's Bobsleigh, run 1
	7.30 pm		4.30 am	Women's Bobsleigh, run 2
Saturday, 25 Nov	10 am	Saturday, 25 Nov	7 pm	Men's Skeleton, run 1
	11.45 am		8.45 pm	Men's Skeleton, run 2
Saturday, 25 Nov	2 pm	Saturday, 25 Nov	11 pm	4-Man Bobsleigh, run 1
	3.30 pm	Sunday, 26 Nov	0.30 am	4-Man Bobsleigh, run 2



Last year's winners in Whistler

	1.		2.		3.	
Women's Skeleton Frauen-Skeleton	VATHJE, Elisabeth	CAN	LÖLLING, Jacqueline	GER	HERMANN, Tina	GER
Men's Skeleton Männer-Skeleton	YUN, Sungbin	KOR	TRETIAKOV, Alexander	RUS	ANTOINE, Matthew	USA
Women's Bobsleigh Frauen-Zweierbob	HUMPHRIES, Kailie APPIAH, Cynthia	CAN	HENGSTER, Christina DEKKER, Sanne	AUT	GREUBEL POSER, Jamie GIBBS, Lauren	USA
2-Man Bobsleigh Männer-Zweierbob	FRIEDRICH, Francesco MARGIS, Thorsten	GER	PETER, Rico AMRHEIN, Thomas	SUI	WON, Yunjong SEO, Youngwoo	KOR
4-Man Bobsleigh Viererbob	KASJANOV, Alexander ZAITSEV, Alexey PUSHKAREV, Aleksei BELUGIN, Maxim	RUS	PETER, Rico van der ZIJDE, Janne Bror FRIEDLI, Simon AMRHEIN, Thomas	SUI	LOCHNER, Johannes KAGERHUBER, Matthias MROWKA, Sebastian RASP, Christian	GER

On the sidelines

For **Helen Upperton and Jesse Lumsden** (CAN), the BMW IBSF World Cup in Whistler will be a family affair. Upperton, a former bobsleigh pilot who took Olympic silver at Whistler 2010, and Lumsden, the World Championship runner-up in 2012 (with pilot Lyndon Rush) and 2017 (with pilot Justin Kripps) became parents to daughter Florence over the summer. While Helen Upperton ended her career as an athlete in 2012 and is now passing on her experience as a coach, Jesse Lumsden is hoping to qualify for the Canadian bobsleigh team in PyeongChang in winter 2017/2018, which could be his third Winter Games. His chances of achieving this goal are already looking good ahead of the Canadians' home World Cup in Whistler: Jesse Lumsden, who finished second in the 2-man bobsleigh at the 2017 World Championships in Königssee with Justin Kripps, has already enjoyed success with two pilots on the first two stops in the Olympic season: He finished fourth with Justin Kripps and fifth with Chris Spring in the 2-man bobsleigh. In the 4-man bobsleigh, the 35-year-old finished third and fifth with Chris Spring's team. ©RWH2017

Tomass Dukurs (LAT) beat his younger brother Martins to the honour of securing the first ever World Cup win for Latvia in the field of skeleton. The now 36-year-old won the race in Sigulda (LAT) on 6 February 2004, which was the first ever World Cup victory for a Latvian skeleton athlete. Since then Tomass Dukurs has only ever taken the top spot on one further occasion: at the 2016 IBSF European Championships in St. Moritz. However, he had to share this title with his brother Martins, who recorded exactly the same time, right down to the nearest hundredth of a second. ©RWH2017





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BMW IBSF World Cup 2017/2018 Women's Skeleton/ Frauen-Skeleton							
Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.		2.		3.	
1. Lake Placid (USA)	Nov 9-10, 2017	FLOCK, Janine	AUT	VATHJE, Elisabeth	CAN	YARNOLD, Lizzy	GBR
2. Park City (USA)	Nov 17-18, 2017	NIKITINA, Elena	RUS	HERMANN, Tina	GER	LÖLLING, Jacqueline	GER
3. Whistler (CAN)	Nov 24-25 2017						
4. Winterberg (GER)	Dec 8-10, 2017						
5. Innsbruck (AUT) + Ech/EM	Dec 15-17, 2017						
6. Altenberg (GER)	Jan 5-7, 2018						
7. St. Moritz (SUI)	Jan 12-14, 2018						
8. Königssee (GER)	Jan 19-21, 2018						
Current standing BMW IBSF World Cup/ Zwischenstand BMW IBSF Weltcup	2017/2018	NIKITINA, Elena (RUS)	417	VATHJE, Elisabeth (CAN)	386	DEAS, Laura (GBR)	368

BMW IBSF World Cup 2017/2018 Men's Skeleton / Männer-Skeleton							
Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.		2.		3.	
1. Lake Placid (USA)	Nov 9-10, 2017	DUKURS, Martins	LAT	YUN, Sungbin	KOR	TRETIKOV, Alexander	RUS
2. Park City (USA)	Nov 17-18, 2017	YUN, Sungbin	KOR	DUKURS, Martins	LAT	JUNGK, Axel	GER
3. Whistler (CAN)	Nov 24-25 2017						
4. Winterberg (GER)	Dec 8-10, 2017						
5. Innsbruck (AUT) + Ech/EM	Dec 15-17, 2017						
6. Altenberg (GER)	Jan 5-7, 2018						
7. St. Moritz (SUI)	Jan 12-14, 2018						
8. Königssee (GER)	Jan 19-21, 2018						
Current standing BMW IBSF World Cup/ Zwischenstand BMW IBSF Weltcup	2017/2018	YUN, Sungbin (KOR)	435	-	-	JUNGK, Axel (GER)	392
		DUKURS, Martins (LAT)					



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BMW IBSF World Cup 2017/2018 Women's Bobsleigh / Frauen-Zweierbob							
Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.		2.		3.	
1. Lake Placid (USA)	Nov 9-10, 2017	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie LOTHOLZ, Melissa	CAN	MEYERS TAYLOR, Elana GIBBS, Lauren	USA	SCHNEIDER, Stephanie BUCKWITZ, Lisa Marie	GER
2. Park City (USA)	Nov 17-18, 2017	GREUBEL POSER, Jamie GIBBS, Lauren	USA	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie LOTHOLZ, Melissa	CAN	MEYERS TAYLOR, Elana JONES, Lolo	USA
3. Whistler (CAN)	Nov 24-25 2017						
4. Winterberg (GER)	Dec 8-10, 2017						
5. Innsbruck (AUT) + Ech/EM	Dec 15-17, 2017						
6. Altenberg (GER)	Jan 5-7, 2018						
7. St. Moritz (SUI)	Jan 12-14, 2018						
8. Königssee (GER)	Jan 19-21, 2018						
Current standing BMW IBSF World Cup/ Zwischenstand BMW IBSF Weltcup		2017/2018	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie (CAN) 435	GREUBEL POSER, Jamie (USA) 417	MEYERS TAYLOR, Elana (USA) 410		

BMW IBSF World Cup 2017/2018 2-man Bobsleigh / Männer-Zweierbob							
Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.		2.		3.	
1. Lake Placid (USA)	Nov 9-10, 2017	WALTHER, Nico POSER, Christian	GER	CUNNINGHAM, Nick BAILEY, Ryan	USA	BASCUE, Codie VALDES, Carlo	USA
		BASCUE, Codie Mc GUFFIE, Sam	USA	KRIPPS, Justin KOPACZ, Alexander	CAN	OLSEN, Justin WEINSTOCK, Evan	USA
2. Park City (USA)	Nov 17-18, 2017	- no 2-man race - - kein Zweierbob-Rennen -		- no 2-man race - - kein Zweierbob-Rennen -		- no 2-man race - - kein Zweierbob-Rennen -	
3. Whistler (CAN)	Nov 24-25 2017						
4. Winterberg (GER)	Dec 8-10, 2017						
5. Innsbruck (AUT) + Ech/EM	Dec 15-17, 2017						
6. Altenberg (GER)	Jan 5-7, 2018						
7. St. Moritz (SUI)	Jan 12-14, 2018						
8. Königssee (GER)	Jan 19-21, 2018						
Current standing BMW IBSF World Cup/ Zwischenstand BMW IBSF Weltcup		2017/2018	BASCUE, Codie (USA) 425	CUNNINGHAM, Nick (USA) 402	-		
				KRIPPS, Justin (CAN) 402			



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BMW IBSF World Cup 2017/2018 4-man Bobsleigh / Viererbob							
Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.		2.		3.	
1. Lake Placid (USA)	Nov 9-10, 2017	- no 4-man race - - kein Viererbob-Rennen -		- no 4-man race - - kein Viererbob-Rennen -		- no 4-man race - - kein Viererbob-Rennen -	
2. Park City (USA)	Nov 17-18, 2017	WALTHER, Nico KUSKE, Kevin POSER, Christian FRANKE, Eric	GER	KRIPPS, Justin BROWN, Lascelles COAKWELL, Ben WRIGHT, Neville	CAN	SPRING, Chris LUMSDEN, Jesse KOPACZ, Alexander SMITH, Oluseyi	CAN
		LOCHNER, Johannes RADEMACHER, Marc WEBER, Christopher RASP, Christian	GER	BASCUE, Codie WEBER, Nathan VALDES, Carlo McGUFFIE, Samuel	USA	HALL, Bradley TASKER, Bruce FEARON, Joel CACKETT, Gregory	GBR
3. Whistler (CAN)	Nov 24-25 2017						
4. Winterberg (GER)	Dec 8-10, 2017						
5. Innsbruck (AUT) + Ech/EM	Dec 15-17, 2017						
6. Altenberg (GER)	Jan 5-7, 2018						
7. St. Moritz (SUI)	Jan 12-14, 2018						
8. Königssee (GER)	Jan 19-21, 2018						
Current standing BMW IBSF World Cup/ Zwischenstand BMW IBSF Weltcup	2017/2018	LOCHNER, Johannes (GER)	417	SPRING, Chris (CAN)	384	BASCUE, Codie (USA)	378

The full results and overall standings are available on www.ibsf.org

Background information on the BMW IBSF World Cup, the bobsleigh pilots and skeleton athletes is available in our latest media guides at <http://www.ibsf.org/en/media-contacts>

In-depth information about Whistler Sliding Center is available at <http://www.ibsf.org/en/tracks/track/24/Whistler>

