



**PRESS-RELEASE - Preview for BMW IBSF World Cup in Calgary / CAN**

20 Feb. 2019

**Königssee skeleton World Cup will be held at the final in Calgary  
World Cup final on Saturday and Sunday - Nikitina and Tretiakov lead**

Calgary (RWH) The final of the BMW IBSF World Cup 2018/2019 in Calgary (CAN, 22 - 24 February) will also host the skeleton races that had to be cancelled in Königssee (GER) due to bad weather.

The World Cup weekend in the Canada Olympic Park will therefore kick off on Friday (22 February). The postponed races in women's skeleton and men's skeleton are scheduled to take place from 2.30pm (CET 10.30pm) onwards, local time. All athletes who were registered for the original World Cup in Königssee are entitled to compete.

The final World Cup points of the post-Olympic winter in skeleton will then be decided on Saturday for the women (9am local time/ 4pm CET) and Sunday for the men (8.30am / 4.30pm). Upon completion of the races, the overall winners of the BMW IBSF World Cup 2018/2019 shall be awarded the coveted Crystal Globe trophies.

Russia's Elena Nikitina will head to the final World Cup of the winter at the top of the women's skeleton World Cup table. The Sochi Olympics bronze medallist currently has a 43 point lead over World Cup title defender, Jacqueline Lölling from Germany. World Cup events in Lake Placid saw the two athletes finish with the same time. However, neither of them has a great deal of experience in Calgary: With her only World Cup start there in 2013, Nikitina took second place, while Lölling came in fourth and fifth at the 2012 Intercontinental Cup.

In the men's skeleton, Olympic Champions Alexander Tretiakov (RUS, 2014) and Sungbin Yun (KOR, 2018) continue to battle it out for the World Cup title. A single point separated leader Yun from Tretiakov in second place ahead of the BMW IBSF World Cup in Lake Placid (USA). However, with his third victory of the season in Lake Placid, the Russian managed to overtake the Korean and goes into the final two races of the World Cup winter in Calgary (CAN, 22 - 24 February) with a 24-point lead. ©RWH2019

**The last World Cup winners from Calgary in December 2014**

	1.		2.		3.	
Women's Skeleton Frauen-Skeleton	VATHJE, Elisabeth	CAN	DEAS, Laura	GBR	HERMANN, Tina	GER
Men's Skeleton Männer-Skeleton	DUKURS, Martins	LAT	DUKURS, Tomass	LAT	YUN, Sungbin	KOR
2-woman Bobsleigh Frauen-Zweierbob	MEYERS TAYLOR, Elana GARRETT, Cherrelle	USA	SCHNEIDERHEINZE, Anja BERTELS, Franziska	GER	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie O'BRIEN, Kate	CAN
2-man Bobsleigh Männer-Zweierbob	MELBARDIS, Oskars DREISKENS, Daumants	LAT	FRIEDRICH, Francesco GROTHKOPP, Martin	GER	HEFTI, Beat BAUMANN, Alex	SUI
4-man Bobsleigh Viererbob	MELBARDIS, Oskars DREISKENS, Daumants VILKASTE, Arvis STRENGA, Janis	LAT	FRIEDRICH, Francesco SPEER, Jan Martin GROTHKOPP, Martin MARGIS, Thorsten	GER	ARNDT, Maximilian KORONA, Kevin BLUHM, Joshua HEBER, Ben	GER





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**Bobsleigh Olympic Champions Jamanka and Friedrich go as leaders into World Cup final**  
Calgary (RWH) Olympic Champions Mariama Jamanka (GER, 2-woman bobsleigh) and Francesco Friedrich (GER, 2-man bobsleigh and 4-man bobsleigh) head to the finals of the 2018/2019 BMW IBSF World Cup in Calgary as leaders in the overall standings.

After seven of eight races, Mariama Jamanka has a 91-point lead over teammate Stephanie Schneider (GER), who is currently in second place. If Schneider were to win in Calgary, Mariama Jamanka would only need to come in eleventh in order to win the overall standings and hold the impressive Crystal Globe trophy in her hands for the very first time at the BMW IBSF World Cup. Neither pilot has previous experience on the track in Calgary: Mariama Jamanka has never started there, while Stephanie Schneider raced into fifth place alongside pilot Anja Schneiderheinze during her only appearance there in 2012.

Both this winter and since January 2018, Olympic Champion Francesco Friedrich (GER) remains undefeated in the 2-man bobsleigh. The current World and European Champion is a full 187 points ahead of Latvia's Oskars Kibermanis, who holds second place. Francesco Friedrich simply has to complete the race in Calgary without a crash: 39 points would guarantee him the title of overall World Cup Champion - coming in just 25th would already give him 40 points. Both pilots competed at the last World Cup in Calgary in December 2014, with Francesco Friedrich finishing in second place. The winner of that race was also from Latvia, but his name was Oskars Melbardis. His teammate, Oskars Kibermanis, finished 14th. With 1502 points, Olympic Champion Francesco Friedrich was also able to maintain his lead in the overall standings of the BMW IBSF World Cup 2018/2019 for 4-man bobsleigh, although his fourth-place finish in Lake Placid signalled his first failure to reach to podium this winter. Oskars Kibermanis (LAT, 1424) heads to the final in Calgary in overall second place. European Champion Johannes Lochner (GER, 1405) is in third place overall. ©RWH2019

### Calgary timetable

Date/Time Calgary		Date/Time CET		Race
Fri, 22 February	2.30 pm	Fri, 22 February	10.30 pm	Women's Skeleton WCup 7, run 1
	5 pm	Sat, 23 February	1 am	Women's Skeleton WCup 7, run 2
Fri, 22 February	3.30 pm	Fri, 22 February	11.30 pm	Men's Skeleton WCup 7, run 1
	6 pm	Sat, 23 February	2 am	Men's Skeleton WCup 7, run 2
Sat, 23 February	9 am	Sat, 23 February	5 pm	Women's Skeleton, run 1
	10.30 am		6.30 pm	Women's Skeleton, run 2
Sat, 23 February	12.30 pm	Sat, 23 February	8.30 pm	2-woman Bobsleigh, run 1
	2.45 pm		10.45 pm	2-woman Bobsleigh, run 2
Sat, 23 February	1.30 pm	Sat, 23 February	9.30 pm	2-man Bobsleigh, run 1
	3.45 pm		11.45 pm	2-man Bobsleigh, run 2
Sun, 24 February	8.30 am	Sun, 24 February	4.30 pm	Men's Skeleton, run 1
	10 am		6 pm	Men's Skeleton, run 2
Sun, 24 February	1.30 pm	Sun, 24 February	9.30 pm	4-man Bobsleigh, run 1
	3 pm		11 pm	4-man Bobsleigh, run 2





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**Quota for BMW IBSF World Championships will be announced after Calgary World Cup**

Calgary (RWH) The final of the BMW IBSF World Cup in Calgary (CAN) is also crucial for determining the final points that are used to calculate the allotted qualification spots for the 2019 BMW IBSF World Championships in Whistler (CAN, 25 February - 9 March 2019). Depending on where the athletes place in the IBSF rankings, which take into account the points achieved over all race series', competing nations are allocated up to three qualification spots per discipline. The IBSF will publish the allotted quotas for the World Championships on 25 January - the decision concerning which athletes are awarded which allotted places is in the hands of the national IBSF federations. More info regarding the participation requirements for athletes can be found at the [International Rules](#). ©RWH2019

**Women's Skeleton:**

Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 25: 3 starting places

Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 35: 2 starting places

Nations with 1 athletes in the Top 45: 1 starting places

All other nations with 1 athlete

**Men's Skeleton:**

Nations with 3 athletes in the Top 30: 3 starting places

Nations with 2 athletes in the Top 50: 2 starting places

Nations with 1 athletes in the Top 60: 1 starting places

All other nations with 1 athlete

**2-woman Bobsleigh:**

Nations with 3 teams in the Top 25: 3 starting places

Nations with 2 teams in the Top 35: 2 starting places

Nations with 1 teams in the Top 40: 1 starting places

All other nations with 1 team

**2-man and 4-man Bobsleigh:**

Nations with 3 teams in the Top 25: 3 starting places

Nations with 2 teams in the Top 50: 2 starting places

Nations with 1 teams in the Top 55: 1 starting places

All other nations with 1 team





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## Calgary's Olympic track made famous by the film "Cool Runnings"

Calgary (RWH) When it comes to the world of bobsleigh, the artificial ice track in Calgary's Olympic Park is certainly one of the most famous: It hosted the 2-man and 4-man bobsleigh races at the 1988 Winter Olympics. Alongside Olympic Champions Jānis Ķipurs (URS, 2-man bobsleigh) and Ekkehard Fasser (SUI, 4-man bobsleigh), one team stood out on the world stage - and still does today: The Jamaican 4-man bobsleigh team. The Caribbean team's mere qualification was enough to cause a stir. They didn't stand a chance in the competition itself, coming in 30th in the 2-man bobsleigh and crashing out of the 4-man bobsleigh; Nevertheless, pilot Devon Harris and teammates Dudley Stokes, Michael White and Samuel Clayton launched themselves straight into the hearts of sports fans the world over. In 1993, Hollywood commemorated the team in the film "Cool Runnings".

1988 also saw Prince Albert II of Monaco, at the time heir to the throne and athlete, make his Olympic debut in Calgary. With his first five Olympic appearances he came in 25th in the two-man bobsleigh.

For 31 years, the artificial ice track was an integral component of the annual competition schedule of the International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation, an excellent example of the sustainable use of a track after hosting the Olympics. The track should initially be closed for urgent repairs for one season. Despite financial commitments from the Canadian government and the province of Alberta, which exist independently from the Olympic bid, there is still a lack of funds, which were due to be used to modernise the cooling system and the sun protection canopy, amongst other things. Some 360m of the track are also to be redeveloped in order to align the luge and bobsleigh/skeleton tracks more effectively. The Calgary park, operated by WinSport Canada and containing the former Olympic track, also serves as the Canadian training centre for winter sports, boasting ice hockey and figure skating facilities as well as a frozen start track for sliding sports.

In 2017, the Canadian province of Alberta pledged 10 million Canadian dollars (some 6.5 million Euros) to support track renovations. Following this, in May 2018, the Minister for Infrastructure, Amarjeet Sohi, committed to provide approximately 6.8 million Canadian dollars (around 4.5 million Euros) in funding for the former Olympic track. However, subsequent calculations indicated that more funding was required.

"It was prudent for us to hit the pause button", explained WinSport Canada CEO, Barry Heck, in a report on [globalnews.ca](http://globalnews.ca). "We are \$8 million short for the necessary work, and the end of the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic bid means those funds are not immediately forthcoming." However, he confirmed that intensive discussions were underway to find a solution.

"An investment in the renovation of parts of the track is an investment in the future of sliding sports in Canada", declared IBSF President, Ivo Ferriani. "It would result in potentially another 30 years of track use. Calgary and the Canadian athletes have a long and incredibly successful history as part of our federation. It would be a terrible shame if we were to lose this sports centre!"

In the run-up to the end of the 2018/2019 World Cup winter, sports fans are looking forward to another long weekend of sliding sport at the Canada Olympic Park. Seven races are scheduled from Friday to Sunday (22nd - 24th February) in Calgary, topped off by six decisions on the overall World Cup Winner in women's skeleton, men's skeleton, 2-woman bobsleigh, 2-man bobsleigh and 4-man bobsleigh, as well as the combined bobsleigh results.  
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## On the sidelines

**Katrin Beierl (AUT)**, Junior World Champion 2019 in 2-woman bobsleigh, will be back to compete in the finals of the BMW IBSF World Cup in Calgary (CAN). The Austrian decided against participating in Lake Placid (USA). The 2018/2019 winter has been Katrin Beierl's most successful season to date: In addition to her Junior World Championship title, which meant she automatically qualified for the 2019 BMW IBSF World Championships in Whistler (CAN) at the beginning of March, the 25-year-old and pusher Jennifer Onasanya took home a surprising bronze medal at the European Championships in Königssee. ©RWH2019

**Aaron Victorian (CAN)** will compete in skeleton for his new Canadian national federation. The 30-year-old previously raced as a bobsleigh pusher for the US team, pushing for a number of pilots including Steven Holcomb, Nick Cunningham and Codie Bascue. His best results were achieved with Steven Holcomb: In November 2014, the duo took gold in the 2-man bobsleigh at the IBSF North American Cup in Park City (USA). The BMW IBSF World Cup in December 2014 in Lake Placid saw Aaron Victorian race as part of Steven Holcomb's 4-man bobsleigh team, eventually coming in sixth place. Appearing as a competitor for Canada in skeleton, Aaron Victorian took to the track in six races at the 2018/2019 IBSF North American Cup and finished fifth overall. ©RWH2019

**Patrice Servelle (MON)** has bid farewell to his time competing in the bobsleigh for his home nation and now makes up part of the team of trainers. The Monegasque appeared as a 2-man bobsleigh pilot at the Winter Olympics in 2006, 2010 and 2014. His best World Championships result came in the form of a tenth place finish in the 4-man bobsleigh in St. Moritz (SUI) back in 2007. Patrice Servelle has broken the top ten in the Bobsleigh World Cup several times. He was runner-up in Calgary in December 2010, giving Monaco its first spot on the podium.

The Monegasque almost repeated his success as a trainer: Having brought Monaco its first Olympic medal with bronze at the 2012 Youth Winter Olympics, pilot Rudy Rinaldi came the closest he's ever been to the World Cup podium in St. Moritz. He held third place after his first run but narrowly missed out on a place on the podium for the Principality by a mere 0.2 seconds. In Lake Placid, Rinaldi was the surprise leader after the first run but crashed in the final heat. ©RWH2019

**Lelde Priedulena (LAT)**, 2016 Junior World Champion, has announced that she will no longer compete in skeleton. At her 45 appearances at the BMW IBSF World Cup between 2012 and 2019, the Latvian narrowly missed out on the podium several times, coming in fourth. Lelde Priedulena took seventh place at both the 2017 BMW IBSF World Championships in Königssee and the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang (KOR). Over the summer, the 25-year-old underwent an operation on her cruciate ligament, causing her to miss the first half of the season of the BMW IBSF World Cup. The European Championship sixth-place finisher of 2016 last competed in the Innsbruck World Cup in January. ©RWH2019





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## Season winners 2018/2019 - Skeleton

Track/Bahn	Women's Skeleton Frauen-Skeleton	Men's Skeleton Männer-Skeleton
1. Sigulda (LAT) December 7-9, 2018	Elena Nikitina (RUS)	Nikita Tregubov (RUS)
2. Winterberg (GER) December 14-16, 2018	Jacqueline Lölling (GER)	Alexander Tretiakov (RUS)
3. Altenberg (GER) January 4-6, 2019	Elena Nikitina (RUS)	Alexander Tretiakov (RUS)
4. Königssee (GER) + Ech/EM January 11-13, 2019	- (cancelled / snow)	- (cancelled / snow)
4. Innsbruck (AUT) - Ech/EM January 18-20, 2019	Janine Flock (AUT)	Martins Dukurs (LAT)
5. St. Moritz (SUI) January 25-27, 2019	Mirela Rahneva (CAN)	Sungbin Yun (KOR)
6. Lake Placid (USA) February 15-16, 2019	Elena Nikitina (RUS)	Alexander Tretiakov (RUS)
7. Calgary (CAN) February 22, 2019		
8. Calgary (CAN) February 23-24, 2019		
<b>Overall Leaders World Cup/ Führende Gesamt-Weltcup</b>	<b>Elena Nikitina (RUS) 1287 Points / Punkte</b>	<b>Alexander Tretiakov (RUS) 1269 Points / Punkte</b>





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## Season winners 2018/2019 – Bobsleigh

Track / Bahn	2-woman Bobsleigh Frauen-Zweierbob	2-man Bobsleigh Männer-Zweierbob	4-man Bobsleigh Viererbob
1. Sigulda (LAT) December 7-9, 2018	Mariama Jamanka (GER) Annika Drazek	Francesco Friedrich (GER) Alexander Schüller  Francesco Friedrich (GER) Martin Grothkopp	- no 4-man race - - kein Viererbob-Rennen -
2. Winterberg (GER) December 14-16, 2018	Stephanie Schneider (GER) Ann-Christin Strack	- no 2-man race - - kein Zweierbob-Rennen -	Nico Walther (GER) Paul Krenz Alexander Rödiger Eric Franke  Francesco Friedrich (GER) Thorsten Margis Candy Bauer Martin Grothkopp
3. Altenberg (GER) January 4-6, 2019	Mariama Jamanka (GER) Annika Drazek	Francesco Friedrich (GER) Thorsten Margis	Francesco Friedrich (GER) Candy Bauer Martin Grothkopp Thorsten Margis
4. Königssee (GER) + Ech/EM January 11-13, 2019	Mariama Jamanka (GER) Annika Drazek	Francesco Friedrich (GER) Martin Grothkopp	Johannes Lochner (GER) Florian Bauer Marc Rademacher Christian Rasp
5. Innsbruck (AUT) January 18-20, 2019	Stephanie Schneider (GER) Ann-Christin Strack	Francesco Friedrich (GER) Thorsten Margis	Francesco Friedrich (GER) Martin Grothkopp Alexander Schüller Thorsten Margis
6. St. Moritz (SUI) January 25-27, 2019	Elana Meyers Taylor (USA) Lauren Gibbs	Francesco Friedrich (GER) Alexander Schüller	Francesco Friedrich (GER) Candy Bauer Martin Grothkopp Alexander Schüller
7. Lake Placid (USA) February 15-16, 2019	Elana Meyers Taylor (USA) Lake Kwaza	Francesco Friedrich (GER) Thorsten Margis	Justin Kripps (CAN) Ryan Sommer Cameron Stones Benjamin Coakwell
8. Calgary (CAN) February 23-24, 2019			
<b>Overall Leaders World Cup/ Führende Gesamt-Weltcup</b>	<b>Mariama Jamanka (GER) 1487 Points / Punkte</b>	<b>Francesco Friedrich (GER) 1575 points/Punkte</b>	<b>Francesco Friedrich (GER) 1502 points/Punkte</b>

