



**PRESS INFORMATION – Preview BMW IBSF World Cup Sigulda/LAT** 5 December 2018

**BMW IBSF World Cup celebrates new season with première and comeback in Sigulda**

Sigulda (RWH) The World Cup for bobsleigh and skeleton athletes is set to celebrate a première and a comeback at the 2018/2019 season opener in Sigulda (LAT). The BMW IBSF World Cup is heading to Latvia for the first time as a joint race series for bobsleigh and skeleton athletes. The first of eight World Cup rounds featuring skeleton and bobsleigh will be staged there from 3-9 December 2018.

The disciplines of Women's Skeleton, Men's Skeleton and 2-woman Bobsleigh are all making a World Cup comeback in Sigulda. The last skeleton World Cup in Sigulda took place in December 2005. The women's event was won by Maya Pedersen (SUI, today NOR) ahead of Kerstin Szymkowiak (GER) and Mellisa Hollingsworth (CAN), while Jeff Pain (CAN) took victory in the men's event ahead of Zach Lund (USA) and Paul Boehm (CAN).

The athletes in the 2-woman Bobsleigh last competed at a World Cup in Sigulda in February 2004, when two races and the European Championship were staged. Germany's Cathleen Martini won both races, one with brakewoman Yvonne Cernota and one with Sandra Germain, and also clinched the European title. At that time, the European Championship consisted of a combination of both races.

The IBSF athletes also regularly visit Latvia to compete in the Europe Cup and the Intercontinental Skeleton Cup. ©RWH2018

**Dukurs brothers and Alexander Tretiakov have World Cup experience in Sigulda**

Sigulda (RWH) 14 or 15 years is a long time in competitive sport – so the majority of athletes who were in action during the last World Cups in Sigulda back in 2004 and 2005 are no longer competing. The two local heroes in the Men's Skeleton are a notable exception: Tomass Dukurs finished twelfth on his home track in December 2005, while his younger brother Martins finished 20th. Alexander Tretiakov of Russia, who won Olympic gold in Sochi in 2014, also took to the starting line in Sigulda in 2005. The 2013 World Champion finished tenth. His start was a standout feature. No other athlete could beat Tretiakov's 4.59 seconds over the first metres.

Other competitors from 2005 are now on the other side of the fence: Winner Jeff Pain (CAN), who took Olympic silver in 2006, is head coach of the skeleton team from China. Zach Lund (USA), who finished second in the World Cup in 2005, joined Ghana before the start of the season after spending many years as a coach in the USA. German head coach Dirk Matschenz also knows the Sigulda track from his time as an athlete. He competed for the Netherlands in 2005, finishing 22nd. ©RWH2018





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Additional information, images and videos from the BMW IBSF World Cup are also available on our social media channels / IBSFsliding:



The official World Cup hashtag is **#BMWworldcup**.

The [Bobsleigh Media Guide](#) and [Skeleton Media Guide](#) contain the latest important background information about our athletes for each World Cup event.

The IBSF website features a [live ticker](#) for all World Cup races, the [result lists](#) featuring the race times and overall times, and the current [World Cup standings](#).

Our [TV partners](#) show broadcasts and live streams from the BMW IBSF World Cup in more than 40 countries worldwide. The World Cup races are broadcast as a live stream to almost all countries on the [IBSF website](#) and our [YouTube channel](#), with commentary from Martin Haven.

## **Olympic Champions, World Champions and European Champions in action in Sigulda Two races in the two-man bobsleigh – up to 4,000 fans expected at the track each day**

Sigulda (RWH) Fans at the BMW IBSF World Cup in Sigulda will be able to watch Olympic Champions, World Champions and European Champions in action. Francesco Friedrich (GER), Olympic and World Champion in the 2-man and 2-man Bobsleigh, will take to the starting line along with his teammate Mariama Jamanka, who won Olympic gold in the 2-woman Bobsleigh.

The duel between Olympic Champion and defending World Cup holder Sungbin Yun of Korea and local hero and World and European Champion Martins Dukurs (LAT) promises to be particularly interesting. Yun was indisputably the dominant athlete in the Men's Skeleton last winter. Martins Dukurs, who won the overall World Cup between 2010 and 2017, reversed his decision to retire following a disappointing fourth place at the PyeongChang Olympics. The 34-year-old will start the 2018/2019 World Cup opener with renewed motivation.

The 4-man bobsleighs will not compete at the World Cup opener in Sigulda. Instead, two races in the men's 2-man Bobsleigh will be staged on 8 and 9 December. The organisers in Sigulda are expecting up to 4,000 spectators per day during the World Cup weekend.  
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## The last World Cup winners in Sigulda

		1.		2.		3.	
Women's Skeleton Frauen-Skeleton	Dec / Dez 2005	PEDERSEN, Maya	SUI	SZYMKOWIAK, Kerstin	GER	HOLLINGSWORTH, Melissa	CAN
Men's Skeleton Männer-Skeleton	Dec / Dez 2005	PAIN, Jeff	CAN	LUND, Zach	USA	BOEHM, Paul	CAN
2-woman Bobsleigh Frauen-Zweierbob	Feb 2004	MARTINI, Cathleen CERNOTA, Yvonne	GER	TOKOVAYA, Victoria ORLOVA, Nadejda	RUS	SCHRAMM, Claudia SZCZUREK, Stefanie	GER
European Championships / EM		MARTINI, Cathleen CERNOTA, Yvonne	GER	RACINE, Jean FLOWERS, Vonetta	USA	WEISSENSTEINER, Gerda ISACCO, Jennifer	ITA
		MARTINI, Cathleen	GER	SCHRAMM, Claudia	GER	BURDET, Françoise	SUI
2-man Bobsleigh Männer-Zweierbob		-	-	-	-	-	-
4-man Bobsleigh Viererbob		-	-	-	-	-	-

## World Cup schedule Sigulda

Date/Time Sigulda		Date/Time CET		Race
Fri, 7 Dec	3 pm	Fri, 7 Dec	2 pm	Women's Bobsleigh, run 1
	4.30 pm		3.30 pm	Women's Bobsleigh, run 2
Sat, 8 Dec	9.30 am	Sat, 8 Dec	8.30 am	Men's Skeleton, run 1
	11.15 am		10.15 am	Men's Skeleton, run 2
Sat, 8 Dec	1 pm	Sat, 8 Dec	12 noon	2-Man Bobsleigh #1, run 1
	2.30 pm		1.30 pm	2-Man Bobsleigh #1, run 2
Sun, 9 Dec	9.30 am	Sun, 9 Dec	8.30 am	Women's Skeleton, run 1
	11.15 am		10.15 am	Women's Skeleton, run 2
Sun, 9 Dec	1 pm	Sun, 9 Dec	12 noon	2-Man Bobsleigh #2, run 1
	2.30 pm		1.30 pm	2-Man Bobsleigh #2, run 2

## On the sidelines

**Ivo Pakalns (LAT)** is Switzerland's new skeleton coach. This was announced by the association Swiss Sliding. The Latvian was head coach of the Canadian skeleton athletes until the end of the 2018 Olympic season. He steered Jane Channell (2016), Mirela Rahneva (2017) and Elisabeth Vathje (2018) to third in the overall standings of the BMW IBSF World Cup. Elisabeth Vathje also won World Championship bronze in 2015. At the beginning of his coaching career, Ivo Pakalns also worked in his native Latvia, helping two of the world's best skeleton athletes – Martins and Tomass Dukurs – at the beginning of their careers.  
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**Janine Flock (AUT)** is to miss season-opening World Cup in Sigulda. The European Skeleton Champion of 2014 and 2016 announced her decision in a press release from the Austrian Olympic Committee (ÖOC) ahead of the season. The 29-year-old, who finished fourth at the PyeongChang Olympics, stated that she had fallen behind with her training following back problems in the summer. Janine Flock contested the start of the post-Olympic season in the IBSF Intercontinental Cup – taking two victories on her home track in Innsbruck and two second places in Winterberg (GER). ©RWH2018

**Lelde Priedulena (LAT)**, seventh at the PyeongChang Olympics, will not take part in the BMW IBSF World Cup on her home track in Sigulda. The 25-year-old, who was the first Latvian Junior World Champion in skeleton racing in 2016, had to undergo cruciate ligament surgery in the summer. According to a report from the Latvian Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association, Lelde Priedulena is planning to return to action at the fifth BMW IBSF World Cup and European Championship at Königssee (GER) in the second half of the season. ©RWH2018

**Ander Mirambell (ESP)** is out of action at least until the end of 2018. The Spanish skeleton athlete announced on Facebook and Twitter that he is suffering with serious back problems. Mirambell, who won the IBSF North American Cup in 2016, is taking advantage of the enforced lay-off to look for new skeleton athletes in Spain. The first young athletes have already travelled to Innsbruck (AUT) for initial training on the Olympic ice track. Ander Mirambell received a special award in his home country at the end of November, when he was presented with the medal of honour of the city of Barcelona for his achievements. ©RWH2018

### All winners and medallists 2017/2018 – Women’s Skeleton

Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.	2.	3.
Overall Winners BMW IBSF World Cup/ Gesamtsieger BMW IBSF Weltcup	2017/2018	LÖLLING, Jacqueline (GER) 1628	HERMANN, Tina (GER) 1504	VATHJE, Elisabeth (CAN) 1470
European Champions 2018 Europameister 2018	Dec 15-17, 2017 Innsbruck, AUT	NIKITINA, Elena RUS	LÖLLING, Jacqueline GER	FLOCK, Janine AUT
XXIII Olympic Winter Games	Feb 9-24, 2018 PyeongChang, KOR	YARNOLD, Lizzy GBR	LÖLLING, Jacqueline GER	DEAS, Laura GBR

### All winners and medallists 2017/2018 – Men’s Skeleton

Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.	2.	3.
Overall Winners BMW IBSF World Cup/ Gesamtsieger BMW IBSF Weltcup	2017/2018	YUN, Sungbin (KOR) 1545	JUNGK, Axel (GER) 1507	DUKURS, Tomass (LAT) 1464
European Champions 2018 Europameister 2018	Dec 15-17, 2017 Innsbruck, AUT	DUKURS, Martins LAT	TREGUBOV, Nikita RUS	JUNGK, Axel GER
XXIII Olympic Winter Games	Feb 9-24, 2018 PyeongChang, KOR	YUN, Sungbin KOR	TREGUBOV, Nikita RUS	PARSONS, Dom GBR





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## All winners and medallists 2017/2018 – 2-woman Bobsleigh

Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.	2.	3.
Overall Winners BMW IBSF World Cup/ Gesamtsieger BMW IBSF Weltcup	2017/2018	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie (CAN) 1631	MEYERS TAYLOR, Elana (USA) 1591	JAMANKA, Mariama (GER) 1538
European Champions 2018	Dec 15-17, 2017	SCHNEIDER, Stephanie GER	JAMANKA, Mariama GER	KÖHLER, Anna GER
Europameister 2018	Innsbruck, AUT	DRAZEK, Annika	BUCKWITZ, Lisa Marie	STRACK, Ann-Christin
XXIII Olympic Winter Games	Feb 9-24, 2018 PyeongChang, KOR	JAMANKA, Mariama GER BUCKWITZ, Lisa-Marie	MEYERS TAYLOR, Elana USA GIBBS, Lauren	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie CAN GEORGE, Phylcia

## All winners and medallists 2017/2018 – 2-man Bobsleigh

Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.	2.	3.
Overall Winners BMW IBSF World Cup/ Gesamtsieger BMW IBSF Weltcup	2017/2018	KRIPPS, Justin (CAN) 1631	FRIEDRICH, Francesco 1504	SPRING, Chris (CAN) 1347
European Champions 2018	Dec 15-17, 2017	FRIEDRICH, Francesco GER	BRACHER, Clemens SUI	LOCHNER, Johannes GER
Europameister 2018	Innsbruck, AUT	MARGIS, Thorsten	KUONEN, Michael	BLUHM, Joshua
XXIII Olympic Winter Games	Feb 9-24, 2018 PyeongChang, KOR	KRIPPS, Justin CAN KOPACZ, Alexander FRIEDRICH, Francesco GER MARGIS, Thorsten	-	MELBARDIS, Oskars LAT STRENGA, Janis

## All winners and medallists 2017/2018 – 4-man Bobsleigh

Track / Bahn	Date / Datum	1.	2.	3.
Overall Winners BMW IBSF World Cup/ Gesamtsieger BMW IBSF Weltcup	2017/2018	LOCHNER, Johannes (GER) 1652	FRIEDRICH, Francesco (GER) 1468	WALTHER, Nico (GER) 1421
European Champions 2018	Dec 15-17, 2017	LOCHNER, Johannes GER	FRIEDRICH, Francesco GER	MELBARDIS, Oskars LAT
Europameister 2018	Innsbruck, AUT	RADEMACHER, Marc BLUHM, Joshua RASP, Christian	BAUER, Candy GROTHKOPP, Martin MARGIS, Thorsten	DREISKENS, Daumants LUSIS, Helvijs STRENGA, Janis
XXIII Olympic Winter Games	Feb 9-24, 2018 PyeongChang, KOR	FRIEDRICH, Francesco GER BAUER, Candy GROTHKOPP, Martin MARGIS, Thorsten	WALTHER, Nico KUSKE, Kevin RÖDIGER, Alexander FRANKE, Eric WON, Yunjong JUN, Junglin SEO, Youngwoo KIM, Donghyun	GER KOR

