



BMW | IBSF
WORLD CUP
BOB + SKELETON
2016/17



PRESS INFORMATION

30 November 2016

Preview: Season opener for the BMW IBSF bobsleigh and skeleton 2016/2017 World Cup series The pre-Olympic season will start at Whistler Sliding Center in Canada

Whistler (RWH) In the final season before the Olympics, the BMW IBSF bobsleigh and skeleton World Cup series will start at Whistler Sliding Center, the track used for the competitions at the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver (CAN).

Four of last season's five overall winners will be in attendance:

- Tina Hermann (GER, women's skeleton)
- Martins Dukurs (LAT, men's skeleton)
- Kaillie Humphries (CAN, women's bobsleigh)
- Yunjong Won (KOR, two-man bobsleigh)

Only the reigning overall winner in the four man bobsleigh World Cup is missing following the retirement of Maximilian Arndt (GER, four man bobsleigh World Champion in 2013 and 2015) in the summer.

Athletes from 22 countries will be travelling to Whistler for the first World Cup event of the season. The host team from Canada will be entering their home World Cup event with the maximum number of pilots and athletes permitted under the regulations:

- Three pilots in two-man and four-man bob piloted by Justin Kripps, Nick Poloniato and Chris Spring
- Three competitors in men's skeleton: Kevin Boyer, Dave Greszczyszyn and Barrett Martineau
- Three women's bobsleigh teams piloted by Christine de Bruin, Kaillie Humphries and Alysia Rissling
- Three competitors in women's skeleton: Jane Channell, Mirela Rahneva and Elisabeth Vathje

The Olympic ice track at Whistler has been a successful venue for Canadian athletes. The country's bobsleigh and skeleton teams have celebrated 19 podium finishes at five World Cup events in front of a home crowd since the Olympic trials in February 2009. Canadian athletes have taken the top spot a total of eight times.

Skeleton fans can also look forward to the comeback of Olympic Champion Lizzy Yarnold at the opening World Cup event. Within just 400 days between February 2014 and March 2015, the British athlete secured the Olympic gold, an overall win at the World Cup, plus the World and European Championship titles. She is now returning to the BMW IBSF World Cup after a season-long break. Whistler will see her competing in her first international race for 21 months. ©RWH2016-2017

New draw system in place for the bobsleigh and skeleton World Cup

Whistler (RWH): A new system will be applied when drawing the starting numbers ahead of the races at the opening event for the BMW IBSF World Cup 2016/2017: The top ten pilots in the current IBSF discipline rankings will be drawn for the assignment of starting numbers 6 to 15. The starting numbers 1 to 5 will also be drawn from pilots currently holding points in the ranking list. All remaining pilots will start according to their position in the current IBSF discipline rankings, starting from number 16 to the final competitor (see <http://www.ibsf.org/en/standings>).

Further information is available in the IBSF International Rules. PDF copies are available to download from <http://www.ibsf.org/en/downloads> under the menu option "Sports – International Rules". ©RWH2016-2017

Additional spots for female teams in the four-man bobsleigh World Cup

Whistler (RWH) All countries now have the chance to register two extra teams on top of their allotted quota of starting places for the four-man bobsleigh at the BMW IBSF World Cup 2016/2017. To be eligible for these places, the bobsleighs must have a female pilot. However, the make-up of the braking team – be it all women, all men or mixed – plays no role in the decision. IBSF rules have permitted women to compete as pilots and brakewomen in the four-man bobsleigh since the 2014/2015 season. A number of women have already taken advantage of this rule, including Olympic Champion in women's bobsleigh Kaillie Humphries of Canada and 2015 World Champion Elana Meyers Taylor (USA). ©RWH2016-2017

The journey to PyeongChang: How IBSF athletes qualify for the 2018 Winter Olympics





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Whistler (RWH) For the IBSF, the opening of the pre-Olympic season will see the start of the qualification process for a spot at the bobsleigh and skeleton Olympic events, a good 430 days before the start of the XXIII Winter Games 2018 in the Korean city of PyeongChang. This process will give athletes the chance to qualify for the Games over the space of two winters. To qualify for the Olympics, athletes must have competed in five IBSF races on three different tracks over two years. This includes the European Cup, the North American Cup, the Intercontinental Cup (skeleton only) and the World Cup. If this criterion is met, the quotas will be allocated in January 2018 based on current rankings. ©RWH2016-2017

Keep up to date with bobsleigh and skeleton news on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

Whistler (RWH) As usual, all the latest news, detailed start lists, race results, lots of photos and videos, and a wealth of information about the BMW IBSF bobsleigh and skeleton World Cup will be available on various social media platforms:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/IBSFsliding/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ibsfsliding>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/ibsfsliding/>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/bobskeletv>

The official hashtag for the World Cup will be #BMWworldcup

A live ticker for all World Cup races, results lists showing all race times and overall times and the latest World Cup standings can be found on the IBSF website <http://www.ibsf.org/en>.

TV coverage of the BMW IBSF World Cup races is available in more than 40 countries worldwide. You can find a list of current TV partners at: <http://www.ibsf.org/en/broadcasters>.

Furthermore, www.ibsf.org and the IBSF YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/bobskeletv> will also stream all races live with commentary from Martin Haven and John Morgan. The live stream is available in almost every country in the world. ©RWH2016-2017

On the sidelines

Joel Fearon (GBR) will be working towards not one but two world championship starts over the next few months: The 2017 BMW IBSF bobsleigh and skeleton World Championships in Sochi (RUS) and the 2017 athletics World Championships in London (GBR). The 28-year-old, who achieved the third best time ever recorded by a British 100-metre runner (9.96 seconds) at the English Athletic Championships this summer, will start by competing as push athlete in the BMW IBSF bobsleigh World Championship in February 2017. Joel Fearon was part of pilot John James Jackson's four-man British bobsleigh team and came fifth in the 2013 World Championships in St. Moritz (SUI) and fifth in the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi. According to a report on theguardian.com, the British Athletics Association has also selected Joel Fearon for the British 4x100 m relay team. ©RWH2016-2017

Akwasi Frimpong (GHA) has become the first athlete from Ghana to debut at the IBSF North American Cup. The 30-year-old former sprinter and bobsleigh push athlete for the Netherlands is the founder of the Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation of Ghana (BSF Ghana). At the opening event of the North American Cup in Calgary (CAN), Akwasi Frimpong claimed 25th place in both races, while taking 24th and 23rd place in Whistler (CAN). ©RWH2016-2017

Mirela Rahneva (CAN) spends around 13 hours a day at the Canada Olympic Park in Calgary. After a skeleton training session and further cardio and strength workouts in the gym, the 28-year-old heads straight to her parent's catering business in the Olympic Park, as she explained in a report on nationalpost.com. Here, Mirela "Mimi" Rahneva, who arrived in Canada when she was ten with her Bulgarian parents, helps to organise parties and events before she is up to train on the track again next morning. All her hard work has paid off as she has now been called up to the Canadian skeleton team for the BMW IBSF World Cup, making her debut in front of a home crowd in Whistler. ©RWH2016-2017

The schedule for Whistler





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Date/time Whistler		Date/time CET		Race
Fri, 2 Dec	2.00 pm	Fri/Sat, 2/3 Dec	11.00 pm	Skeleton women, Run 1
	3.30 pm		0.30 am	Skeleton women, Run 2
Fri, 2 Dec	6.00 pm	Sat, 3 Dec	3.00 am	Two Man Bob, run 1
	7.30 pm		4.30 am	Two Man Bob, run 2
Sat, 3 Dec	10.00 am	Sat, 3 Dec	7.00 pm	Skeleton men, run 1
	11.30 am		8.30 pm	Skeleton men, run 2
Sat, 3 Dec	2.00 pm	Sat/Sun, 3/4 Dec	11.00 pm	Bobsleigh women, run 1
	3.30 pm		0.30 am	Bobsleigh women, run 2
Sat, 3 Dec	6.00 pm	Sun, 4 Dec	3.00 am	Four Man Bob, run 1
	7.30 pm		4.30 am	Four Man Bob, run 2

The World Cup winners in Whistler in January 2016

	1.		2.		3.	
Skeleton Women	HERMANN, Tina GER		O'SHEA, Anne USA		LÖLLING, Jacqueline GER	
Skeleton Men	DUKURS, Martins LAT		DUKURS, Tomass LAT		YUN, Sungbin KOR	
Women's bobsleigh	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie LOTHOLZ, Melissa CAN		GREUBEL POSER, Jamie GARRETT, Cherrelle USA		HENGSTER, Christina DEKKER, Sanne AUT	
Two man bobsleigh	PETER, Rico AMRHEIN, Thomas SUI		- KOR		KASJANOV, Alexander PUSHKAREV, Aleksei RUS	
	SPRING, Chris BROWN, Lascelles CAN		ZALIMS, Ugis DAMBIS, Intars LAT		KASJANOV, Alexander PUSHKAREV, Aleksei RUS	
Four man bobsleigh	- No four man race - - kein Viererbob-Rennen -		- No four man race - - kein Viererbob-Rennen -		- No four man race - - kein Viererbob-Rennen -	

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BMW IBSF Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Cup 2016/2017: Overview and track information

Track/Bahn Date/Datum	Info IBSF	Info Track/Bahn
1. Whistler (CAN) 2-3 Dec 2016	http://www.ibsf.org/en/tracks/track/24/Whistler	http://www.whistlerslidingcentre.com/
2. Lake Placid (USA) 16-17 Dec 2016	http://www.ibsf.org/en/tracks/track/10/Lake Placid	http://www.orda.org
3. Altenberg (GER) 6-8 Jan 2017	http://www.ibsf.org/en/tracks/track/2/Altenberg	http://www.wia-altenberg.de/
4. Winterberg (GER) + Ech/EM 13-15 Jan 2017	http://www.ibsf.org/en/tracks/track/1/Winterberg	http://www.veltins-eisarena.de/
5. St. Moritz (SUI) 20-22 Jan 2017	http://www.ibsf.org/en/tracks/track/15/St. Moritz	http://www.olympia-bobrun.ch/
6. Königssee (GER) 27-29 Jan 2017	http://www.ibsf.org/en/tracks/track/9/Königssee	http://www.eisarena-königssee.de/
7. Innsbruck (AUT) 3-5 Feb 2017	http://www.ibsf.org/en/tracks/track/8/Igls	http://www.olympiaworld.at/de/arenen/bob_rodels_skeletonbahn/
8. PyeongChang (KOR) 17-19 Mar 2017	http://www.ibsf.org/en/tracks/track/2028/Pyeongchang	http://www.pyeongchang2018.com/horizon/eng/index.asp

Overall World Cup winners 2015/2016

	Skeleton Women Skeleton Frauen	Skeleton Men Skeleton Männer	Women's Bob Zweierbob Frauen	Two Man Bob Zweierbob Männer	Four Man Bob Viererbob
1. Altenberg (GER) Nov 27-29, 2015	DEAS, Laura (GBR)	DUKURS, Martins (LAT)	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie (CAN) LOTHOLZ, Melissa	FRIEDRICH, Francesco (GER) MARGIS, Thorsten	FRIEDRICH, Francesco (GER) PUTZE, Martin BÄCKER, Jannis MARGIS, Thorsten
2. Winterberg (GER) Dec 4-6, 2015	HERMANN, Tina (GER)	DUKURS, Martins (LAT)	GREUBEL POSER, Jamie (USA) GARRETT, Cherrelle	FRIEDRICH, Francesco (GER) MARGIS, Thorsten	FRIEDRICH, Francesco (GER) PUTZE, Martin BÄCKER, Jannis MARGIS, Thorsten
3. Königssee (GER) Dec 11-13, 2015	HERMANN, Tina (GER)	DUKURS, Martins (LAT)	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie (CAN) LOTHOLZ, Melissa	FRIEDRICH, Francesco (GER) MARGIS, Thorsten	WALTHER, Nico (GER) HÜBENBECKER, Marko BERMBACH, Gregor FRANKE, Eric
4. Lake Placid (USA) Jan 8-9, 2016	O'SHEA, Anne (USA)	DUKURS, Martins (LAT)	GREUBEL POSER, Jamie (USA) GARRETT, Cherrelle	HOLCOMB, Steven (USA) VALDES, Carlo	ARNDT, Maximilian (GER) PUTZE, Martin HEBER, Ben KORONA, Kevin
5. Park City (USA) Jan 15-16, 2016	HERMANN, Tina (GER)	DUKURS, Martins (LAT)	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie (CAN) LOTHOLZ, Melissa	- no two man race - - kein Zweierbob-Rennen -	KASJANOV, Alexander (RUS, race 1) HUZIN, Ilvir PUSHKAREV, Aleksei ZAYTSEV, Aleksey WALTHER, Nico (GER, race 2) HÜBENBECKER, Marko POSER, Christian FRANKE, Eric
6. Whistler (CAN) Jan 22-23, 2016	HERMANN, Tina (GER)	DUKURS, Martins (LAT)	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie (CAN) LOTHOLZ, Melissa	PETER, Rico (SUI, race 1) AMRHEIN, Thomas und/tied WON, Yunjong (KOR, race 1) SEO, Youngwoo SPRING, Chris (CAN, race 2) BROWN, Lascelles	- no four man race - - kein Viererbob-Rennen -
7. St. Moritz (SUI) + Ech/EM Feb 5-7, 2016	FLOCK, Janine (AUT)	YUN, Sungbin (KOR)	MEYERS TAYLOR, Elana (USA) GIBBS, Lauren	HEFTI, Beat (SUI) BAUMANN, Alex	ARNDT, Maximilian (GER) KORONA, Kevin PUTZE, Martin HEBER, Ben
8. Königssee (GER) Feb 26-28, 2016	HERMANN, Tina (GER)	DUKURS, Martins (LAT)	MEYERS TAYLOR, Elana (USA) JONES, Kehri	WON, Yunjong (KOR) SEO, Youngwoo	ARNDT Maximilian (GER) RÖDIGER, Alexander KUSKE, Kevin PUTZE, Martin
Overall World Cup winners Weltcup-Gesamtsieger	HERMANN, Tina (GER, 1737)	DUKURS, Martins (LAT, 1785)	HUMPHRIES, Kaillie (CAN, 1720)	WON, Yunjong (KOR, 1562)	ARNDT, Maximilian (GER, 1715)

