**Press release - February, 2019**

**The spectacular FIS Snowboard World Cup comes back to Baqueira Beret**

**The Val d'Aran and Valls d'Àneu ski resort will organize its second FIS World Cup in March, 2019, the first one was held in 2016. The best international snowboarders will participate in this World Cup, including the two Spanish riders from RFEDI: Regino Hernández, Olympic bronze in PyeongChang'18, and Lucas Eguibar, silver in the Sierra Nevada'17.**

Baqueira Beret will held its second FIS Snowboard World Cup, which will take place in the Blanhiblar slope in Beret. The success of the first World Cup held in 2016 has encouraged the ski resort, with the Spanish NSA (RFEDI), to organize this prestigious circuit once again.

The qualifiers will be on Friday 1st and the competition on Saturday 2nd. A large amount of public will have fun admiring the show offered by the best riders of the world. In fact, in the first edition there was a great atmosphere with up to 3,000 spectators enjoying the duels of the athletes on the Blaniblar slope. In addition, there was some entertainment in the finish area, stands were installed and there was also a tasting area with Aranese and Pyrenean gourmet products.

**Riders to keep in mind**

This FIS Snowboard World Cup will held both, women and men categories. Moreover, the RFEDI athletes will also be there, aiming to obtain the victory. Lucas Eguibar, who was 3rd in the Baqueira event in 2016, and Regino Hernández, who was 5th and has become the icon of snowboarding in Spain after winning his Olympic bronze medal.

Other illustrious names will participate too: the Australian charismatic Alex Pullin, winner of the Baqueira event in 2016, and the undeniable Frenchman Pierre Vaultier, gold medal in Sochi'14 and PyeongChang'18 Olympic Games. Pullin, who also won the gold medal at La Molina 2011, declared in 2016 that Spanish resorts "brought him luck". He also praised Baqueira for "the technical circuit and its great jumps". The Australian won more medals in Spain: in 2017 was 3rd in Sierra Nevada World Championships.

In women category, the winner in Baqueira 2016 was Belle Brockhoff who explained that she had felt "very well in the race. The resort has built an impressive circuit with the large amount of snow. I hope to return soon". Upon hearing Baqueira's request, the Australian will have one more incentive to recover from the injury that occurred at the end of the season 17-18. The Italian Michaela Moioli will also be at Baqueira: she was fifth in 2016 at the Blaniblar, but she won that year's World Cup final ranking and in 2018 she won the Olympic gold in Korea.

**The Blanhiblar’s "boardercross"**

Since the celebration of the first World Cup in 2016, Baqueira Beret has baptized the slope of the event as "Boardercross" and each winter the ski resort prepares a basic circuit so that tourist can experience what this discipline is about. In addition, this circuit has been used to host the Movistar Spanish Championships and Movistar Spanish World Cups included in the RFEDI calendar. Both competitions design for young athletes.

The circuit has a vertical drop of 150 meters and an approximate length of 1 km. From the start the riders must draw dubbies and jumps in a straight line and it is the area where the athletes are closer to each other. From there, the circuit alternates with changes of direction and jumps, in which athletes flies dozens of meters and a final straight line in front of the public, in which the jumps and the dubbies give the climax of this unique event.

**Sponsorship of Movistar and Catalana Occidente**

Movistar, already related to winter sports tourism and sports, has entered as one of the main sponsors of the event in Baqueira Beret. The collaboration agreement between RFEDI and Movistar dates back to the 2016-2017 winter. The global telephone company reinforced its commitment to snow sports in the Freestyle Ski and Snowboard World Championships of Sierra Nevada 2017. In addition, for 3 seasons, Movistar is the official sponsor of the national snowboard and freeski team of the federation. Since last season it has also sponsored the SBX-SX Spanish Cup, which takes place in Baqueira, Formigal and Sierra Nevada.

The insurance company Catalana Occidente also supports the event. Seguros Catalana Occidente is part of the Catalana Occidente Group, one of the leaders in the Spanish insurance sector and the credit insurance company in the world, with a constant growth and a large implantation. It currently holds the 6th position in the Spanish market and the 2nd in the world in credit insurance.

**Institutional support**

All institutions involved in this event agree that Baqueira hosts the World Cup: on one hand RFEDI, which already establishes the priority of major events in its strategic plan, and Federació Catalana Esports d'Hivern (FCEH); and on the other hand, the highest sports institutions in Spain, the Consejo superior de Deportes (CSD) and in Catalonia, the Consell Català de l'Esport (CCE). Finally, the local institutions of Conselh Generau d’Aran, Naut Aran City Hall and Diputació de Lleida have confirmed their support to the project. Moreover, it is important to highlight the connection between the local clubs and the Volentaris d'Aran institution.

**More information**:

**Toti Rosselló / Xènia Fortea**

Comunicación Copa del Mundo SBX Baqueira 2019

Toti +34 670 763 555

[media@baqueira.es](mailto:media@baqueira.es)

Xènia +34

[xfortea@xcommunication.es](mailto:xfortea@xcommunication.es)

#baqueirasbx