Press release

21 February 2019

**Spectacular construction of the FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup course in Baqueira Beret**

**Download the video of this week's course construction:**

[**https://www.dropbox.com/s/89flsrk917wda1i/CopaMundoSBX.mov?dl=0**](https://www.dropbox.com/s/89flsrk917wda1i/CopaMundoSBX.mov?dl=0)

**Download the photos of the course construction for editorial use ©FotoTur:**

[**http://bit.ly/2TWhbU4**](http://bit.ly/2TWhbU4)

**The sinuous Boardercross course in the Blanhiblar area in Beret will be the stage for the qualifying rounds on 1 March and the finals on 2 March of the FIS Snowboard Cross World Cup event in Baqueira Beret. Riders will have to manoeuver through jumps, dubbies and banks along the 900-metre course which has a slope of 115 metres.**

**The Spanish riders from the Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI), Regino Hernández, bronze medallist in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games; and Lucas Eguibar, 2017 World Championship runner-up, will compete for a podium spot in this event sponsored by Movistar and Seguros Catalana Occidente.**

The top SBX International circuit, the FIS World Cup, will be arriving at Baqueira Beret on 1-2 March, 2019. The event, sponsored by Movistar and Seguros Catalana Occidente, will take place in this ski resort located in Val d'Aran and Valls d'Àneu, arriving from stages at Cervinia (Italy) and Feldberg (Germany). The final event will take place in the Swiss municipality of Veysonnaz on 16 March, where we will find out the men's and women's winners of the Crystal Globe for the 2018-2019 season.

The Baqueira Beret ski resort has deployed a workforce to design a course for this edition of the SBX World Cup which has nothing to envy from the rest. On the week of 25 February, the 200 members of the FIS family, including riders, coaches and technicians, will start to arrive in Val d'Aran. Upon their arrival, the course will be practically finished after four weeks of work. By opening day, over 100 professionals and volunteers will have worked on it, thus allowing for the event to take place, an event which requires great course preparation and human-resources coordination: judges, assistants, area managers, shapers, club volunteers, special performances group (GRAE), drivers to take the riders up the slopes before the competition and vocational-education students from Pont de Suert, IES de Aran, ETEVA, Centre Formatiu del Pallars and Physical Activity and Sports Science students from Lleida will all collaborate with the event's organising committee whilst learning the trade, since this is an event which allows for many professional backgrounds.

However, the course's story started last summer with an on-site visit from the FIS without any snow on the ground. The resort's managers devised a descent which had to combine a spectacular nature and safety, two concepts which may seem totally opposed but which in fact are fully compatible thanks to the professionalism of all stakeholders involved.

The resort's machine operators have spent over 500 hours on the circuit which is being shaped by FIS World Cup course designer Nick Roma. All in all, it took 480 hours throughout 22 days of accumulating snow and building the course, and 100 hours on top of it during the last week of preparation, in which Roma intervened to give it the final touches. In 2016, the year which the resort staged its first snowboard cross World Cup event, a total of 30,000 m3 of snow was moved to allow the race to take place.

Located in the Blanhiblar area in Beret, the Boardercross course will have jumps, dubbies and banks throughout its 1 kilometre of length. The stages will endure a slope of 115 metres between the 1,857 metre-point at the start and the 1,972 metre-point at the finish line.

Safety is an obligation for the event's organisation and it is fully in line with the FIS regulations which apply to this event. A complete medical team will guarantee medical care for all riders, and it will include an Advanced Medical Point (PMA), a local medical team (SABS) with two doctors on site alongside the local fire brigade, an ambulance and a helicopter in case a medical evacuation by air is required.

**Institutional support**

The agreement for Baqueira Beret to host this World Cup event was unanimous among all institutions involved. These institutions include the Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation (RFEDI) which prioritises large-scale events in its strategic plan; and the Catalan Winter Sports Federation (FCEH) on one hand; and on the other, top Spanish and Catalan sporting institutions such as the High Council for Sport (CSD) and the Catalan Sports Council (CCE) respectively, all of whom have given their full support to the event. Furthermore, local institutions such as the General Council of Aran, Naut Aran Council and the Provincial Council of Lleida have also shown their support for this project, as have local clubs and the Volentaris d'Aran volunteer institution.

**More press information**:

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